

Manshead School

Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

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TERM DATES 2011-12

Autumn Term

Tuesday 6th Sept 2011 - Friday 16th Dec 2011

(Half term: week commencing Mon 24th Oct 2011)

Spring Term

Wednesday 4th Jan 2012 - Friday 30th March 2012

(Half term: week commencing Mon 13th Feb 2012)

Summer Term

Tuesday 17th April 2012 - Friday 20th July 2012

(May Day: Monday 7th May 2012)

(Half term: week commencing Mon 4th June 2012)

As another school year comes to an end I would like to thank the students and staff for the huge amount of effort they have made in making this another successful year for the school. I would also like to thank you, as parents, for the support you have provided for your children and for the school. Working in partnership is certainly the key to success.

We had good attendance at the Summer Concert last week where Mr Hooper gave a tremendous performance in his farewell concert. The musical talent on display among the students was excellent as usual. Unfortunately Sports Day was not quite such a success. We suffered a huge rain storm shortly after the start of the main afternoon event and it wasn't long before a bedraggled bunch of wet supporters, complete with running face paint, returned to their classrooms. Most events were completed but we had to abandon the relay when the track flooded! The

winners of the wettest sports day ever will be announced in Thursday's end of year assembly.

We are saying goodbye to a few members of staff this year and I would like to make a special mention to Mrs Fitzsimmons and wish her a long and happy retirement. She has been with us for 24 years and in that time has made a huge contribution to English, Drama and the School Productions. Mrs Fitzsimmons was also a Head of College and formerly a Head of Year and has steered the direction of thousands of students who have been under her care. We will miss her greatly.

I hope that students, parents and staff all enjoy the summer break and we look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 6th September at 8.45.

Jim Parker
Headteacher

SITE IMPROVEMENTS & MAINTENANCE PROJECTS THIS SUMMER HOLIDAY

As usual it won't be a quiet time for the Site and IT teams this summer holiday. We take pride in managing our finances well so that we can continue to maintain & improve our site and our facilities even in these times of financial challenge. Among the things that students & parents will notice when they come back to school in September will be:

- **Student Services:** This is being relocated into the main School Reception. There will be an expectation that students will behave to the same standard as other visitors to Reception, but equally we want to show that well-behaved students will be treated like customers.
- **Additional teaching spaces:** We need to be able to deliver lessons in a greater variety of

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styles and to accommodate a growing diversity in the curriculum that we offer. Therefore we are converting a number of offices into smaller teaching rooms with flexible layouts.

- **Main Block roof:** The roof will be completely replaced, including the high level windows.
- **Replacement PC's:** Our policy is to retire PC's after four years so we will be replacing 70 machines over the summer, including 60 in two zones in the Library.
- **Redecoration:** One of the things in which we take pride is our rolling programme of redecoration to avoid spaces getting an unloved feel. The main area for attention this summer will be the Drama Studio (as well as a number of individual classrooms).
- **Media Centre:** The Media teaching area will see investment in additional IT facilities, cameras and sound equipment.
- **Parking and Road-Safety:** We have been reviewing how we manage the safety of students particularly at the end of the school day, in conjunction with the Health & Safety Executive and the Highways Department. Probably the most challenging area and issue is the Streetfield end of the campus, but nonetheless there are improvements that can also be made in the areas closer to Manshead. The detailed plans are still being developed but they are likely to include a single, better designed and marked zebra crossing, the relocation of the school bus parking area, a one-way system for the top car park and 'nose-to-kerb' parking on the roadway.

As well as these projects which are already at the 'ready-to-go' stage we have a number of other projects still at the planning stage but which are likely to be rolled out slightly later in the year:

- **Cashless catering:** A cashless catering system offers a number of advantages, not least that there is no differentiation at the till of students entitled to Free School Meals and that parents can ensure that money given to students for school meals is actually used for that purpose.
- **Vehicle Access Control:** To improve site security we propose to introduce a system to prevent unauthorised vehicle access out-of-hours. With a site perimeter of over 3 kilometres and three schools sharing the campus we will never achieve complete access control (and we don't want a prison-like feel to the site) but along with the new gate and fencing along Downside path the vehicle access control will help us to take practical steps to diminish misbehaviour opportunities.

Ian Stowe
Business Manager

ATHLETICS

A huge well done to a number of students who were selected to compete in the County competition on 8th

June at Bedford Athletics stadium. They represented the school and county fantastically. A special mention and congratulations goes out to **Sophie Billington** who won her event and was selected to compete Nationally as well!

Golf

Joshua Puddefoot and **Joseph Olesin** represented Manshead in the Rookie golf competition on 5th July and were great ambassadors for the school. Although they didn't win, they performed well and never gave up so well done to those two!

National School Sports Week

Last week the PE department was involved in NSSW which consisted of offering different sports from different continents on each day of the week. We even had representatives from Lloyds TSB, who sponsor the event, to observe the event and there was a lot of positive feedback at how much Manshead had provided compared to other schools. A special mention needs to go to the kitchen staff who co-ordinated the menu to the continent each day, which was great, so a big thank you to them for their efforts. Students were asking which continent day it was and what sports would be offered so interest was great with students really enjoying themselves. It was brilliant to see students mixing together in PE lessons to compete in competitions throughout the week, so a big thanks to the PE team for putting on a great week.

Also thanks to Learning Guide groups for participating in the Flag competition the results will follow shortly.

Chiltern Sports Partnership Awards Evening

A huge congratulations needs to go out to all students that were nominated by the PE department for showing exceptional talent and effort this year. A ceremony was held at Dunstable Conference Centre on Wed 29th June 2011. With their participation and quality another successful year of sporting achievement and has been recognised. Well done to all Sporting Personalities and Ambassadors for Manshead School.

A special recognition must go to **Liam Stewart (Yr 11)** who is a Gold Sports Leader and has achieved over 150 community and school volunteering hours. Liam won the Upper School Leader of the year, and was also an announcer on the night. Also well done to **Jack Turner** for winning the Upper School Sports Personality of the Year. This was for sporting excellence, especially during the County Scratch Golf Tournament which Jack won earlier this year. Well done to all our nominees. Also – **Kate Lennon, John Hawkins, Luke Kenney, Louise Powell, and the Year 9 Rugby team;** good luck for next time!

Mr Cook
SSCO

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GEOGRAPHY COURSE AND WHAT I THINK ABOUT IT:-

When I decided to take Geography I thought that the course would help me with understanding maps and be quite boring, but it helped me with much more than that. I found the course more interesting than I thought originally.

The course had a lot of good points like the fieldtrip to Walton-on-the-Naze where we learnt about our dwindling coastline and the different rock types within this area. Also we were looking at the defences used

(e.g. groynes) and how Long Shore Drift has caused erosion of our coastline. This helped me with my SDME exam on coastal defences by showing me first hand their advantages and disadvantages.

In the Geography course the subjects are Natural Disasters, Rivers and Coasts, Economic development and population settlement.

When I did the controlled assessment I found it quite easy to explain because the question that I chose was a subject that I found interesting "Piracy in the Indian Ocean, Strait of Gibraltar and the South China Sea." Although the time given (3 hours) sounds really long, trust me you will need to use up every minute of it.

We also learnt about natural disasters like the Montserrat volcanic explosion in the Caribbean which was very interesting because we saw what areas were destroyed by pyroclastic flows and the action taken by the government to protect its citizens.

Jake Allen Yr 11 King

When I first decided to take geography I thought it would be really boring, but actually it's not that bad. You learn about different issues which effect people all over the world and it's interesting to learn about how these issues happen and the real amount of impact it has on people's lives.

Alex Simpson Yr 11 King

HISTORY COURSE AND WHAT I THINK ABOUT IT:-

When I first took the History course I was already interested to learn the course and after a year I want to learn more. The course is quite boring for the first few weeks but after these the course becomes more and more interesting. Within the course there is a trip to Amsterdam which is fun. You go to see Anne Frank house, the Arnhem Bridge the centre point of Operation Market Garden and the Vught concentration camp used by the Nazis during the Second World War.

During the course you learn many things like the changing role of women during the Second World War, The Blitz, Nazi Germany, Medicine and Crime. In my view History is one of the best subjects to take if you are interested in past events like the Second World War etc.

Next year I am looking forward to getting the results that I will achieve in History and Geography.

Jake Allen Yr 11 King.

LOST PROPERTY

Thursday 21st July is the last day that Lost Property will be on display outside the student services office in C Block. Any items of property named are always returned to their owners.

Any smaller items such as keys, memory sticks, spectacles etc are in the student services office and must be asked for.

Thank You

**Mrs Karen Taylor
Department Services**

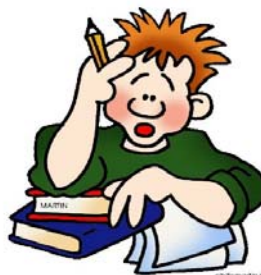
PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

Please return any library resources you have finished with and don't forget to renew any that you would like to keep over the summer holidays.



**Mrs S Yates
Librarian**

STUDY CLUB



**Homework
and Study
Help**

Having trouble with coursework, homework, revision?

Or just need a little help in a certain subject:

Anything from writing a Point, Evidence, Explain and Link (PEEL) paragraph to algebra!

Study Club runs every Thursday from 3:15pm to 4:30pm in the Library.

A growing selection of 6th Formers (from every subject area!) are on hand to help.

Everyone and all abilities welcome

Ms Andrew and Mrs Thomas

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CONGRATULATIONS

It was with great pleasure and pride I attended the Central Bedfordshire College annual awards ceremony at The Grove Theatre. This was a new venue for the ceremony and it was a resounding success.

David Custance, a former Manshead student received a Technology award (over 19 years) for Engineering. However, **Ben Veale**, in our present Year 11, will be the first student to study for a Level 3 in Engineering and Motor Vehicle at CBC next year. He also gained the Increased Flexibility Award for two years outstanding work at Level 2 in this subject.

I commend **Fay Brocklehurst** who received a Bronze, Silver and a Gold Certificate for successfully completing an extended work placement at Slip End Playgroup.

Well done to all of you.

Gaynor Martin
Director of Inclusion

PARIS YEAR 11 VISIT

The recent visit to France by 21 art students went very well. We spent eight days in and around Paris and the students took lots of photographs and created drawings and paintings. All were very well behaved and mixed easily with students from Cardinal



Newman school; listening to instructions and arriving on time however early!

Thank you to all of you for making it an enjoyable week.

This work will give them a flying start to their coursework in Year 12.

NATIONAL STUDENTS ART EXHIBITION

Three Manshead students had their work accepted for an exhibition at the Mall gallery in London recently **Hamish Dinsdale, Katie Dyde, Aayizat Odunlami**. This is a very prestigious venue and an excellent opportunity to have their work seen by a wide audience. They have received a certificate from the Royal Society of British Artists.



Well done to them all.

Mrs C Williams
Learning Manager for Art

END OF YEAR UPDATE

Letter from Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member Children's Services, Central Beds.

Please see our website for a copy of this letter.

Sue Wilson
PA to Headteacher

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