

Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 6 Summer Term 2026

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year.

I would like to start by congratulating all students on an excellent year at Lady Manners School, including students who have taken their formal examinations this term. Our Year 11 and post-16 students worked hard throughout the examination series and will now be looking forward to celebrating their results next month. A reminder that Level 3 results will be released on Thursday 13 August and Level 2 results will be released on Thursday 20 August.

This is always an exciting time in the school year as students begin to consider the next steps in their educational pathway. Next year, there will be many opportunities available to learners across all year groups, and I would encourage students to participate fully in both classroom and wider activities. We continue to be proud of our students who represent the school so well and support each other across all aspects of school life.

Mobile Phone Policy

On 19 January 2026, the government updated its guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools. The updated guidance sets the expectation that all schools in England are to operate as mobile phone-free environments for the entire school day, prohibiting the use of mobile phones during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes. Smart watches, fitness trackers and earphones must also not be used in school. Exemptions will be made for students with medical needs and rules vary for our Sixth Form students.

This updated guidance is in line with our current policy.

DfE have advised that appropriate sanctions, including confiscation and detentions, can be used where students breach the policy. Policies will be robustly enforced, and parents and carers are encouraged to support the school during discussions at home.

To support students in adhering to legal requirements, we will be introducing a strengthened monitoring system. From September, we will be launching a 'Blackout app' which will stop the temptation for students to look at their mobile phones during the school day and help to monitor the use of phones by students in school. The app, called Blackout Technologies, disables online features of Smartphones during school hours. Essential communication (calls, SMS, wallet, tracking) remains available. Thank you to parents and carers who attended the webinar from the Blackout team on Wednesday 15 July. Further information about the Blackout app can be found on our website ([link](#)).

We welcome students from a wide geographical area who travel long distances to attend our school. When implementing a policy to prohibit the use of mobile phones during the school day, we will always be mindful of the impact on children travelling to and from school, where not having a mobile phone poses a risk, or the perception of a risk. For this reason, students will continue to be permitted to carry a mobile phone for safety reasons during their journeys to and from school.

Enrichment Benchmarks

At Lady Manners School, we are proud of the personal development opportunities we offer our students and were delighted to be awarded an 'outstanding' grade by Ofsted for our provision in this area. The Government has acknowledged the importance of personal development in schools and recently introduced national enrichment benchmarks which will come into force from September.

The framework operates around eight guiding benchmarks. One of the benchmarks, a requirement of schools to offer a broad and well-rounded enrichment offer, stipulates that activities must span at least

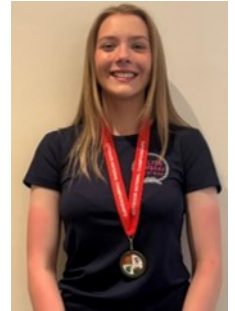
five activity categories:

- **Civic engagement:** volunteering, debating, and school democracy.
- **Arts and culture:** theatre, music, art, and museum visits.
- **Nature, outdoors, and adventure:** climate education, gardening, and residential camps.
- **Sport and physical activities:** team/individual sports and fitness.
- **Wider life and future skills:** digital literacy, cooking, financial management, and STEM.

We look forward to strengthening our already comprehensive provision over the next few years. Thank you to parents and carers who actively encourage and support students in engaging with our enrichment offer.

Student Success

Congratulations to our Year 10 student, Amelia, who recently competed in her second national tug of war competition with Melton Mowbray Ladies. The team won every end, which qualifies participants to travel to South Africa to represent England in September. At just 15 years of age, Amelia is the youngest member of the team. Well done, Amelia, and good luck in South Africa.



Transition Events

Events have taken place this term to prepare current Year 6 students for the transition to their new secondary school. Year leaders have visited our main feeder primary schools to talk to students and two half-year group days enabled all our prospective students to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. These visits were followed by a full Year 6 taster day on Wednesday 1 July. This day enabled students to spend time in their new form groups and to participate in a range of different activities. A 'new intake' evening for parents and carers was held the following day and included presentations from key staff and meetings with new form tutors.

Summer Concert

The Creative Arts Faculty has been busy leading and preparing for large events during the summer term. Students performed impressively during our recent school concert which was held in very warm conditions. The evening provided a great experience for our musicians and performances were well-received by an appreciative audience.

Creative Arts Celebration Evening

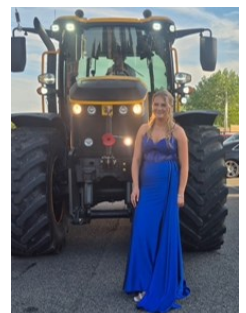
Our usual art and textiles exhibition took on a different format this year. A larger 'creative arts celebration' was held to showcase the talents of our students across different creative areas. The event included displays of art and textiles work and drama performances by Year 7, 8 and 9 students. The occasion also presented an opportunity to celebrate the exceptional work of our GCSE and A Level students.

Drama Rehearsals

Rehearsals have already begun in preparation for next year's drama production of 'Frozen'. Early signs are that this will be an excellent show and our talented students are looking forward to delivering an outstanding production in the Autumn term.

Prom

Our former Year 11 students enjoyed their Prom which was held at a new venue this year (Chesterfield Football Club). Students arrived in a variety of impressive vehicles and clearly had a great evening. We look forward to seeing many of our students again soon when they return to our Sixth Form in September.



World of Work Week

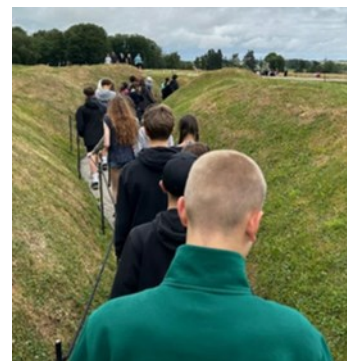
Year 10 students enjoyed an informative and engaging 'World of Work' week in July.

Activities included mock interviews, challenge-based activities, employability talks and careers-focussed lessons. Students enjoyed the events and feedback suggests they valued the advice they

received. External employers who visited the school commented on the high quality of student discussions and praised their positivity and commitment. A huge thank you to Miss Picknell (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Bortoli (Careers Advisor) whose detailed planning ensured that this event was of such high standard.

International Trips

We are fortunate at school to have staff who are prepared to run comprehensive trips for our students and create memories that last for many years. I often hear former students enthusiastically recall their experiences from their visits during their time at school. A strong educational focus is maintained throughout each trip, and this helps to embed key information and learning. Students always behave impeccably and are regularly praised by the public for their positive attitude and willingness to engage in activities.



International visits this term have included:

- A Year 12 Psychology trip to Vienna
- A Year 9 History trip to the Battlefields
- A Year 10 French trip to Normandy
- A Year 9/10/12 German trip to the Rhineland

Collaboration with S. Anselms

Our partnership with S. Anselms continues to strengthen. We have held several joint events this term which have been appreciated by students from both schools. Collaborative work has included a biology lesson using an electron microscope, a languages event based around the World Cup, and a girl's cricket fixture. Further activities are planned for the next academic year.

Staffing News

As is usual at the end of an academic year, we will be saying farewell to colleagues who will be leaving us in the summer. I am sure you will join me in wishing all our leavers every success in the future:



Heidi Gray



Hayley Athey



Christine Redding



Sarah Green



Heather Johnson



Joel Sainsbury



Imogen Spendlove

We have recruited well over the summer and look forward to welcoming new colleagues in September across a variety of roles.

Miss K Anderson (Teacher of maths)
Mrs E Berzelius-Smith (Teacher of science)
Mr S Davies (Teacher of English)

Miss A Barlow (Teacher of D&T)
Miss R Crowther (Teacher of science)
Mrs C Woodger (Teacher of PE)

PTFA

I was delighted to attend our PTFA annual general meeting recently to pass on my thanks to the group, which continues to operate committedly with limited numbers. As always, great efforts have been made to raise funds and we are appreciative of the contributions made to support the education of our students. Events that have taken place include a silent auction, car boot sales and a balloon race. We received an impressive donation of £10,000 from the PTFA for the purchase of new computers in the library and additional funds have been provided for clubs, school prizes and end-of-year awards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey Hall who is stepping down from her role as PTFA Chair this summer. It is through her drive, generosity and commitment that we have been able to achieve so much. Her work has been greatly appreciated.

The PTFA would be delighted to hear from any parents/carers/grandparents/friends of the school who can help in any way. Please complete this on-line form [2026/07 Lady Manners School PTFA Volunteer & Event Planning Survey – Collaboration](#) or email parentsassociationlms@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Faculty in Focus: Personal and Physical Development

This has been a very busy term across the faculty. In Social Studies, PE and PD lessons, students and staff have been working together, experiencing new and exciting opportunities.

Our Psychology students had an unforgettable experience in Vienna, the birthplace of psychoanalysis. This immersive four-day trip transported students from the classroom straight into psychological history.

Students visited the Mauthausen concentration camp, the Freud museum, the Jewish Museum, the Josephinum medical museum, the city of Linz and Prater Park,



Our Year 7 students experienced a team-building and outdoor pursuits adventure day earlier this month.

All students spent a full day at the Thornbridge Outdoor Pursuits Centre. They experienced tree climbing, the famous Jacob's Ladder climb, and the opportunity to work together to achieve a goal.

Another great experience for our Year 10 students was the World of Work week. The PPD Faculty delivered sessions covering careers-related topics for our students, such as sexual harassment in the workplace. We were delighted to welcome an excellent guest speaker from a company called Creative 2000. Our students were fully engaged and really appreciated the experience. Thank you to all who supported the day.



We finished the academic year with our annual Sports Day on Monday.

It was great to see our students competing so well and proudly representing their house during a wide range of athletic events. Staff and students worked well together and supported each other to enjoy another memorable occasion.

Special congratulations to Tobias (Year 10) who broke a long-standing school record by achieving a time of 2m 15s in the Year 10 Boys 800m.



Early School Closure

A reminder that the school will be closing slightly earlier than normal today, our final day of the academic year. Following a final assembly after lunch, students will depart at 2.30pm. To accommodate this change, buses will be arriving earlier to collect students.

School will re-open to new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Tuesday 8 September. Students from all year groups will return to school on Wednesday 9 September.

Thank you again for your continued support throughout the year.

On behalf of all staff, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Best wishes

Gary Peat
Headteacher

