

Manshead School

Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

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Issue 91 W/E 1st July 2011

INFORMATION & DATES ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER

Since the beginning of the half term we have been operating our new timetable. I am pleased to say that it has been very successful so far. I have spoken to many students in Year 10 and 11 who have been very positive about their experiences of starting next year's timetable early. If parents or students have any feedback about the new timetable start we would love to hear from you.

We are beginning to build up towards the final events of the school year. Sports day is always a memorable day, not least because of the passionate support each College gets from their staff and students. We have held College Dance this week and I will publish the results of this in the last newsletter of the term. These two events will add to the College points scores and contribute to the overall totals that lead to the awarding of the College cup on the last day of this term. These events are important to us as a school but do not detract from the focus of what is going on in lessons and we work hard right until the last day.

I am sorry that I had to take the decision to close the school this week as a result of the industrial action taken by two teaching unions. We looked very hard for possible solutions that would help us to remain open for at least some of the school. However, the number of staff involved would have left us with unsafe levels of supervision in the school. I hope that the unions will be able to resolve the difficulties as soon as possible so we don't have further disruption to learning.

Our last newsletter of the year will be published in the last week of term.

Jim Parker
Head teacher

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH - THE RESULTS

Year 9 students who took the Functional English examinations this year will be given their results when they return to school in September.

The qualification is recognised by many employers, and students can pass Functional English at Level 1 or Level 2 (Level 2 is the higher qualification).

I wish your son/daughter all the best on results day!

Mr Tatham
KS3 Co-ordinator in English

WORK EXPERIENCE – 4TH JULY – 8TH JULY 2011

Students from *King, McCartney and Picasso* college are about to take part in their work experience and I wanted to take this opportunity to firstly wish them luck but also remind them of some points they need to remember while there:

- Always arrive on time
- Wear the correct clothing for your placement
- Try to use your initiative but if not sure always ask someone in charge
- Tell someone either at home, school or at your placement if you are worried about anything, don't just ignore it
- Fill in your log book daily and ask your supervisor to fill in the paperwork
- ENJOY your placement and remember this is the world of work!

Parents – please ensure your child is ready for the week by reminding them of the behaviour and standards expected of them – while they are being given the opportunity to prove their maturity we are

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still responsible for them and their actions reflect on the school – I know they will all act responsibly and am sure they will gain valuable experience from this venture.

Thanks for all your efforts and support with getting placements organised and paperwork in.

Mrs Kerry Cordt
Learning Manager for Extended Curriculum

IMPROVING THE CHRISTIAN ETHOS AT MANSHEAD

Over the last few years we have been working hard to improve the Christian Ethos at Manshead. We have now reached a new stage in this process and are looking to collect the views of any interested stakeholders i.e parents, students, staff and governors on the next steps. To gather these views we will be holding a meeting on Monday 11th July at 6.00pm in the main school hall.

Neil Payne
Assistant Head Teacher

THE SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY “THE BIKE PROJECT” – AN UPDATE

From small beginnings, an innovative new project is now springing into life. Last year, we asked parents and students if they would donate old bikes or bike parts. Thanks to all who donated as we now have a store full of frames and parts ready to work on in the Autumn term. We are still collecting so if there are more, old, repairable bikes out there, contact us and we will take them off your hands.

We also have a dedicated work shop which is being prepared by the Site team ready for September. Soon there will be a work bench, storage and tools. Students from the SLC are currently involved in measuring the workshop and working out the cost of fittings.

We are very excited about this new project as it will allow students to develop skills in cycle repair and maintenance. This is part of the alternative curriculum we are offering in the SLC.

We now need to find adults with relevant expertise who could help us make “The Bike Project” a highly successful venture. If you are retired or not working, or simply at home with little to do, and you have knowledge of cycle repair and maintenance, could you spare some time to work with students from the SLC?

This would be on a voluntary basis in the first instance but you would be joining us at a very exciting time and your help would be invaluable. If you think you could share your skills with a fantastic group of teenagers, please contact us at the school for more details.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Mrs Lesley Peacock and Mrs Gail Dumpleton
The Small Learning Community Team

SPORT AT MANSHEAD

Year 9 Rounders

Player of the match: Ellie Reay

Manshead 14 rounders, Harlington 8 rounders.

Well done to all the Year 9 girls who played in the rounders team on Tuesday 14th June. Everybody played well, especially in the second half, which gave us the advantage and the opportunity to win the game. Congratulations to **Ellie Reay** who was nominated player of the match for her brilliant catching skills. Well done ladies.

Year 9 Rounders

Player of the match: Manna Jureidini-Mcleod

Manshead 15 and a half rounders, Cedars 16 and a half rounders.

Another fantastic game by the Year 9 rounders team, everybody played brilliantly but unfortunately Cedars just took the lead by one rounder. Congratulations to **Manna Jureidina-McCloud** who was nominated player of the match for her fantastic batting skills. Well done ladies.

Year 10 Rounders

Manshead v Queensbury

Another fantastic game by the Year 10 rounders players. We thrashed Queensbury 16 rounders to 4. Fantastic fielding and batting. Player of the match **Bryony Clews** with spectacular fielding on 2nd base Really well done ladies...again

Year 10 Rounders

Manshead v All Saints

Yet again another thrashing, this time the score was 13 1/2 to us and 2 1/2 to them. Unbelievable fielding and good batting, even the All Saints teacher complemented the girls on how good their fielding was, hardly anything got past them. Player of the match has to go to **Maria Kayani** who stepped in at the last minute and was so good that we have asked her to join the team. Well done all of you.

Year 10 District Cricket

Manshead beat Van Dyke by 6 wickets

Van Dyke 46-5 Manshead 47-3

MOM: **Harry Rowlands**

Manshead Lost to Queensbury by 13 runs

Queensbury 78-6 Manshead 55-4

MOM: **Will Evans**

R Saunders
PE Teacher

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LUNCH MEETING FOR ISLAND ACTIVITY TRIP - THURSDAY 7TH JULY 2011 IN T13 AT 1.30

If you are attending the Island Activity trip in a few weeks you are invited to a lunchtime meeting regarding the Trip.

This meeting will be held on Thursday 7th July at 1.30pm in T13.

Please come and ask any questions you might have regarding the trip. Please bring your empty bags you are intending to pack for this trip, as we need to check the sizes. If you would like to you are welcome to store your bags in T13 from the start of school, please make sure these are named.

Thanks

Mr. J. Young

youngj@mansheadschoo.co.uk

AIMING HIGH!

Congratulations to **Jack Norris** who has recently received both the Leader Award from the British Basketball Association and an ASDAN award through Central Bedfordshire Council for DJ-ing and MC-ing. Jack had to show ability in working with others, improving his own learning and performance, and problem solving. A great achievement - Well Done Jack!

Caroline Goulding
English Teacher

SIXTH FORM BOOK GROUP

The sixth form book group have chosen to read:

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

By Stieg Larsson

It is book 1 of The Millennium Trilogy

The book has been translated from Swedish into English and is a crime novel which has been made into a film.

There are still copies available to borrow from the school library so if any other sixth formers want to read it please let me know.

We will meet up to discuss it on Friday 15th July at 1.40 in the library.

Mrs S Yates
Librarian

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please may we politely encourage families who are entitled to Free School Meals to register their children for this. There are several benefits to registering for Free School Meals if you are entitled:

- Encourages healthy eating, which has a direct well-proven link with behaviour and learning
- Ensures that the school receives its fullest allocation of government funding (this will be very important to us as the government's purse strings tighten; it does not depend on whether your child actually takes their lunch
- Provides access to a hardship fund to help meet the cost of extras such as school trips

The procedure to apply for free school meals has been made simpler and can be done entirely over the telephone now.

You may qualify if you are in receipt of the following:-

- Income Support or
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income-Related) or
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit or
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS) or
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit), and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.

You can apply by phone on: 0300 300 8306

This line is open 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday

Please make sure you have the following to hand when you call:

- National Insurance numbers for you and your partner, along with your dates of birth and dates of birth for your children.
- If you receive National Asylum Seekers Support you will need your NASS number

For new students joining us in September from Middle schools, any entitlement to Free School Meals is automatically brought forward to Manshead, unless you are joining us from outside Central Bedfordshire.

J. Parker
Head teacher

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RELAY FOR LIFE STOCKWOOD RUNNING TRACK WEEKEND 16TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Initially, we as a school, were involved in this Fundraising for Cancer Relief, to provide Duke of Edinburgh students an opportunity to get their volunteering section completed. However, it is a growing band of students and teachers who are now getting involved. We hope to run a Mufti day and other fund raising activities to support our team fundraising before September.

It's called the "Relay for Life" and as from 12 noon on the Saturday 16th September 2011 until 12 noon on the Sunday 17th September 2011 the team has to have a team member on the track running or walking. The actual event opens on the Saturday with an opening ceremony and a special lap for survivors who have defeated cancer. There are special laps such as the bra lap to promote awareness for breast cancer; pants lap to promote awareness of prostate and testicular cancer; and the sunglasses lap to promote awareness for skin cancers. Around 8 o'clock there is the lighting up ceremony, where candles are lit and placed around the running track to remember people who have been lost to cancer and to celebrate those who have survived.

The last event I attended had live music and activities on all day.

Throughout the Saturday and Sunday, all the teams have to run a fund raising stall or activities, so any ideas or offers of support would be welcome. If you wish to take part (either officially by being a team member, or unofficially and dropping in during the day), contact me, **Mrs Blackmore for further details at blackmorem@mansheadschoo.co.uk**

GERMAN EXCHANGE (9.7. - 16.7. 2011)

The 16 students taking part in the German exchange are looking forward to the most exciting part, which is visiting their exchange partners and staying with their families in Oerlingshausen (near Dortmund) for one week. Students will be accompanying their exchange partners to the Niklas-Luhmann Gymnasium on certain days to see what a German school is like.

Activities will include a trip to the town Paderborn and Hannover, where we will be visiting the Sea Life Centre. By now some students might be feeling a little nervous wondering how they will get by in German, but the real first challenge will be getting up early on 9th July to be at the airport by 5am!

Hopefully, the happy memories from the Germans' last visit in February, and the prospect of creating new ones, will blow all tiredness away that morning!

Mrs Glunk-Peeters
Language Teacher

GIFTED AND TALENTED NEWS

Last week a group of Year 7 Gifted and Talented ICT students from Priory Middle School took a trip to Manshead to get involved in a 'Programming Day.' where they learnt how to create a game in 'Scratch' The students were led by Ms Dalglish, Mr Shafi, **Alastair Spencer and Matthew Turley (Year 10)** and had a very productive day!

The students showed exceptionally positive attitudes and demonstrated excellent levels of concentration over the day, which culminated in animated 'Hangman' games being produced.

The games will be available to view on the G&T Student Site shortly.

Miss C Brooks
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME RUN BY DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED WITH DURING THEIR SUMMER BREAK.

There is a wide variety of activities based in Grove Corner (formerly The Place) and in various parks throughout Dunstable.

Please see this link for further information and a complete copy of the programme.

Janet Tonge, Youth Worker
<http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/community-centre/grove-corner/summer-activities-2011-age-13-17-year-olds/>

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