

Manshead School

Newsletter

Useful information for students, parents and the community

Manshead School
Tel: 01582 679400
Fax: 01582 679411

Email: office@mansheadschoo.co.uk

Website: www.mansheadschoo.co.uk

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Welcome

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer break and that all the students are fit to meet the challenges that lie ahead. This Newsletter is the first to be distributed by email only and we hope that it will continue to be a useful way of letting parents, students and the community know of forthcoming events as well as hearing about things that have been happening at school.

The Newsletter is just one way of communicating with parents. Perhaps the most important communication between home and school is through the Learning Guide. Each student in the school is a member of a Learning Guide group and they will see their Learning Guide every day. The Learning Guides build up a detailed knowledge about each of their students and will monitor progress carefully. Early on this term your child's Learning Guide will be in contact with parents to start the communication process. If we have any concerns about your child's progress the Learning Guide will contact you. Equally, if parents are worried about anything, they should contact the Learning Guide. As with most things, any difficulties can be more easily resolved if we catch things early - so please do tell us of any concerns.

I expect that many readers will have seen in the press that Manshead achieved its highest ever exam results at GCSE and A-level this summer. All students who took exams should be congratulated for this fantastic achievement. It was equally pleasing to see so many of our A-level students being able to take up their university places particularly with the additional competition this year for places. We are very pleased that the improvements that have been made to the

school over recent years have been reflected in the results. Manshead leads the way locally in GCSE and A-level results.

As we start the new term and school year there are a few things for students and parents to remember that are described in this newsletter. One thing that students will quickly notice is that Student Services have moved. Student Services is now next to the main reception area and we hope that we can provide a better service from its new location. We have included some reminders about uniform, attendance and explained how parents can now access the school portal.

This term also sees the start of a new Learning Partnership. A number of schools have agreed to work closely together to ensure that the quality of education available to local people remains high. We are really excited to be part of the Learning Partnership, there is further information about the Partnership in this newsletter.

It is always exciting to start a new school year and it is great to be able to welcome all our new students to Manshead and to welcome back those who are already here. It is a privilege to be Headteacher of Manshead School and I am incredibly proud of what the students achieve. We promote our core values of respect, responsibility, faith and compassion with energy and commitment as we believe that together it makes our students so successful. I am looking forward to another successful and fulfilling year.

Jim Parker
Headteacher

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Please call in before 9.00am every day of absence

THE MANSHEAD PORTAL

We have now opened up our 'portal' to parents. The portal is a sort of website where we place a lot more information than we can publish on our ordinary website. Amongst other things it has daily school news and homework. It has always been open to staff and students but we have now opened up access to the non-confidential areas to parents as well. To view the portal and look at things like the homework that is being set for your children:

- Go to the school website at www.mansheadschoo.co.uk
- Read the Portal guidance notes
- Click the Portal button and log on as:
 - **Username:** manshead\parents
 - **Password:** MH-2011

I Stowe
Business Manager

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCE

Please call 01582 679410 on each morning of absence stating reason for non-attendance. If no telephone contact is made a note of explanation (signed by the parent) must be provided and given to Mrs Cooper, Attendance Officer or their Learning Guide. If no explanation is received within two weeks the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please note that ten sessions or more of unauthorised absence could result in a fixed penalty notice from the Education Welfare Officer.

Medical Appointments

Excellent attendance is critical in helping students to achieve at school. Therefore, this school encourages that medical and dentistry appointments be taken outside of school hours wherever possible. If this cannot be avoided students should attend at least part of the school day. Please inform the school in advance of these appointments.

Holiday during Term Time

Holidays during term time should be avoided. DFES guidelines state that holidays should only be taken in exceptional circumstances. If this is the case, please apply in writing to Mr Darby, Director of Student Welfare, stating the reason for taking holiday in term time. Taking unauthorised holiday/s could lead to a Fine from the Education Welfare Service.

Lateness

If your child is up to twenty minutes late to school they should go straight to their learning guide and register.

If they are over twenty minutes late please report to reception stating reason for lateness. If no valid reason is given or no written evidence for lateness produced it will be unauthorised which could result in a fixed penalty notice.

Mrs Cooper
Attendance Officer

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Cambridge University offer an annual programme of lectures that are free to the general public. Topics vary, however Philosophy, Science, Mathematics, Political and Social Sciences are the mainstay of the 2011-2012 itinerary. If you are interested in attending any of the lectures you can find out more information at the website <http://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/5462>. Most lectures are in the evening, with ample travel time to Cambridge after school and would be most suited to sixth form students. Any queries, please contact me at brooksc@mansheadschoo.co.uk.

Miss C Brooks
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

PHYSICS AT WORK THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER.

This is a once in a year chance for sixth form Physics students, and any student in Year 11 who is considering taking Physics next year.

The Institute of Physics organises an exhibition in which about 50 companies or university research departments put on a presentation showing how they use physics in their day to day work. Students get to see six of these involving practical demonstrations, of how physics has exciting applications in the present world and presents opportunities for the future. This is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in physics.

If students want to go they should first obtain a letter giving further details from **Mr. Seldon, Mr.Cullen, Mr. Payne, or any member of the science staff.**

HOMEWORK FOR YEAR 9&10 STUDENTS

Students in year 9 will receive 2 homework tasks per subject each half term. Students in year 10 will receive homework for their core subjects in week A and their option subjects in week B.

All homework materials for the first half term are available now on the various subject areas of the portal and materials for the rest of the academic year will be available after October half term. All students

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should be able to access these documents both in school and at home.

Completing homework on time is very important and students who have problems in doing so are welcome to attend the homework club on Thursdays in the library until 4:30. Students will be supported by staff at this session to help them with any homework issues. It is the expectation that students complete all homework and parents will be informed of homework not being completed via the student reports which you will receive each term.

If you have any queries about homework then parents should contact their child's Learning Guide.

Thom Darby
Director of Student Welfare

WELCOME TO MANSHEAD SCHOOL LIBRARY



No Need to join!

Students are automatically members and may borrow up to 4 items for 3 weeks. (Sixth form students may borrow up to 6 items).

Loans may be renewed (if not required by another person) but fines are charged for late returns.

The library is open before and after school and during break and lunch for students to read, research, and complete homework.

The library has 85 computers all connected to the internet and 4 printers. There is a wireless connection for students wishing to bring their own laptops into school. A scanner is also available for students to use.

The library has approximately 12,000 books and subscribes to a number of magazines/journals. 1 local paper and 3 daily newspapers are also kept in the library.



A number of DVDs are also available for loan.

Students may request items from the library that are not available at the time of enquiry.

Our resources are located on a computerised database and Year 9 and 12 students have a series of induction lessons to enable them to find resources independently.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mrs Yates
School Librarian

CANCER RESEARCH RELAY FOR LIFE

Cancer Research UK's Relay For Life brings communities together to help beat cancer. Unlike the hugely popular Race for Life, Relay For Life is run entirely by volunteers living in the local community.



The event, which began in the US in 1984, now takes place in more than 20 countries around the globe. Since it first arrived in the UK in 1996, the Cancer Research UK Relay For Life has grown in popularity and last year celebrated its biggest year ever, as a record-breaking 91 events took place nationwide raising over £2.6 million.

This will be the 3rd Relay run in Luton at Stockwood Park (athletics track) and the first time the Duke of Edinburgh team has been involved.

This event is taking place from the 17th to the 18th of September.

It's a 24 hour walking (and running if you can!) event, where teams take part in a relay, making sure one team member is on the track at all times. It's not a race; relay events focus on fun for all the family, regardless of age or fitness level – everyone is welcome!



Leading up to the event, teams have fundraised in the local community to support the work of Cancer Research UK. Then everyone comes together for the inspiring overnight celebration and commemoration. Teams camp out at the site and at eight o'clock in the evening, the atmosphere quietens as the Candle of Hope Ceremony – the most poignant part of Relay For Life – begins.

How can you help?

If you have any books you no longer need/want can you bring them into reception. (Thank you to the library for their contributions so far).

There are other stores that are selling bags (any – shopping, childrens, hand etc) and another selling homemade and second hand jewellery. If you have

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any donations could you bring these into school for me to take on the day.

If you would like to make a donation, buy a raffle ticket or buy a candle bag to be lit in memory or to celebrate someone who had survived cancer the team will be selling these before the event. Starting this Friday in A block at break and lunch times.

You can come on any of the 2 days to support the event and ensure that the staff haven't fallen asleep!

Mrs Blackmore
Lead School Improver
blackmorem@mansheadschoo.co.uk

GERMAN CLUB ALLES KLAR! MONDAYS LUNCH TIME, 1:40 - STARTING 19 SEPTEMBER IN B5

ALLES KLAR? ('All okay?') is a common casual phrase in Germany and a fitting name for our new GERMAN CLUB that will be launched on Monday 19th September at lunch time (starting at 1:40 pm).

Sessions will be held by Mrs Peeters and, starting October, also by our next Foreign Language Assistant (from Austria). The club is designed primarily for Year 9 students of German to engage them in the language and the culture of German speaking countries as they set out to learn German. Sessions are run alongside the themes of lessons to reinforce vocabulary and cultural concepts in a fun and interactive way.

Please encourage your child to sign up early, not just to secure his/her share of German chocolate on the first day of the Club, but especially to avoid disappointment as places are limited (a packed lunch is recommended on those days).

Mrs Glunk-Peeters
Language Teacher

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Well done to all our successful students who left us this Summer. We feel very proud of your achievements and hope you will continue to do well.

The Bike Project should be up and running this term with a dedicated work space and students ready to learn bike maintenance skills. However, we still need some help with the daily running of this venture. We are seeking volunteers who might enjoy working with teenagers and helping them to develop their skills. Do you have a few hours to spare each week? Do you have knowledge of bike maintenance? Could you help us? If you can, please contact Mr Parker at the school.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

FLUTE FOR SALE

Nearly new flute for sale, used only used a few times. Valued recently at £250, but priced at £150 for quick sale. Comes with a free gift – a nearly new music stand in a bag!

Any enquiries please email Miss C. Brooks on
brooksc@mansheadschoo.co.uk

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Learning Partnership – Information for parents and the local community

The following schools have decided to establish a Learning Partnership that aims to provide excellent education from the age of 3 to 19 in the local area.

Ashton Middle School
Ashton St Peters Lower School
Caddington Village School
Downside Lower School
Kensworth Lower School
Manshead Upper School
Slip End Lower School
St Mary's Lower School
Streetfield Middle School
Studham Lower School

At Manshead we are really excited about the opportunities that will arise for children living in our area and who attend our schools. All the schools in the Learning Partnership are committed to providing excellent education at all ages and strongly believe that education is best when thought of as one journey from the age of 2 to 19 years old.

We know that many children worry about what will happen when it is time to move from Lower School to Middle School and from Middle School to Upper School. We also know that parents worry about their children moving schools too. Schools in the Learning Partnership are committed to working more closely together to make sure that children find moving schools a positive experience and that they make really good progress as they move from one school to the next. An important part of the partnerships work will be to work harder to ensure that no child falls behind at any stage of their education.

The Learning Partnership will help all the schools in the partnership to improve and to maintain high standards across our area. We hope that parents will understand the benefits of their child attending a school that is part of a larger partnership that provides better access to high quality education.

Each school in the partnership will continue to be independent organisations, with their own Headteacher and Governing body. Each of the ten schools are equal partners in the Learning Partnership.

As the Learning Partnership develops over the coming months we will be writing to you again with news of activities and projects that are taking place in the 10 schools. We hope that parents and the local community will wish to have involvement in shaping the Learning Partnership. For more information about the Learning Partnership please contact me at school.

Jim Parker