

Sir Roger Manwood's School



September 2023
Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A very warm welcome to the new academic year, especially to those of you who are new to the Sir Roger Manwood's School community.

WELCOME EVENINGS

If you are a parent or carer of a student in Year 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 then do please come along to the relevant evening in the coming couple of weeks as the presentations will cover the structure of the year and give key dates for the coming year. Please refer to the Parents' Calendar for the dates.

FRIENDS OF MANWOOD

The Friends of Manwood (FOM) invites you to attend their Wine and Cheese Volunteers' Meeting at **7pm (for wine and cheese) and from 7.30pm (for the meeting proper) on Monday, 11 September** in the classroom adjoining the Canteen. Come and meet other volunteers, provide your thoughts and find out more about what they do. Please RSVP to friends@srms.kent.sch.uk for catering purposes.

ART SHOW

If you did not attend the Art & Design Show back in July do please try and coming along to the Hall between **1pm and 3pm on Saturday 16 September**, when the very best works from last year's Year 11 and Year 13 will be on display as part of Sandwich Art Week.

CCF SUMMER CAMPS

Two different groups went out during the penultimate week of the summer term.

One group attended the 5-day Central Annual Camp hosted by 11 Brigade held at Crowborough Camp in East Sussex. The week saw our Cadets join 12 other schools from across the country. The Camp covered various Military Skills (MS) and Adventure Training (AT) activities.



Events over the week included:

Adventure Training activities (Archery, Canoeing, Mountain Biking, Paddle Boarding, Raft Building, Rock (wall) Climbing)

Fieldcraft activities (Ambush, Fire and Manoeuvre - engaging the enemy and then withdrawing), Patrolling, Section Attack on an enemy position, a Room Clearance as a Section, Harbour Area (tactical Camping);

and other outdoor activities (Clay Pigeon Shooting, Escape Room, shooting in an Indoor Rifle Range, Laser Questing, Paintballing, and Survival Skills).

The Camp culminated in a competition day where our cadets gained medals in 5 out of the 10 events and came 2nd overall. Congratulations to:

Edward Dill-Russell & Charlie Lewin for coming 1st in the Mountain Biking

Amelia Pavitt and Jacob Richards for coming 1st in the 1st Escape Room

Edward Dill-Russell), Charlie Lewin, Jacob Richards and Cameron McKenzie for coming 3rd in Military Knowledge

Charlie Lewin and Cameron McKenzie for coming 3rd in the Obstacle Course

Jacob Richards, Ella Sales and Amelia Pavitt for coming 3rd in the Command Task

The other groups consisted of 50 Cadets from both Sir Roger Manwood's CCF and the Kent Army Cadet Force. They did four days of Adventure Training in the Peak District. A number of activities had been organised which would allow the Cadets to participate in a multitude of team building events, that were not only fun, but would push each and every one of them to achieve new personal goals and build stronger bonds with their friends.

The group stayed at the YHA Hostel in Edale which is situated right in the heart of the Peaks, and after a stunning drive through some beautiful scenery, the Cadets quickly realised why it had that name, with a steep climb up to camp!

The Cadets quickly settled into their new surroundings and started having fun. The first day of activities consisted of Rock Climbing and Gorge Walking with the Cadets being split into two groups and alternating between activities. They also experienced some stunning landscapes including Ladybower Reservoir. The Climbing activity consisted of three staged ascents ranging from Beginner to Expert, and the Cadets were shown how to set the ropes and work as a team. All of them had the option to choose which ascent they wanted to try, and despite the group being of mixed ability and containing Cadets who had a strong fear of heights, everyone chose to try the Expert ascent. The Instructors commented that they found this a humbling moment with them witnessing not only the fabulous level of team working and encouragement they gave each other but also how they overcame their fears in order to walk away with a huge sense of self achievement.

The Gorge Walking entailed the donning of stylish wetsuits and a hike down to the mountain streams where the Cadets proceeded to make their way a few miles upstream through varied terrain and scenery in mixed weather. Waterfalls and pools were scaled and swam through, with a multitude of confidence tests thrown in along the way, finishing with an individual freestyle jump into a pool, with the highest mark allegedly going to Captain Stokes!

The second day began with the Peak District showing its standard summer weather of fog and rain! However, this did not deter anyone and Cadets were soon throwing themselves into various canoeing activities based around the reservoir, before moving on to building their own rafts to complete tasks against each other. Captain Stokes and Lieutenant Wright accompanied the Cadets out on the water and were impressed by their enthusiasm and laughter in the face of the conditions – including them paddling the 2 or more miles back to base against the wind and heavy rain.

After a warm up and hot drink it was time to work in teams again to plan and build their own rafts with the available materials. It was lovely to see some of the less experienced Cadets stepping up to lead their groups, help others around them and them consequently growing in self-confidence.

Unfortunately, the planned activities for the final day (Abseiling and Peak Walking) had to be cancelled due to an adverse weather forecast, which included lightning warnings. Instead, an impromptu lesson on Navigation was organised, consisting of not only quizzes and knowledge of navigation being put to the test (with a number of prizes being won) but, with a miracle break in the weather, also a competition outside which involved Cadets being given half an hour to plan a route of around three miles which had to be completed in a set time. Again, it was fantastic to see the Cadets working together and taking on roles that they were not used to, adapting and overcoming, to ensure the routes were well planned, safe and that each member had input to each leg of the route. This also gave them the opportunity to truly experience the beauty of the location and to meet some of the of the local sheep hiding in the ferns ready to pop out and greet them! They also got to experience the fun of 4 seasons in 10 minutes!

After a long, fun and intense week, the Cadets returned home tired, but fulfilled and very happy. Our CCF adult volunteers with them were incredibly proud of them, not only because of how they worked together, bonded and displayed positive attitudes throughout, but also by how each and every one of them overcame something, either mentally or physically, and how they grew from the experience as individuals. They made their Contingent and Detachment very proud indeed.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Congratulations to the 4 students who completed their Gold assessed expedition during the summer holiday

INTERNATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

5 of our students – **Jessamine Lodge** and **Adair Holmes** (both Year 10) and **Isaac Goodbun, Thomas Haddaway** and **Thomas Wisbey** (all Year 13) were part of the UK scout contingent at the 25th World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea during the summer. This involved over 50,000 young people coming together to work towards greater international understanding and gave its participants a chance to learn new skills. All 5 had to raise £4000 in order to take part, with a significant portion of that amount used to assist scouts from developing countries to attend the Jamboree. As you may have heard, the Jamboree was severely affected by a sustained heatwave in South Korea so they did not have the experience that they would have hoped for, but we are so proud of them for having been chosen.

STUDENT PLANNERS

As always, every student has been given a Student Planner and the email address for each Head of Department and Head of School can be found on the inside of the front cover. The Planner contains the Home-School Agreement that parents/carers are required to read and sign, details of our expectations around behaviour and uniform, and the School's Policy on mobile devices. New this year is a section at the front on useful contacts for those requiring support with their mental health.

STAYING IN TOUCH

As mentioned in the end of year newsletter, do please follow or like the School's Facebook or Instagram page in order to stay in touch with the wide variety of activities taking place in school. The links to each page can be found at the top right of every page on the School website <https://www.manwoods.co.uk/>

ADVANCED WARNING: EARLY DISMISSAL FOR YEAR 7

On Tuesday 19 December, the school will be holding its annual Speech Day and Prize Giving. As is traditional, Year 7 will be dismissed early as they do not attend the ceremony as it refers to events of the last academic year. Details of what time Y7 will be dismissed will be sent nearer the time.

STAFF NEWS

Mrs Hurst, our Assistant Headteacher that has responsibility for the oversight of all things Pastoral and Wellbeing in the school, which includes being the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), will shortly be going on maternity leave. As part of covering for her absence, the key appointments are Ms Craig, the current SEN Manager, who will be the Acting SENCo and Mrs Elson, a new appointment, who will be the Acting Safeguarding Lead. In addition to Mrs Elson, there are other members of staff who are Deputy DSLs - Ms Kernick, Mr Vere, Ms Deveson, Ms O'Sullivan, Mr Ross, Mr Williams, Ms Borg, Mr Stedman, Mr Outen, Ms Craig, Ms Pujadas-Telmon and Mr Hunter,

The following staff have joined us this year and we welcome them to the Manwood's community:

Ms Cannon	Learning Support Assistant (LSA)
Ms Capper	CCF SSI
Mrs Elson	Acting Safeguarding Manager
Mr Goodbun	Cover Assistant
Mr Hall	Science Teacher
Mr Holmes	Physics Technician
Ms Jones	Head of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Ms Knight	Cover Assistant
Ms Locke	Finance Assistant
Ms Overall	Learning Support Assistant (LSA)
Mr Simmon	Cover Assistant
Ms Tennant	Science Teacher

Two current members of staff are taking on new roles this year:

Ms Craig	Acting SENCo
Ms Farrow-House	Head of Sociology

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

A Level

Despite government predictions of significantly lower results than in the 3 previous years so as to bring them back down to pre-pandemic levels, these figures are in fact higher than those achieved by the Upper Sixth in the summers of 2018 and 2019! These results are particularly pleasing given the disruption to the students' education since March 2020, when this year group were in Year 10. It is worth noting that these A Level examinations were their first ever experience of sitting high stakes external examinations in an examination room. This year's A Level Celebration Evening (for staff, ex-Year 13 students and their parents) will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 19 December 2023 in the Hall - we look forward to hearing all about what they have been up to since the end of June.

78.5% of all grades achieved were at grade C or above, and 55.5% were at grade B or above.

- 33 students gained at least 3 B grades (almost a third of the year group)
- 13 students gained at least AAA or better (over 10% of the year group)
- 1 student achieved 3 A* grades (Sophia Cole)
- 1 student achieved 2 A* and 2 A grades (Albane Colin-Salingue)
- 1 student achieved 2A* 1A and 1B (Matthew Barras)
- 3 students achieved 2A* and 1 A grade (Elissa Kingsbury, Eve Pryde, Finlay Webb)
- 13 other students achieved at least 1 A* grade (Elizabeth Allen, Lily Beaman, Harmony Dawson, Ruby Day, Carlotta Harmeyer, Bethany Hodge, X Love, Flora McLellan, Leura Musselwhite-Dale, Isabella Prewett, Joshua Saldonido, Mollie Scott, Alex Walker)

GCSE

The average grade per entry achieved by the Year 11 was 6.19. Although this was, as expected, not as high as that figure in 2020, 2021 or 2022 (which were the years when grades were either awarded by schools or when examination boards allowed the number of higher grades to remain higher than 'normal') but it was higher than that achieved by the 2019 cohort – which is the only other year we are able to effectively compare this cohort to as that was the first year in which all subjects were on the reformed (much harder) GCSEs. Such an outcome is a fitting testament to the efforts and resilience displayed by staff and students (and parents and carers!) over the past 3 and a half years.

93% of all the GCSEs sat were at grade 4 (equivalent to the old C) or above, 82% were at grade 5 or above, 60% were at grade 6 or above, and 35% were at grade 7 (equivalent to the old A) or above.

25 students achieved 8 or more GCSEs at grade 7 or above.

Particular congratulations must go to the 3 students who achieved a grade 8 or 9 in all 10 of their GCSEs (Ronan Gorman, Eloise Lim and Michael Richardson) and 1 student (Nicholas Georgiou) who achieved a grade 9 in all 10 of his examinations.

THE FUTURE FUND

To end this newsletter, I am delighted to announce the start of an exciting period when we will be able to significantly upgrade the school's facilities. We have three ambitious phases of change that we are aiming to compete over the next five years, and we have recently set up **The Manwood's Future Fund** to finance these.

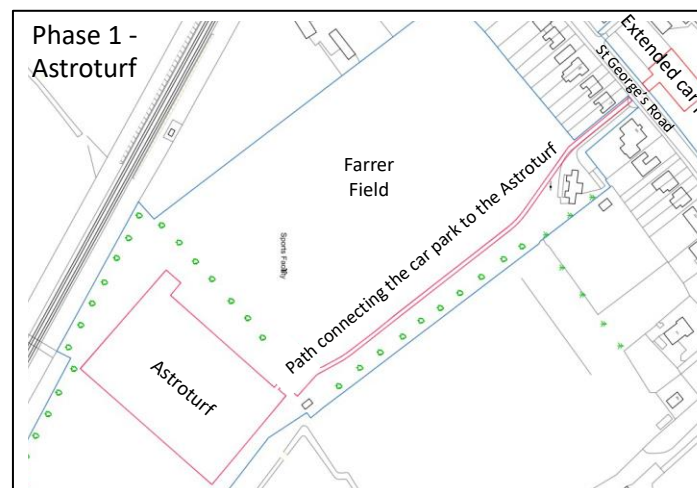
The Future Fund was set up after we were able to negotiate an agreement with Dover District Council to access the first tranche of Section 106 money (donations received from local property developments) that has been earmarked for Manwood's since our expansion from 4 to 5 form entry in 2015. In total, the school will receive £2.1 million from this source – some of it has already been received and has been used to pay for the work we had done to enable some of the expansion. A further £1.8 million is yet to be received – this will be gradually released as property developments are built and sold. **The Future Fund** will also receive money from the sale of our ex-boardings assets. We are determined that those funds are used to enhance the experience of students at Manwood's so that we can create a positive legacy from the sad but financially necessary decision to close boarding. As the money comes into the **The Future Fund**, we will be able to commit the majority of the budget to each of our projects. We will also be applying for grants and holding fundraising events to bridge the inevitable gap between

these sources of funds and the cost of the projects. By using our own money to attract extra money for each phase, **The Future Fund** will be able to achieve significantly more for the school and our students.

The Future Fund consists of 3 phases.

Phase 1 – Full Size Astro turf Pitch

Manwood's has had a long term goal of building a full sized astro turf facility on the Farrer Field for several years and we will finally see that being built this autumn - watch out for pictures on our social media as the build progresses. Most of the £1m budget has come from **The Future Fund**, however families have also donated money through events like our sponsored walks. Thank you for your enormous generosity! The astro turf will be a full sized regional standard, floodlit, hockey pitch which will allow us to play home hockey matches at Manwood's for the first time in many years. However, it is being built as a multi-sport facility, not just for hockey but also for football, netball and tennis. It will also be available for public hire. This project also includes the extension of the car park on the Home Field to add a further 20 car spaces. This will allow visitors who want to use the astro turf to have access to proper off street parking. Electric Vehicle chargers will be installed and will be available for public use.



Phase 2 - The Grange



The Grange is our much loved old boarding house which was bought by the school in 1950 and provided a happy home for boarders for 70 years until its closure. Since then, the Grange has been used as the base for our sixth form. However, we haven't been able to take advantage of the building's full potential due to a lack of funding needed to transform it into a bespoke Sixth Form Centre. **The Future Fund** will enable us to undertake a major refurbishment of the Grange. Later in the autumn you'll get much more information about our plans for the Grange and our major fundraising campaign.

Phase 3 - New life for old facilities

The school has three facilities that all need to be enhanced if they are to play a meaningful part in school life in the future - the pavilion, the area around the old swimming pool and the DT block. We have exciting plans for each of these facilities but they have not yet been finalised - but we will share more information when we have it.



These are exciting times at Manwood's. We are working hard to bring these plans to life and look forward to working with you to make them become a reality!

Best wishes to all members of the School community for the coming academic year.

Mr Hunter