

Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 5 Summer Term 2026

Welcome to our termly newsletter.

This period in the academic year is always an exciting time as learners in our older age groups begin their formal summer examinations. Students are currently being examined across a range of A level, GCSE and vocational courses and we are confident that they will fulfil their potential and achieve excellent outcomes. Students have been attending revision and intervention sessions in large numbers and have performed well in mock examinations.

We wish all our students every success and look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are published during the summer holiday. A reminder that Level 3 results will be released on Thursday 13 August and Level 2 results will be released on Thursday 20 August. Further details will be provided in due course regarding the arrangements for these days.

Student Success



Congratulations to our Year 7 student, Fred, who had a successful 2025-2026 cyclocross season in the under-12 age category. He won all three of the East Midlands leagues (Notts and Derby, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) as well as securing the East Midlands Championship. Fred won 20 out of the 24 races he competed in, often in muddy and wet conditions.

This year he is moving to the under-14 age category and will be able to race in the British Cycling National Series, competing against the top riders across the country.

Athletics

Lady Manners students qualified to represent the Derbyshire Dales in three of the four age groups at the County Sports Hall Athletics Championships at Alfreton Leisure Centre.

Hundreds of talented students attended from schools across Derbyshire to compete for the county titles.

The event was one of the highest attended for many years and each age group competed against extremely talented athletes.

Lady Manners took first place in all three age groups: Year 7 girls, Year 7 boys and Year 8 girls. Every athlete returned with a gold medal and the collective title of 'best team in Derbyshire'. Congratulations to all involved.



National Reading Quiz

On Wednesday 20th May, five students from Years 7 and 9 travelled to Marble Arch in London with our librarian to compete in the grand finals of the 'National Reading Quiz'. The team earned their place at the finals after winning the East Midlands heat in March.

We are pleased to announce that our students achieved 6th place nationally, an outstanding result that places them just short of a podium finish. Throughout the day, the students had the opportunity to meet authors, participate in challenging quiz rounds, and celebrate their passion for reading alongside other schools from across the country.

This achievement is particularly significant during the National Year of Reading and firmly positions Lady Manners as a school that champions reading and literacy. We are proud of all five students and of their dedication to reading.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Derbyshire County Councillors Cllr Hobon and Cllr Sutton for their generous donation to our Transport Fund, which enabled this trip to take place. Congratulations once again to our excellent team!



School Officers

We say farewell to our school officers this summer who have done an outstanding job over the last year in showcasing our school. They have supported numerous whole-school events and have shown a high level of commitment in promoting our school to a range of audiences. Throughout their time at Lady Manners, they have been positive role models for our younger students, and have represented the school with distinction.

As a final act, the officers embarked on a campaign to raise money to improve the school's recycling facilities. Sufficient funds were collected to enable the purchase of three high-quality recycling bins which will be strategically positioned in outdoor locations across the school.

We wish our officers well as they enter the next phase of their education. They should be proud of their legacy which will benefit all students at our school.

The process of appointing next year's school officers will begin towards the end of the summer term, and we look forward to receiving a high number of applications for this prestigious role.

Fundraising

We recently launched a campaign to raise money for additional capital investment in our school. We intend to use funds to enhance the available opportunities for both current and future students in order to ensure that their educational experiences are expanded. A fundraising brochure was published on our school website yesterday and can be accessed via the following link [Fundraising - Lady Manners School](#).

Our Parents, Teachers, Friends Association (PTFA) continue to work tirelessly to raise funds, and we are appreciative of the time and effort given by this team of volunteers to help our school community. Recent donations have enabled computers to be upgraded across a range of learning areas, and this will ensure that IT functionality and security is maintained throughout the school.

Our outstanding PTFA Chair, Tracey Hall, will be stepping down at the end of this academic year, and we are looking for someone to take on this rewarding role. No experience is needed and you will have the support of our dedicated PTFA committee and school staff. Tracey will also be available to help with the handover. The time commitment is flexible and can fit around your other responsibilities. If you would like to find out more, please contact Tracey by emailing parentsassociationlms@gmail.com.

Curriculum Update

We continue to respond to national announcements which will shape our curriculum over the next few years. Current discussions are focussed on reviewing the number of qualifications and types of courses we offer to our students.

In recent years we have introduced a range of vocational courses which have proved to be extremely popular. Recent results have been exceptional, and we continue to offer a vibrant vocational learning centre which develops practical skills such as engineering and bricklaying.

New post-16 qualifications have recently been announced (V Levels), and we are currently reviewing all available information. V levels are level 3 qualifications that offer a vocational pathway for students who want to explore different sectors before deciding where to specialise.

Each V Level will be equivalent in size to one A level. This means students will be able to combine V Levels with A levels, creating a programme that reflects their interests and career aspirations.

The first V Levels will be available nationally in Digital, Education and Early Years, and Finance and Accounting. More courses, such as 'Agriculture', will follow over time.

Careers Update

In Personal Development, Year 7 students have received an introduction to careers education, including what they can expect during their time here to ensure they make well-informed career decisions. Students have experienced lessons on self-awareness and life aspirations, learning how the subjects we study link to our long-term career plans. Next term, Year 9 students will have a focus on careers during our extended registration week and Year 10 students will continue to prepare for the 'World of Work' week which takes place in July.

During our 'Career of the Week,' students across all year groups continue to learn about new career opportunities. They learn what the job involves and what skills and qualifications are required to be successful in the role.

On Monday 11 May, Harper Adams University joined the farming group to talk about long-term study pathways, including degree courses and apprenticeships.

It has been a busy half-term for Year 12 students who have had several talks from a range of higher education institutions and from the Director of Engineering at 'Xpansiv'. This work has been helpful in supporting post-18 progression and will continue after half-term with a trip to the UCAS 'Discovery Event' in Sheffield.

Many Year 12 students have now met with Mrs Bortoli (Careers Advisor) for a one-to-one careers guidance meeting to plan for work experience.

Wellbeing Garden Project: 'Sunny Side Up' Garden



We are delighted to announce that the first phase of our wellbeing garden project has now been completed. A dedicated classroom space has been constructed to support small groups of students, and the area also offers a quiet space to relax.

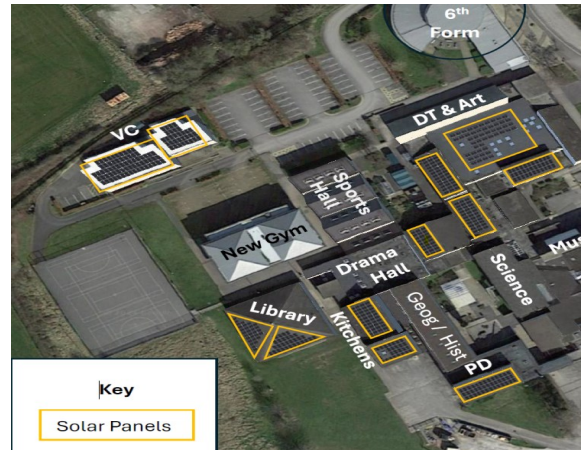
We would like to thank all our financial supporters for providing us with the resources to realise this project. Thank you also to staff and their families who volunteered their time outside of school hours to transform this area into a space to help our students learn and thrive outdoors.



Solar Panels

As many parents and carers will be aware, we had 453 solar panels installed last summer in five key locations across the school - the Vocational Centre, the library, the drama hall and kitchen, and the PD and technology areas.

The panels have improved energy efficiency across the site and have generated cost-savings, particularly during recent months.



Faculty in Focus: Business and Mathematics

Young Enterprise

'Twice as Cozy', our Young Enterprise team, recently presented at the county final stage of the Young Enterprise company programme at Chesterfield Football Club. Students have met weekly during the year, developing their product (cushions made from recycled t-shirts) and growing as a real business complete with company directors and shareholders.

Students set up a trade stall to showcase and sell their products at the indoor Chesterfield market in March. During this time, judges visited their stand to assess their branding, sales techniques, and customer service, as well as asking a range of challenging questions. The team enjoyed the day, demonstrating excellent relationships with customers and displaying impressive marketing techniques. They then faced judges' interviews, followed by a final presentation. This was a professional pitch that really showed how great the team's journey has been and how much they had taken from this experience. They won the 'Sustainability Award', an award they are very proud of.



UKMT Maths Challenges

This term 120 students from year groups 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. This was an opportunity to showcase the problem-solving skills they have been developing in maths lessons as they apply their core knowledge. Impressively, 62 students achieved a gold, silver or bronze certificate. These certificates are only presented to the top 25% of students nationally.

Later in the summer term we will be running a house maths challenge during which students will work together to compete for house points towards the Wrench Shield.



Maths in the Real World of Business

Building on the success of our Year 7 collaborative 'Maths in the Real World of Business' project, we have introduced a Year 8 house competition to challenge students to design and plan a bridge as part of the HS2 project. They reviewed costings, considered environmental factors and presented to Year 12 students and staff.

Congratulations to Cockerton House who were the winners at the end of the process.

Advance Notice: Early Closure of the Final Day of the Academic Year

In line with previous years, we will be finishing school slightly earlier than usual on the final day of the academic year (Wednesday 22 July). Lessons will run as normal throughout the morning, before our final end-of-year assembly is held after lunch. Students will be free to leave at 2.30pm following this assembly. As well as ensuring a smooth end to the academic year, this early closure will enable staff to deliver farewell speeches to colleagues who are departing Lady Manners School after many years of distinguished service at our school.

Transport companies have been informed of this change, and buses will arrive at school at this earlier time to collect students. You will be notified in advance of any adaptations to the timings of individual routes.

Dates for your Diary

| Date | Time | Event |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday 1 June | | Start of Term 6 |
| Sunday 14 June | 7.00 am | PTFA Car Boot Sale |
| Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 June | All Day | Sixth Form Induction Day |
| Tuesday 23 June | 6.00 pm | PTFA Meeting |
| Wednesday 24 June | 6.00 pm | Summer Concert (Main Hall) |
| Wednesday 1 July | All Day | Year 6 Taster Day / Intake Evening |
| Saturday 11 July | 11.00 am - 2.00 pm | Uniform Selling Day (Sports Hall) |
| Sunday 12 July | 7.00 am | PTFA Car Boot Sale |
| Tuesday 14 July | All Day | Year 8 HPV Vaccinations |
| Thursday 16 July | Evening | Lower School Showcase |
| Monday 20 July | All Day | Sports Day |
| Wednesday 22 July | 2.30 pm | End of Term 6 |

On behalf of all staff, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

G Peat
Headteacher

