

# Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

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## WEEK A - March

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form mocks all week
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	GCSE March Series starts
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	College Council Meeting
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 12 Dance at Saddlers Wells ' <i>Overdrive</i> '
Thu - Sat	Edale Revision Trip (Yr 11)

## WEEK B

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	School Production – dress & technical rehearsal
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE March series ends School Production – (middle school Performance)
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	SCHOOL PRODUCTION January 2010 exam series results published
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	SCHOOL PRODUCTION Deadline for A-level entries June 2010 series
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Over the next few weeks all parents of Year 11 students will have the opportunity to have a short discussion with a member of the Leadership Team to ensure that we are able to give you the most up-to-date information about how students are doing before we get to the exam season. It will also be a good opportunity to discuss sixth form options and choices for post 16 education. We really hope that parents of Year 11 students will wish to take up this

opportunity as we believe it will make a difference to the chances of success in the summer. Parents should have received a letter about this and should be returning a reply slip to the school as soon as possible. If parents find this experience useful we would anticipate that we will operate the same system in future years.

As with all schools, Manshead has a School Improvement Partner who works closely with the school and its governors to ensure that we make continuous improvements to the education we are able to provide. Our School Improvement Partner, Daphne Such, would be keen to speak to a group of parents during her next visit on the 23rd March. If any parent would be prepared to be part of a discussion with Daphne about how the school works with parents we would very much like to hear from you. If you are available from 3.30 - 4.00pm on the 23rd March and would like to take part please let Sue Wilson at the school know.

In the next few weeks you will also be receiving (via your son or daughter) a questionnaire for you to complete. This will be the second parent perception survey we have done and the last one was very helpful in helping us to address your concerns about the school. Thank you in advance for taking time to complete this important survey.

**Jim Parker**  
Headteacher

## SAFE USE OF FACEBOOK, BEBO, MYSPACE AND MOBILES

More students now have access to social networking sites and mobile phones than ever before and although there are many positive uses for these sites, students need to know how to keep themselves, their personal information and their friends safe.

The following guidelines are published on the [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) page:

- Encourage them only to upload pictures that you as their parents / carer would be happy to see – anything
- Too sexy to be passed round the dinner table should NOT make it on to the web.

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**Please call in before 9.00am every day of absence**

- It's also not a good idea to post pictures which can identify the school which your child attends since this could help someone locate them.
- Tell your children not to post their phone number or email address on their homepage.
- Help your child to adjust their account settings so that only approved friends can instant message them. This won't ruin their social life – new people can still send them friend requests and message them, they just won't be able to pester them via Instant Messenger (IM).
- Check if your child has ticked the “no picture forwarding” option on their social networking site settings page – this will stop people sending pictures from their page around the world without their consent
- Encourage them not to give too much away in a blog. Friends can call them for the address of the latest party rather than read about it on their site.
- Ask them to show you how to use a social networking site - getting involved will empower them to share the experience with you.

If you have any concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate to check the website above which contains lots of useful information for parents and young people of all ages.

**Ms K Dalgleish**

**Learning Manager for IT**

### **WORLD BOOK DAY** **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Do you enjoy reading?**

**Do you want to discuss the books you have read with others?**



If so come to the **library on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 1.40** for the launch meeting of Manshead School Book Group.

I plan to start a book group for students of each year group 9 – 13.

We choose a book to read and then meet up when we have read it to discuss it and choose the next one.

**Mrs Yates**  
**Librarian**

### **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST- SCHOOL PRODUCTION** **11-13TH MARCH 2010**

We are now in the final stages of rehearsing for this year's school production- Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'. Anna Lawrence and Simon Willis are taking the lead roles and have a very talented company to support them- this is guaranteed to be an event not to miss! Tickets are now on sale in the reception area during lunch times, £6 Adults and £4 Concessions. Manshead School is an Artsmark school and is committed to leading and improving Arts events.

**D. Owen, T. Hooper, S. Fitzsimmons, D. O'Hara**

### **DOWNSIDE COMMUNITY UPDATE**

#### **March**

#### **4th and 5th 9.30 - 12.30pm Removing Barriers to Progression workshop.**

Exemplas, a professional training agency, <http://www.exemplas.com/> is running a course helping people to identify and overcome barriers to progression in relation to careers or any other type of goal. This course is free, informal and a great way to think about how to move forward. Contact Sanjeev on 01707 398080.

#### **1st, 8th, and 15th March Get fit 9.30 - 10.30am**

Downside Community Centre, Suffolk Rd - a Monday morning fitness session, aerobics style. The sessions are lots of fun. If these free sessions are popular it is hoped a permanent group will form. Come along!! If you are interested but cannot make these sessions still get in touch and attend any future sessions.

#### **13th St Augustine's Film Night "The King and I" -**

Saturday 7pm at St Augustine's Church Tickets £5, contact number 01582 658325.

#### **18th Learning and Skills Fair - 10.00am till 1pm at St**

Augustine's church - (see page 8 of the Downside Magazine coming round door to door beginning of March) Come and find out about training and learning opportunities. From local community groups and volunteering to business support and qualifications towards employment. Some of the organisations coming include: Bedfordshire Adult Skills and Community Learning, Job Centreplus, Connexions advisors, Central Bedfordshire College, Groundwork Trust, Exemplas and the Princes Trust.

The first Downside event on the 20th January was very successful with 26 people signing up for different training opportunities. This will be a similar event with many groups and training agencies attending bringing displays, demonstrations, CV writing workshops and so on. You are welcome to bring children along with you.

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## **April**

**7th - 8th Play Rangers - Easter holiday active play** Two days of Running Jumping Climbing and Hunting pre historic beasts !! Weds 7th & Thursday 8th April 10am - 1pm. Downside Lower school field. Contact Simon or Jamie on 07751 450480 for further details.

**14th Play Rangers - Make Play Better** - Better active play with your children. A morning workshop for parents. Downside Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Simon or Jamie on 07751 450480 for further details.

**28th Downside Community Forum** St Augustine's Church, 6 - 8 pm refreshments from 6pm. Come and express your views about your Community. See page 7 of the magazine, for a report on the last forum.

Please be aware that there is a Downside website, being developed by Kieran Richardson from Manshead School <http://downside2010.yolasite.com/>

Also the council has a web page for Downside, which contains the latest Downside magazines. The March/April Downside magazine will appear there in due course. Some delay is expected this time but please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like an extra magazine. I am happy to post one out or send it electronically.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/community-and-living/priority-neighbourhoods/downside.aspx>

Both sites have relevant information and contacts for Downside residents.

**Celia Donald**  
**Community Development Officer (Downside)**

Community Involvement team  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
The Council Offices  
High St North  
Dunstable  
LU6 1LF  
Direct Dial: 03003005555  
Internal: 75555

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