

# Manshead School

# Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

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Issue 75 W/E July 9th 2010

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## WEEK A

Year 10 reports sent out this week

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Sports Day

## WEEK B

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Sports Day reserve  
Tue 20 Whole School Assembly and  
end of term concert

## END OF TERM

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Tue 31<sup>st</sup> AUG Yr 12 & 13 ENROLMENT

## WEEK A

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> SEPT INSED DAY (School closed to  
students)

THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER NEW TERM BEGINS  
Lessons begin at 8.45am  
Learning Guide lesson during  
Period 1 and normal lessons  
from Period 2 onwards

Last week I spent a very enjoyable evening at the Grove Theatre to watch the Chiltern Sports Partnership awards presentation. I was very pleased to see Manshead students pick up five awards during the evening including the prestigious Sports Personality of the Year and Team of the Year trophies. It was wonderful to see younger students in many of our feeder schools winning trophies too - hopefully when they arrive at Manshead they will

help us maintain our position as a great place to play sport.

Last week also marked the official end point of Year 11 and Year 13 who held their proms at the weekend. I was able to attend both events and the students had made a huge effort to organise what were very special occasions. Both evenings went very well with everyone looking very glamorous and smart. Staff from both venues commented on what a great bunch of students we have and on how well behaved they were.

We have sports day on Friday of next week and parents are welcome to attend - I hope the recent good weather continues - if not then Monday 19th is our reserve day.

This is the last newsletter of the year so I will take this chance to thank all students for their hard work this year and to thank all parents who have worked hard to support their children in partnership with the school. Thanks also to all the staff who have worked extremely hard with the students during their time at Manshead.

Term starts again on Thursday 2nd September at 8.45 for all students. Have a great summer break.

**Jim Parker**  
Headteacher

## SITE INVESTMENT PLAN 2010/11

Once again there will be a great deal of activity on the site during the summer holidays. Funding in the education sector is a pretty hot topic and none of us yet knows what next year holds, but we have a solid record of managing our finances well, finding and winning

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additional grant funding, and maintaining our site and facilities to a very good standard. The main projects being delivered this year include:

- **Science Block:** Half of the rooms and laboratories were refurbished last year and we will finish the programme off this summer. We had initially thought that we might need to schedule this over 3 years, but through close project management and effective procurement we will be finishing the whole programme in 2 years.
- **IT Network:** A further classroom will be converted into an IT suite and more inter-active whiteboards are being installed. We will also be upgrading to MS Office 2007 and then later in the year to Windows 7. We continue to operate a 4-year obsolescence policy for IT hardware; software continues to demand more powerful kit and it rapidly becomes more expensive than replacement to try to maintain kit that is older than 4 years.
- **Classroom Refurbishment:** We are very proud that our classroom spaces look good and we are certain of the link between environment and behaviour & learning. It is so easy to switch off refurbishment spending and so difficult to restart it; we will continue to do our best not to let our site standards drop. Several classrooms in B-Block will be refurbished this summer
- **Voicemail:** We know how important good communication is with parents and how vital voicemail is as a link in the process because of teacher's classroom commitments. We will be improving our telephone capacity and voicemail system this summer.
- **Covered outside seating:** We received some grant funding to allow us to install the new covered space outside C-Block canteen earlier this year and it has been a resounding success, providing additional social and eating space and also an alternative environment for small discussion and mentoring groups. We will be installing a second, similar space into the courtyard in front of T-Block
- **Downside Path:** We have already improved the lighting on the path but grant funding has now been made available to allow the path to be widened and a better fence to be installed. We will also take the opportunity to install gates so that we can better prevent intruders and vandalism at night
- **Roofs:** The school has mostly flat roofs and some of these are now starting to fail. The cost of replacing a flat roof is horrid but so are the consequences of major leaks. We aim to replace the Science Block roof this summer.
- **Changing Room toilets:** These will be completely refurbished in both the Gym and the Sports Hall

- **Main Hall and Sports Hall:** These are very high profile spaces and will be redecorated this year. Visitors will have noticed already that we are introducing more photography of current students and activities to celebrate our successes
- **Gym windows:** The original wooden frames have reached the end of their life and the windows will be replaced

**Ian Stowe**  
**Business Manager**

### YEAR 9 ISLAND CHALLENGE TRIP – JUNE 2010

71 Year 9 students and 6 staff enjoyed a week away on a 'back to basics' activity trip on Brownsea Island, off Poole Harbour, Dorset. The students enjoyed water based activities which included wind surfing, kayaking, sailing and swimming. The students also took part in land based activities which included low ropes, archery, the orienteering competition and 'Get stuck in' which was an environmental activity to help protect the island from being taken over by rampant plants. (Students called this weeding!)

Students survived four very cold nights sleeping under canvas, being woken up by the sound of the duty staff member banging a song (out of tune of course) on a saucepan with a wooden spoon. The island had limited electricity which meant a lack of mobile phones and of course no internet surfing! With a lack of electricity campers had a limited supply of hot water; students were limited to two minutes in the shower every other day!

Campers had to walk 10 minutes to the shower and toilet block and a 20 minute walk to the nearest phone and ice cream shop. Students took part in washing up for the campers without a dishwasher (which was a first for most of them!) This included the big burnt pans from Chris the camp cook.

Mr Parker visited us for one day; he did an impromptu tent inspection and joined the students on the kayaking, low ropes and archery sessions.

The weather was fantastic; the staff at Brownsea Island looked after all of us really well, all the students and staff had a great experience, learning lots of new skills in a very different environment. The students behaved really well on this trip and were a credit to the school.

The students and staff had a very enjoyable time with comments from the students on their return as 'life changing experience' 'great food', 'will have lots of memories from this great trip', 'can we go again next year?'

A display of photos has been put on the notice board in the school reception area from this trip. If you attended

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and would like a copy of the 350 photos taken please buy a CD for 20p from Mr Young.

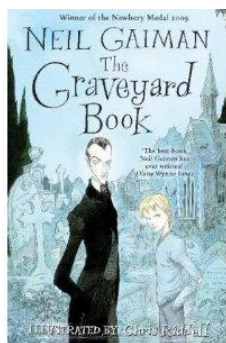
A big thank you again, to the school staff which attended this trip. Also to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Rolleston for the mountain of paperwork which had to be done to make this trip possible.

**Mr Young & Mrs Hopkin**  
**Activity trip leaders**

### **AWARD WINNING NEW LIBRARY BOOK**

#### **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman**

Written by the author of "Coraline" and "Stardust" this new fantasy story has just won the prestigious "Carnegie Medal" awarded by children's librarians to an outstanding book for young people. It is illustrated by Chris Riddell who you might know from his books in "The Edge Chronicles" series.



It is the story of Nobody Owens known as Bod – he lives in a graveyard and has been raised and educated by ghosts but it is the land of the living that proves to be dangerous to him!

This book is available from your school library

**Mrs S Yates**  
**Librarian**

### **DOWNSIDE UPDATE**

Attached is the link for the July-August Downside magazine, please note especially the dates for the diary, also included below. A splendid job as ever, thanks to Amanda Evans our volunteer editor. It is planned that this edition will be delivered door to door in the week beginning Monday 5th July.

[http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/images/Downside%20magazine%20July-%20August\\_tcm5-29835.pdf](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/images/Downside%20magazine%20July-%20August_tcm5-29835.pdf)

#### **NEW !! NEW !! NEW !!**

Skills and Learning opportunities drop in at the Mayfield Centre. Fridays 9.30 - 11.30 am (see Mayfield Centre page 3 for details) from July onwards. Information available for residents about opportunities to gain qualifications and experience, in a friendly local venue.

### **Dates for your Diary !!**

#### **JULY**

**5<sup>TH</sup> 10-11am** Keep Fit (aerobics) group begins at the Downside Community Centre, Suffolk Rd 10 - 11 am July - crèche provided for 0-3 years. £2.50 Many Thanks to Sam Burgin for being the motivator behind this excellent daytime opportunity.

**15th** - Downside Forum Walkabout (officers and residents together) to identify environmental concerns - 17:00-18:30 meet Downside Forum Partners at Mayfield shops. See magazine page 13.

**18th** - THE BIG LUNCH. 1-4pm Downside Community Centre. Fun, games, dance and music. Bring your lunch. Tea, coffee and squash available. See magazine page 11.

**22nd** Downside Community Forum - St Augustine's Church, See magazine page 13.

**26th-30th** - Downside Summer Activity Programme - See magazine page 14.

See magazine Page 4 for full details of the Downside Neighbourhood Centre Summer activity.

#### **AUGUST**

**4th**- Downside Neighbourhood Centre party 10 - 2pm.

**12th** - Picnic at Priory park for stay & play (Downside Neighbourhood Centre).

**15th** - Great Yarmouth Coach Trip See magazine page 10.

**21st** - Saturdads (Downside Neighbourhood Centre)

**29th** - Southend on Sea Trip - See magazine page 10.

**23-27th** Downside Summer holiday activity programme week two, see page 14.

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

**Direct Dial: 03003005555**  
**Mobile: 07767327913**

### **LOST PROPERTY**

Lost property will be on display in C Block, by the Student Services office from Monday 12th July until Tuesday 20th July.  
Any items not claimed will be given to a local charity.

Thank you

**Mrs K Taylor**  
**Student Services**

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## **KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH SPORTS AT MANSHEAD**

### Awards Ceremony

On the 30th June 2010 Mr Parker, Mr Cook and Mrs D'Emanuele attended the annual School sports partnership awards at the Grove theatre.

A number of our students were nominated for awards and we were successful in achieving the following;

- **Upper School of the year**
- **Team of the year - Year 11 football team**
- **Sports Ambassador - Mischa McKeivitt**
- **Captain of the year - Connor Smith**

Congratulations to all that were nominated and attended the evening. We were extremely proud.

Well done

**PE Department**

### **Year 9 Rounders**

Captain: **Kirsty Steward**

Manshead v All Saints Academy

Well done to the Year 9 rounders team who beat All Saints 24 1/2 to 22. We were losing in the first innings by 3 1/2 rounders but with some brilliant batting we succeeded.

Player of the match: **Briony Clews**

**Miss N Cross**

**Teacher PE**

## **SPORTS DAY**

Just a reminder that sports day is on the 16th July. Parents are welcome to join us from 1.00pm onwards.

**The PE Department**

## **WASA Football Tournament in Finland**

Lucas Kirkpatrick captained the Luton Town football side who travelled to Finland to compete in the WASA Football Tournament. Over 250 clubs from all over Europe participated but it was Lucas' team that lifted the cup

Congratulations!

**PE Department**

## **ENGLISH NEWS - READATHON UPDATE**

As you know, earlier in the term, we launched a sponsored reading event with Year 9 in aid of Clic Sargent, a very worthwhile charity. Unfortunately, even with our best attempts, the amount raised was rather small. Therefore, we would like to have an in class event during the last two days of term.

Please sponsor your son or daughter 50p to read a text of their choice. Students will inform you of the finer details via planners. Thank you in advance.

**Mrs L. Peacock**

**Asst Learning Manager English**

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