

# Manshead School

# Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

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Issue 73 W/E June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010

## WEEK A

**YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE - ALL WEEK**  
**A LEVEL ART EXHIBITION - ALL WEEK**  
**ISLAND CHALLENGE TRIP – MON – THURS**

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Yr 12 UCAS comments collection  
Yr 12 return from study leave

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> School Council Meeting

## WEEK B

Thu 24 / Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Yr 10 History trip (Anne Frank)  
to Amsterdam

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> UCAS comments deadline

Welcome back after the half term break. I am pleased to say that the students sitting exams this week have shown excellent attitude and I hope that they get the success they deserve.

The second half of this summer term is as usual a very busy one and students in Years 9, 10 and 12 will be working hard preparing for next year. Our expectations remain high in the run up to the end of the year and we will be having a purge on uniform standards in the next few days. Our uniform list is published on the website and in the student planner and I would ask that students and parents refer to it so that the correct uniform is worn. In this half of the summer term students are allowed to wear their blue Manshead polo shirts instead of the shirt and tie but all other parts of the uniform should be as usual. This means proper school trousers or skirts (of appropriate length), black shoes rather than trainers and school jumpers (if worn) rather than cardigans. There have been one or two students wearing facial piercings - these are not allowed and students will be asked to remove them. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Thank you to the many parents who have contacted me about the piece I wrote about social networking

sites in the last newsletter. It is obviously a topic causing many people concern and I hope to be able to organise a parents' event soon.

## **SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE**

We have been talking to Brook about providing student access to sexual health services at school. Please see the attached letter for more details.

**Jim Parker**  
Headteacher

## **ENGLISH NEWS**

### **Year 9 Dunstable Library Visit 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2010**

Despite a disappointing response to the 47 letters sent out by post regarding this visit, 25 Year 9 students, Mrs Yates, the librarian, and I thoroughly enjoyed our audience with the author, Lucy Christopher. She spoke very engagingly about her two novels, 'Lost' and 'Flyaway' and the processes involved in writing them. There was plenty of time for questions and the students certainly asked some unusual ones. Well done to Ivy for the most interesting question and winning a signed book. Thank you students as you were a credit to Manshead. I hope this visit has inspired the budding writers amongst you.

### **Forthcoming Trip to Regent's Park Open Air Theatre – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

This promises to be an exciting evening. Arthur Miller's play 'The Crucible' is a thought-provoking play based on the Salem Witchcraft trials. This text is part of the new 2010 English Literature syllabus which is why the trip has been offered to Year 9 students. The cost is £22. However, to date, take up has been disappointing so I am going to offer year 10 English and Drama students the opportunity to come with us. If you would like to see a very dramatic play in a beautiful open air theatre, see Mrs Peacock in B9 for a letter.

**Mrs L. Peacock**  
Asst Learning Manager English

**DIRECT DIAL TEL NO. FOR REPORTING SICKNESS ABSENCE: 679410**

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

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

In enrichment I have been doing Kayaking. I have really enjoyed doing it and it has been a great experience. I have learnt how to get into the Kayak to doing a roll in the Kayak. The instructor has been patient and a great teacher and I have learnt a lot from him. It was great because you didn't need any experience beforehand and the activities help you learn e.g. having races up and down the pool. Overall I have really enjoyed doing Kayaking and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys water sports.

**Daniel Wortley Yr 9**

## YEAR 10 SCIENCE COURSEWORK

All year 10 Science students will soon be starting their first piece of GCSE Science coursework. This first piece of coursework will need to be completed by all year 10 GCSE Science students in order to satisfy a fixed percentage of their final Science GCSE grade.

The Science department would like to inform the parents of all year 10 GCSE students that the **deadline for their Science coursework is 25th June 2010**. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr McIntyre, Subject Leader for Science, if you have any questions regarding how you can support your child with the completion of their coursework in time for this deadline.

Thank you in advance for your support,

**Mrs E. Norton.**  
**Science Innovator**

## DOWNSIDE COMMUNITY FORUM

An update on upcoming events . Word of Mouth publicity is really vital for all these events, spread the word and come along!

**Saturday 26<sup>TH</sup> June 11am – 2pm – Downside Pre School Fun day**, Downside School Field.  
Contact Claire Washington 01582 667216

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July - The Big Lunch** an afternoon of socialising at Downside Community Centre and grounds, Suffolk Rd. Play and Games for kids, and music for all is provided. Bring a picnic. This is being organised by the Downside Action Group and plans are progressing well. If you would like to be involved, (please do!) call me on 0300 3005555. Agencies are welcome to come and provide activity or for publicity.

**Thursday July 22nd - Downside Community Forum** 6 - 8 pm, St Augustines Church

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August - Downside Neighbourhood Centre Family Fun Day** 10am – 2pm Bouncy Assault course, stall entertainer, storytelling Play Rangers and refreshments contact Sue Fallon 01582 666403

## **The Downside Magazine 2010-11**

This is available on line at

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

**Celia Donald**  
**Community Development Officer (Downside)**  
**Community Involvement team**  
**Central Bedfordshire Council**  
**0300 3005555**

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

We are going to start to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award from September. For the first year we will offer the Bronze Award and this will be available to 30 students in Year 10 (ie students who are currently in Year 9 but who will move into Year 10 in September). There will be an assembly for the current Year 9 one morning towards the end of June when we will set out the programme and ask who is interested in participating.

The Bronze Award combines elements of:

- Volunteering
- Development of Skills
- Physical Activities
- Expedition/Adventure

Participants gain a great deal from the programme; as the DofE website says ...'you'll make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime'. Colleges, universities and employers also value what the Award says about someone over and above their exam results. But the Award does require commitment for 12 months and a good deal of initiative. The staff supporting the scheme here will be doing so on a voluntary basis outside the school timetable and there will be a contract with students and parents/carers; students will only keep their place on the programme if they keep up their commitment.

The cost on the programme is likely to be in the order of £50 for the year and the school will provide much of the equipment for the Expedition section. Students will need their own walking boots, sleeping bags and waterproofs, however.

You can find out more about the programme here:

<http://www.dofe.org/> Watch this space!

**Ian Stowe**  
**Duke of Edinburgh Centre Leader**

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