

# Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

**Manshead School**

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### WEEK A

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 08 - Yr 9 CATS (X Band)**

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 08 - Yr 9 CATS (Y Band)**

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 08 - Yr 9 CATS (Z Band)**

### WEEK B

**Thur 25<sup>th</sup> Sept – Achievement Evening  
in Sports Hall  
7.45pm for 8.00pm**

As we start the new academic year we inevitably look back on the last year and review its successes and there were many of them.

In the last assembly of the year I was proud to present two brand new trophies. The College Points cup was awarded to Dylan College for gaining the most points from credits and inter-college activities. In second place were Grey Thompson College and in third place Picasso College. As many of you know we changed to the College system at the beginning of last year and I am really pleased with how it is developing. Students are beginning to see themselves as being part of their College and I hope that during this year even more students will contribute to College activities and win points for their College. The second Trophy was presented to King College for their success in sports day. Well done to both Dylan and King Colleges!

Our year 11 students excelled themselves by achieving the best ever GCSE results with

almost 60% achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades. A-level results were also good and most importantly students were very successful in gaining their university places. I am looking forward to presenting many of these students with awards at the Achievement Evening on the 25th of this month.

We have had a very positive start to the term and students seem keen to build on the successes of last year. Most success comes when we work in partnership with students and parents. The Learning Guide is the first point of contact with the school so, if as parents, you have any concerns about life at Manshead please contact your son or daughter's Learning Guide. Most issues are easily resolved and early intervention is often the key to success.

**Jim Parker**  
**Headteacher**

## CHURCH SERVICE

The LCET Annual Service will be held on Sunday 14th September at 7.00pm at Stopsley Baptist Church. The LCET are a Christian Charity who work with thousands of young people in the Luton, area often in schools. The LCET visited us last term and their assembly was very successful. Further information can be found by following the link:

[http://www.lcet.org/downloads/annual\\_service\\_08.pdf](http://www.lcet.org/downloads/annual_service_08.pdf)

**Jim Parker**

**Mrs Stubbs**  
**Work-related learning Co-ordinator**  
**HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME**

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

To ensure that your child receives the best education possible it is important that they maintain excellent school attendance. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school. If for any reason your child is absent from school it is the parents duty to inform the school of the absence and the reason for it. There are two ways parents can do this.

- **Telephone the absence line on – 01582 679410**
- **Send in a letter to the student's Learning Guide explaining the absence**
- **Write the reason on Page 23 of the Planner**

If a students attendance falls below 94% the school will work with parents to discuss and resolve any issues that have caused the attendance to fall.

The school will begin intervention with students in years 9, 10 and 11 with the Learning Guide discussing the student's attendance in a meeting during Learning Guide time. This will allow the Learning Guide to investigate any issues that have lead to a drop in attendance and to allow the student time to improve their attendance. If there is no improvement in the student's attendance then parents will be notified of this by letter. Further discussions will take place and a Parent Attendance Contract may be issued to help improve attendance.

In extreme cases the School will ask the Education Welfare Service to intervene. The Education Welfare Service may issue Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence or persistent absence.

**Thom Darby**  
**Director of Student Welfare**

**CALLING ALL YEAR 11 WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS**

**Placement starts Monday 29 September**  
**Placement finishes Friday 10 October**

On **Wednesday 17 September** there will be an **ESSENTIAL** meeting of ALL students taking part in the fortnight's placement later this month. This will be during **Period 5 in D1**. **Please bring a pen!** Any queries meantime, please find me in my office (just along from D1).

Manshead School follows the DCSF guidelines concerning holidays during term time. These guidelines clearly state that holidays during term time are not a parental right and that they should not happen unless there are exceptional or special circumstances. The school policy also requires students to have a level of attendance of at least 93.5% before the holiday is authorised. If the holiday is to be authorised by the school then only one holiday per academic year will be accepted and only up to 10 days of absence can be coded as an authorised absence. If you take a holiday that is not authorised then you are at risk of a fixed penalty notice.

If a holiday is unavoidable then students can collect holiday request forms from student services in C block and these forms must be returned to the school's Attendance Officer in main school office.

**Thom Darby**  
**Director of Student Welfare**

**WELCOME TO MANSHEAD SCHOOL LIBRARY**

No Need to join!

Students are automatically members and may borrow up to 4 items for 3 weeks. (Sixth form students may borrow up to 6 items). Loans may be renewed (if not required by another person) and fines are charged for late returns.

The library is open before and after school and during break and lunch for students to read, research, and complete homework.

The library has 85 computers all connected to the internet and 3 colour printers. Photocopies are available for a small charge.

The library has approximately 13,000 books and subscribes to about 30 magazines/journals. 1 local paper and 2 daily newspapers are also kept in the library.

**Sue Yates**  
**School Librarian**

### **LOST PROPERTY LEFT IN BLOCKS FROM THE SUMMER TERM**

Half of Lost property is going to be displayed in the **Social area in 'C' block at breaktime and lunchtime** on **Wednesday 17th September**. The remainder will be displayed on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** in the same area. Anything left over after these dates will be disposed of.

**Karen Taylor**  
**Department Services Administrator**

### **SCRABBLE CLUB**

Do you like playing SCRABBLE?  
Why not join the SCRABBLE Club?  
Come along to the **Study Centre**  
**Wednesday lunchtimes**  
**1.15pm – 2.00pm**

**It's fun and it's free!**

**P Sadler**  
**Sounds-Write Co-ordinator**

### **MUMS' HALF-TERMLY PRAYER MEETINGS**

#### **Ladies,**

Perhaps you are keen to see a Christian Ethos promoted in the school ...

... Then please consider joining our small mums' prayer group to seek God's blessing and pray for our children, the staff and all school related matters.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Wednesdays - 17 Sept & 19 Nov 2008**  
**8.00pm - 9.00pm**  
**At Michele's house**  
**44 Hayhurst Road**  
**Luton**  
**LU4 0DA**

**For further details contact:**  
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