

# Manshead School

# Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

Manshead School

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## LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER

As we move towards the end of the first half of the second term it is important to think about what we have achieved at the mid-point of the school year.

There have been lots of successes so far this school year. I have been able to award many Gold certificates for students earning more than 150 credits and we now have 5 students who have gained their Platinum certificate - this goes to show how hard the students are working! Attendance is also much improved and Year 9 students are really leading the way with 95% attendance at the last count. We have issued fewer red cards for poor behaviour than last year and the attitude to learning grades, found on student reports, are also better than last year. Our results in our key areas of English and Maths have improved, as the recent examination results for the November exams show. More of our sixth form are staying on to complete their Btec, AS and A-level qualifications and as you might have seen in the league tables published earlier this year our A-level points score is among the best in the county. Overall students are working hard in school and are being successful – it is a positive environment to work in. Of course the governors and I are very pleased with our successes but recognise there is more that can be done to improve further and our plans to do this are scrutinised regularly.

There are a few really important events coming up immediately after the half term break that I would like to draw your attention to. For Year 12 and 13 students they will be taking their mock exams in the first week back - this is a very important part of the preparation for the main exam season in May and June. For Year 10 students and their parents there will be a parent consultation evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> March that we hope you will be able to attend (more information elsewhere in this newsletter). The school

production is also taking place after the break, so if you would like to see Fame, tickets will be on sale soon. As usual we have attached the list of other important dates for this term to the Newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the half term break.

**Jim Parker**  
Headteacher

## Y10 PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

After half term letters will be going out to parents of Year 10 students inviting them to the parent consultation evening to be held from 4.30pm to 7.30pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. Parents will be invited to make 5 minute appointments with all relevant teachers including the Learning Guide. Your son/daughter will be provided with an appointment sheet to record these on after the holiday. During the evening a number of governors will be present as they wish to hold some parent interviews to gain better understanding of the parents' perspective of the school. I hope that you might find 5 minutes before or after your appointments to talk to one of our governors and answer a few brief questions.

**Jim Parker**  
Headteacher

## DofE AWARD NEWS

Students have to complete four activities to gain the Award and we are delighted to report that we now have three students who have each finished their first activity:

- Rachael Jones: Physical activity
- Gabriella Szpala: Volunteering
- Juliet West: Volunteering



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

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

Here is an excerpt from the article which Gabriella and Juliet wrote about their three months spent working as volunteers at Slip End brownie pack:

“The purpose of the volunteer section of the Bronze award is to gain leadership skills and help others whilst having fun and achieving. We thought Brownies would provide the perfect opportunity to do this as we enjoy helping younger children to achieve and learn. About halfway through our time helping at Brownies we were asked to organise a whole session and we chose to have a Christmas theme, helping the girls to make Christmas cards and ice biscuits. It was a great experience to have the opportunity to be a leader.”

Training for the Expedition section is now well under way (every Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm). The expeditions are on May 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and students know that they have to complete all the training and both the expeditions to achieve the Expedition section of the Award.

**Ian Stowe**  
**DofE Leader**

### **MANSHEADS TWEETS!**

In order to try new methods of keeping everyone up to date, Manshead has now got its own twitter account.

If you already have a twitter account and you want to add the school simply search mansheads.school and then add us.

If you would like to follow us but don't have an account go to <http://twitter.com/>. There you can sign up for a free account which will enable you to post short messages and read the messages of those people you are following.

We will be using our account to keep people informed of upcoming events that are happening at Manshead.

**Neil Payne**  
**Assistant Head**

### **GERMAN EXCHANGE (30/1/11 – 5/2/11)**

14 Manshead students and 2 students from Queensbury welcomed their German partners from the Niklas-Luhmann Gymnasium in *Oerlingshausen* (near *Dortmund*) at Luton airport and together they enjoyed a week of fun and excitement.

Activities included a night out bowling in Dunstable and a visit to the Abbey in St Albans. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the German exchange which, once again, turned out to be very successful. The 16 German students, along with their 2 teachers, were highly impressed with the warm welcome they received here.

A big thank you to our students, and especially the parents, who make this unique cultural experience for our young people possible. You have been fantastic hosts, and the Germans are now waiting for their opportunity to reciprocate the kindness and generosity when we go over to *Oerlingshausen* for a week in July.

**Mrs Glunk-Peeters**  
**MFL teacher**

### **SPORT AT MANSHEAD**

#### **Under 15 Girls District 7 a side**

Manshead entered four teams, finishing second, fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

**Mr K Gordon**  
**Teacher of PE**

### **FAME 10<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011.**

Tickets for this year's school production of Fame go on sale from 28<sup>th</sup> February. The Box Office will be open on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Lunchtime in Reception.

**Adults - £6**  
**Concessions - £4**  
**Family ticket (2 adults and 2 concessions) - £18**

**Mrs Foster and Mrs Smith**

### **CATCH UP SESSIONS**

Letters have been sent out for Year 11 students in Graphics, Textiles, Product Design and Catering to attend catch-up sessions in the half term break. We would like to thank parents in advance of ensuring all students attend these valuable sessions.

Please also note the important exam dates in this newsletter.

**Mrs Malster**  
**Learning Manager of Technology**

### **INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, some of our brightest Mathematicians in Year 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UK Maths Challenge (about 210 students in all). This is a National competition for all students in these years and students are able to gain National Certificates.

Well done for all your efforts and results will be out later in the year.

**Mr N Shilvock and all the Maths team**

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## **POETRY AT MANSHEAD**

This poetry was written by Year 11 students after being inspired by the coursework they have completed as part of their GCSE English Literature. We thought you might like to see some of this high quality work.

### **English Department**

#### **'My Poison' by Devon Sait**

You are my illness,  
My infection, my lie.  
I think I might love you,  
But hate, still I try.  
You are my poison,  
My escape, my release.  
I ask you to take me,  
For at last, I'm at peace.  
You blinded my heart  
With both hate and corruption!  
Why say that you love me?  
Why face such destruction.  
But no, I can't have you.  
You're not mine to take.  
Yet still, as I see you,  
It's but my heart that does ache.

Your love's but a diamond,  
So strong and so pure.  
But bring it a shock,  
And your love is no more.  
Our diamond has shattered,  
In pieces it's now.  
Perhaps I still love you,  
Then what would you say?  
My arms are you stable,  
The world is your hay.  
A diamond is cold.  
Both dead, and alone.  
A diamond is worthless;  
For gem is but stone.

#### **'My 'Love' Poem' by Charlie Hoy**

Life is full of uncertain choices,  
Life is full of disbelief,  
But when I laid my eyes upon you,  
My love was as real as the sun in the morning,  
My love was as certain as the moon at night.

When I first gazed longingly into those beautiful eyes,  
They emitted a path brighter than a burning fire,  
Upon rows and rows of blossoming roses,  
Was the purest place of all,

I saw people laughing, giggling, running,  
And as I left this places and tuned to thee,  
I uttered the words,  
"No matter what we go through or turn out to be,  
You will always be young and beautiful to me."

#### **Love Poem by Liam Stewart**

I still remember the day we met,  
I was trudging home soaking wet,  
As she passed she looked my way,  
The beauty of an angel I would say,  
I was overwhelmed with a new emotion,  
In my heart was a commotion,  
As my blood rushed to my face,  
All I wanted to do was give a chase.

But as I pursued the girl of my dreams,  
Things weren't as good as they seemed,  
As soon as I would find what fate had in store,  
And it wouldn't be one that I could endure,  
She strolled towards and hugged this guy,  
All of a sudden I wanted to cry,  
As she held my heart in her hands,  
Next thing I know it turns to sand,  
I will never forget that heart-breaking day,  
My heart left its bay,  
And will never return.

#### **Devon Sait**

Beautiful Lies  
Childish innocence,  
Beautiful lies  
As summer begins,  
It's spring that dies.  
We're taught and we're told  
To cherish and love.  
But peel back the skin  
Enough – enough.  
As hate prevails  
And creature sins  
It's lifeless trees,  
that take the win  
Dead rotting carcass,  
The smell is vile.  
But fear as I do,  
It's nature's smile.

		<b>Assessment / Exams</b>	<b>Trips / parent events / other student events</b>
28/02/2011	<b>Mon</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Mock exams	
01/03/2011	<b>Tue</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Mock exams	
02/03/2011	<b>Wed</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Mock exams	
03/03/2011	<b>Thu</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Mock exams Y11 Maths Mock exam	
04/03/2011	<b>Fri</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Mock exams Y11 Maths Mock exam	Chemistry at Work Day for Year 9 students
05/03/2011	<b>Sat</b>		
06/03/2011	<b>Sun</b>		
07/03/2011	<b>Mon</b>	Y10 French controlled assessments this week	School Production (Fame) dress rehearsal
08/03/2011	<b>Tue</b>		
09/03/2011	<b>Wed</b>	Year 10 reports sent home	Year 10 D.T.P. Vaccination catch up session. School Production (Fame) Middle school performance (Periods 4 and 5)
10/03/2011	<b>Thu</b>	January A-level results published	School Production (Fame) 7.30pm
11/03/2011	<b>Fri</b>		School Production (Fame) 7.30pm
12/03/2011	<b>Sat</b>		School Production (Fame) 7.30pm
13/03/2011	<b>Sun</b>		
14/03/2011	<b>Mon</b>		
15/03/2011	<b>Tue</b>		
16/03/2011	<b>Wed</b>		<b>Y10 Parent Consultation 4.30-7.30</b>
17/03/2011	<b>Thu</b>		
18/03/2011	<b>Fri</b>		Y10 & 11 Geography trip to Walton on the Naze
19/03/2011	<b>Sat</b>		
20/03/2011	<b>Sun</b>		
21/03/2011	<b>Mon</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Reports sent home this week Y11 Spanish, French and German Controlled assessments this week	
22/03/2011	<b>Tue</b>		
23/03/2011	<b>Wed</b>	Year 11 Reports sent home	
24/03/2011	<b>Thu</b>		
25/03/2011	<b>Fri</b>		
26/03/2011	<b>Sat</b>		
27/03/2011	<b>Sun</b>		
28/03/2011	<b>Mon</b>		
29/03/2011	<b>Tue</b>	GCSE Art Exam (Mrs Williams & Mrs Cawte's groups)	School Dance show 7.30pm
30/03/2011	<b>Wed</b>	GCSE Art Exam (Mrs Williams & Mrs Cawte's groups)	
31/03/2011	<b>Thu</b>	GCSE Art Exam (Mr Travell's & Mrs Moody's groups)	
01/04/2011	<b>Fri</b>	GCSE Art Exam (Mr Travell's & Mrs Moody's groups)	Target setting lesson – Period 2 (Y11)
02/04/2011	<b>Sat</b>		
03/04/2011	<b>Sun</b>		
04/04/2011	<b>Mon</b>		
05/04/2011	<b>Tue</b>		
06/04/2011	<b>Wed</b>		Year 11 Drama Controlled Assessment and parent performance 7:00pm in Main Hall.
07/04/2011	<b>Thu</b>		Year 11 Drama Controlled Assessment and parent performance 7:00pm in Main Hall.
08/04/2011	<b>Fri</b>		Whole School Assembly

Summer term starts for students on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011