



Manshead Upper School

Issue 9 Summer Half Term 2



Email: office@mansheadschoo.co.uk
Website: www.mansheadschoo.co.uk



As we approach the final weeks of this academic year, all Arts' staff at Manshead would like to say a big thank you to the students for putting in such an incredible amount of hard work over the past year and wish all those students leaving Manshead the very best with their futures. Manshead has always had a very strong commitment to the Arts and a real commitment in striving for excellence; this newsletter will just outline a few of these successes and some interesting up-and-coming events before we break for the summer.

Manshead were awarded Artsmark status by the Arts Council of England towards the end of the last academic year, therefore we are always looking to improve the standards within our successful departments. For more information about the award please logon to: www.artscouncil.org.uk/artsmark

Mr T Hooper

Acting Learning Manager for Dance & Music

Summer Concert

Manshead's annual Summer Concert took place Thursday 1st July 2010, 7pm. The concert, as in previous years, was be very informal however there was a slight difference in presentation this year, with various soloists performing around the main block at different times throughout the evening. We also heard performances by many ensembles including: Show Choir (new ensemble), Band, Orchestra, String Group, Chamber Choir (new ensemble), DSO and many more soloists and small groups! This was also a farewell concert for some of our Year 13 musicians leaving Manshead- these include Daniel Bianchi, Rebecca McGough and Thomas Young- thank you so much for all your contributions over the last 5 years and the best of luck for your futures.

Mr Hooper

College Cabaret 2010

It is that time again when the now annual drama, dance and music competition of College Cabaret is starting again. This years competition is set to be the best yet with new rules on staff performances and the best stimulus yet. Expectations are high - can Grey-Thompson win for a third year running or will someone else knock them off top spot? The new Year 13 students are busy working on the scripts, so expect auditions to take place in September. See you there!

Fiddle Fiesta 2010

Many thanks to all Manshead string players who performed in the Fiddle Fiesta this year. It is always really encouraging to see you participating with other schools and enjoying working alongside other musicians of different abilities.

Art Exhibitions

Well done to all art and design students who exhibited their work this summer. Two excellent exhibitions, very well received. Both GCSE single and applied double award as well as applied "A" level photography and art and design all did very well. If you missed the show there will be photographs up soon, look out for these. Paris is drawing closer for some year 11 students going on to do "A" level, more of this in the next newsletter. Mrs C. Williams.

Circadia Dance Company

Circadia Dance Company performed their choreography *Rock Your Body* at the University of Bedfordshire's annual Schools' Dance Evening on Thursday 10th June 2010. Since then we have had many comments about the quality of the group- including a letter of thanks from the University's Senior Dance lecturer! Circadia will be developing further next year and will be having weekly rehearsals throughout the year- allowing students to develop technique and ideally perform in more competitions. Anyone will be welcome in Circadia from years 9-13. We are also looking to combine some events with our feeder middle schools to produce some high quality work.

For more details please speak to Miss D. O'Hara

DSO

The DSO (Dunstable Schools' Orchestra) rehearses at Manshead on a weekly basis during term time. The ensemble meet at 4.10-5pm and any student from any school is welcome. The ensemble, unlike most other things in life, is completely free-of-charge! We have currently played some excellent pieces, ranging from 'Spiderman' to 'Hungarian Dances' by Brahms. As we develop in numbers more we will be able to perform at bigger events, so please encourage as many students as possible to join this flourishing music ensemble.

Year 9 Drama Shakespeare Festival 2010

Students from year 9 will each have the opportunity to experience a day of fun activities based around the Shakespearean text of 'Macbeth'. Mrs Peacock, together with other English teachers, Mr Burt and the Dance teachers will be delivering the day where students can learn new skills and enjoy understanding a playwright who is a huge part

FAME: THE MUSICAL! MARCH 2011

The votes were made and counted, 'Wicked' was the most popular requested show but unfortunately it is not available for amateur licensing yet- therefore the decision has been made to do a show that will allow students from Dance, Drama and Music to excel! **Fame: the musical** will be performed by Manshead on 10-12th March 2011. Auditions in Oct!

Mr Hooper, Mrs Fitzsimmons, Mr Burt and Miss O'Hara

Peculiar Productions

Calling all students in years 9-13 who enjoy dance, drama or music... During 25th-28th October 2010, there will be a free workshop for students who are interested in producing a short creative production in the performing arts. This is a great opportunity- watch this space!

The Arts Staff

Learning Manager for Art: Mrs C. Williams- williamsc@mansheadschoo.co.uk
Learning Manager for Dance/Music: Mr T. Hooper- hoopert@mansheadschoo.co.uk
Learning Manager for Drama: Mr K. Burt- burtk@mansheadschoo.co.uk
Teachers of Art: Mrs N. Cawte, Mrs N. Moody, Mr C. Travell & Mr N. Willis
Teacher of Dance: Miss D. O'Hara
Teacher of Drama: Mrs S. Fitzsimmons
Teachers of Music/ Music Technology: Mr R. Gurney & Miss D. O'Hara