

Sir Roger Manwood's School



Spring Term 2023
Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

This newsletter is not quite as long as the Christmas one was, but it is another packed edition! Please do take the time to read through it over the holiday as it shows just how much has been going on over the last few months.

This academic year marks the 40th anniversary of the School going co-educational. This is an extract from the 1981/82 Manwoodian: "On September 7th 1982, 33 first year girls and 5 female sixth formers joined the tide of boys and young men". The School and OMA would like to highlight this momentous change in the School at our second Alumni & Family Open Day on Saturday 1 July. The event will run from 10am to 2pm. If you were a student at Manwood's do please come along; and if know anyone who was a pupil, do please let them know about it. Of the 5 sixth form ladies who joined in September 1982, the OMA have so far tracked down only one - Oonagh O'Mahoney. If anybody has contact with Melodie Oden, Sharon Wyatt, Janie Yerbury and Lindsey Mitchels could they please ask them to contact the School so that we can then put them in contact with the OMA. Both of us would love to hear from them.

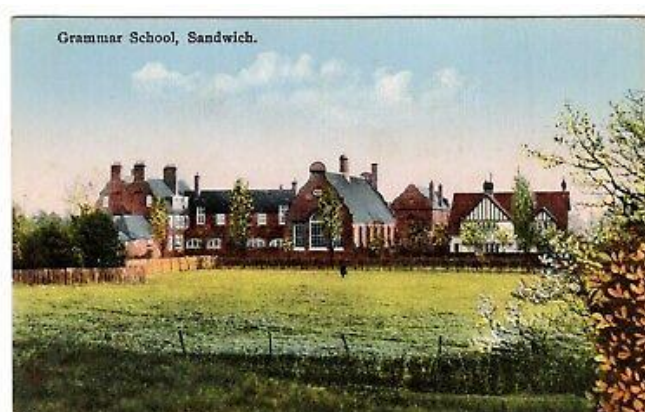
The OMA held its first London Reunion for decades on Friday 24 March. A great evening was had by all, and we hope that this will now, once again, become a regular event in the annual calendar. My thanks go to two alumni, Keith Simpson and David Stevens, who were both students at SRMS in the 1970s, who have taken it upon themselves to reinvigorate the OMA and to help the School to re-engage with those of its former students it has lost touch with. As they say, they never cease to be amazed by the love for Manwood's that so many alumni have.

Continuing with the theme of alumni, it was my great privilege to show Mr Brian Ingledew around the School earlier this term. Brian was a day student here from 1944 to 1952, and joined Cable & Wireless after leaving us, who then posted him first to Jamaica, then Bermuda and then Peru! Brian is now 85 years old but took great joy in reminiscing about his school days, and was especially happy when we showed him the Manwoodian magazine from 1952 that mentioned him by name! As he read the names of other students that he had not seen or heard of since leaving school, that sparked off many memories for him. You can read a lovely email from a near contemporary of Brian's, Mike White, in the Alumni section of this newsletter below. Mike was a pupil at the School from 1945, so was in the year below Brian.

I am glad to report that both of the projects that the School received government funding for – the replacement of the roof to our oldest block and the erection of a security fence – are now both nearing completion, with only snagging issues still outstanding. The photograph below, taken from Google Earth, shows the new A Block roof, and the solar panel arrays on the sports hall and G Block. Perhaps the two biggest things we were collectively waiting for most was the re-opening of the door from A Block into the courtyard area outside, which had meant students and staff have had a long diversion to undertake when going to and from Maths from some areas of the School, and the re-opening of the external door by the bike sheds. Finally, we are back to normal and the routes around the site are back to being what they should be.



We have also recently been discovering some photographs of the school from the early years of the twentieth century, both of which show just the original school building and with no hedge along the side of Manwood Road facing the school!



We have also discovered one in Mr Vere's office that shows the School in what we think is the early 1910s as it is before ANY of the houses have been built on Manwood Road. We are struggling to get a good photograph of it though – hopefully we will include it in the next newsletter!

We received a lovely email from two volunteer beach cleaners on our first day of term back in January: "I would like to tell you of two of your pupils who kindly gave us some of their money yesterday when we were cleaning the beach and seafront in Deal. They both said they wanted to give me something as a thank you for giving up my time to do this. I was so taken by surprise and was very humbled to receive such a gift. What lovely people they were, easy to talk to and not wanting to make too much of their act of kindness. I want them to know I will never forget them and can only wish them the very best. They have made a difference and I think they always will. And were definitely great ambassadors for Sir Roger Manwood's School as they were in their uniforms and looked very smart indeed".

After Easter, we are welcoming Independent Catering back as being our canteen provider. Attached to the email along with this newsletter please find an introduction from the company, the lunch menus from 17 April 2023 to 26 May 2023 and the price list for breakfast and break items.

Continuing the food theme – a huge thank you to the Friends of Manwood for organising the end of term chocolate raffle. The winners were drawn in the whole school assembly on the last day of term.

And continuing with the fundraising theme, parents and carers will find a letter arriving in the post shortly concerning a campaign to raise funds for the full size astroturf pitch that will hopefully be operational by the coming September. Thank you in advance for any contribution you are able to make.

Shortly after we return from the Easter holiday we will be sending out details of the residential trips that will be running in the next academic year now that overseas travel is reliable again and not at the vagaries of undue delays. Staff have been working hard behind the scenes to work on the costings and other details.

Mr C Walker and Mr R Anstis recently resigned from the Governing Body due to an increase in their work commitments meaning that the role of governor had become untenable. The much valued contributions of both will be sorely missed.

Finally, I hope that all students, parents, carers, staff and governors are able to enjoy a restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 17 April 2023, which will be **WEEK A** in the timetable.

Best wishes

Mr Hunter

Headteacher

STAFF NEWS

Mrs Szczerbicki gave birth to Ottilie Jane (Tilly) in early January. As the photograph shows, she is very cute!



We were also delighted to welcome back **Ms Emby** from her maternity leave a few weeks ago.

The School was saddened to hear of the passing of **Mr Arman**, who retired only 4 years ago. David was the Head of Business at SRMS for many years. He and his wife had such plans for their retirement which makes his passing so much more poignant. However, as several people mentioned at his funeral, he left a lasting legacy, not only in the form of his children but also in the form of the hundreds, if not thousands, of students that he educated over his years as a teacher.

STUDENT NEWS

Gabriel Collins (Year 7) was invited to attend a goalkeeper development centre held by Charlton Athletic every Friday from 3 February to the end of term. He has worked tirelessly to achieve what he has in the goalkeeping arena and we wish him all the best for his future career.

Mia Sanders (Year 8) took part in two boxing tournaments in Europe, one in February in Sweden and the other in Azerbaijan in March. Mia was part of the England Boxing Team.

Beth Dobson (Year 12), **Alice Hargreaves** (Year 9) and **Madeleine Ward** (Year 8) are taking part in a national trampoline tournament in Cardiff during the Easter holiday.

Amber Witte (Year 9) will be attending two international cheerleading competitions in Florida between 17 April and 14 May. First up will be the World Cheerleading Competition, where she will be the youngest member of the World Team squad, and then she will be in a team competing in the World Summit competition. Making the World Team is a massive achievement for Amber, one she has been working so hard to achieve for many years.

You may remember mention of our students who were invited to attend a development day at Saracens Rugby Club on the last day of the Autumn term, Tuesday 20 December. Below is a photo of the group - well done boys – and good luck on your rugby journeys.



Che Blackwell, George Bradshaw, Tegan Edridge, Ayla Fahie, Joseph Fisher, Maddie Ford, Tilly Ford, Alex Long, Marina Marino, Emilia Murphy, Sam Pleasance, Amelia Pye, Caitlin Regan, Elloise Richards, Varvara Sidorova, Jessica Smissen are all appearing in the Thanet Stagecoach production of Shrek. “Break a leg” as they say in drama circles!

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Careers

The SRMS Business Board started this term. We are working in partnership with Mr Chris Baldwin of APS Growers on this project – Chris will set the Board real life scenarios that his business is encountering and the Board will provide solutions. Their first project is about biodiversity and how to encourage more wildlife onto the APS Growers site. The Board consists of 15 students between Year 7 to Year 10, and it meets every other Tuesday. A CEO (Adair Holmes) and Company Secretary (Freya Horsburgh) have been appointed, and apprentices have been selected.

Careers Club still runs on alternate weeks to the business board – drop in club for careers questions.

4 current Cambridge University students, each at a different point in their degree and from different disciplines, gave an insightful presentation to a group of our students on Wednesday.



French

2 teachers and 12 Language Ambassadors visited our French Department on Thursday 2 February. The A Level French students took them on a tour of the School and they were also lucky enough to enjoy some homemade crêpes during the morning (cooked by Mde Leroy herself) as in France the 2nd February is "La Chandeleur" – the French equivalent of the UK's Pancake Day. Everybody involved had a lovely morning - the primary school students were very impressed with everything they saw and did, and our A Level French students did a wonderful job keeping them entertained.





Mathematics

29 pupils from Years 8 to 13 volunteered to take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge this year. 5 students achieved a Gold - Noah Daly Burbridge, Nick Georgiou, Jacob Henderson, Ben Pointon and Kyle Styles. Jacob also won Best in Year 9, Kyle won Best in Year 10 and Ben won Best in School. Sam Anker, James Coombes, Alex Dack, Edward Stabler, Henry Shek, Isaac Shek, Lucy Stafford and David Zatica all achieved Silver, with Lucy also winning Best in Year 8. Esmee Bowers, Phillipa Gabb, Aicha Jebari, Joshua Mansfield, Sam Pleasance and Sophie Plommer all won Bronze.

The highest scorers were invited to take part in the follow-on Kangaroo competition. All had very respectable scores, with Ben gaining just one more point than Nick and both gaining Merit certificates for being in the top 25% of Kangaroo participants. Noah, Kyle and Jacob all received Kangaroo Qualification certificates.

Congratulations to all who took part, whatever level was achieved.

Music

Spring Concert - Tuesday 21st March

What a wonderful evening we had. A hall packed full of appreciative audience of all ages enjoying a total variety of music performed by students right across the years. The groups who performed were: the Orchestra, Elastic Band, Brass Group (directed superbly by our new brass teacher, Katrina Lauder), Combined Ukulele Groups, Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Recorder Ensemble & Percussion Ensemble (directed by Graham Smith). Joining these were two performances from the new School of Rock (led by Graham Smith assisted by James

Mullins). Both groups were fabulous and kicked this new initiative off with a bang! The final group to take part was the String Group. This was a sad occasion as Mrs Cullis, who has been leading the group, retired from Manwood's after 34 years of involvement with music in the school. She has been an amazing influence on so many students over those years, and many took the time to send in messages for a Book of Memories which was presented to her on the evening. Those comments mentioned the huge positive effect she, and music, had had on their young and present lives. Thank you Mrs Cullis, and all the best for your retirement. We also said goodbye to 9 of the performing students – in alphabetical order, Kathryn Bailey, Amy Berridge, Ted Dill-Russell, Alana Griffiths Ennew, Emily Hill, Kayley Kan, Louis Parker-Gorman, Libby Pollock and Nat Thompson. Five of them shared with the audience the impact music has had on their lives, both musically and socially and we thank them for sharing those thoughts. I would personally like to thank them for their commitment, love and enjoyment of music and the hard work that it entails; and also for being the role models they have been to their peers and younger students. We wish them all the best for their next steps and hope that the experiences they have had push them to keep involvement in music throughout their lives.

After the concert, several parents, unasked and more than we would normally receive, wrote in to express their thanks. Here a few of them:

"We are spoilt by the anticipation and, indeed, expectation of wonderful concerts at Sir Roger Manwood's, but I would just like to say how much my mother and I enjoyed the Spring Concert on Tuesday. It was thoroughly entertaining from start to finish and the range of the programme was outstanding - truly something for everyone. I am so grateful to be able to see the fruits of my son's nightly repetitions as a participant in a serious orchestra and to witness his growing confidence in the choir. The concerts are definitely a highlight of the school year for us and, as the number of remaining years at school dwindles, they grow in importance. The departing music students spoke so eloquently about the support and encouragement received from the music department and I would certainly echo their thanks to the music department. Thank you as well to The Friends for their enthusiastic contribution to the school and for making events such as the concerts such a resounding success. I am already looking forward to the next one!"

"I wanted to send this to thank and congratulate everyone on the complete success of the Spring Concert. The evening was phenomenal, with such a clear wealth of talent present. The

Music Department clearly works hard to ensure all the different groups and genres of music are offered. It was so lovely to see staff and students involved, and the feeling of a musical family throughout the evening. This was especially apparent when the students spoke of their time at the school, particularly paying a huge amount of respect to both you, the team and department. I know my son has really enjoyed the time he has spent in lessons, during break and lunch times mixing music, and in the various clubs offered. I felt after such an incredible evening, I should email at least a small thank you. Everyone left with a smile on their faces, and spoke very highly of how amazing the concert had been".

"Thank you to the Music Department for a brilliant evening on Tuesday showcasing the amazing talent you have encouraged and nurtured over the years. The variety of music, instruments and ensembles was impressive as was the standard. However, what shone through most was the sheer enjoyment of everyone taking part and the camaraderie. Listening to the leavers speak about their experiences and what music meant to them at Manwood's was truly inspiring, especially as a parent of a Year 7. I hope that my son will find his tribe in this department as others have done and that he too might have the same opportunities and experiences in the future. Thank you for all the hard work, commitment and energy that you bring to your role and everything you do to encourage our son. We are so pleased that he chose SRMS".

"I was really quite moved by the display of talent and passion from everyone who took part. It is clearly a key offering from Manwoods which sets the school apart from others. I was particularly taken by the talk of community and the sense of pride and self-esteem that being a part of the music community can offer to students. The quality of the music - and the breadth of styles - was quite extraordinary. I was really so moved by it. I hope the music department can continue to offer as much opportunity to children by appealing to whatever their particular taste might be, as then there really will be something for everyone".

"I just wanted to drop a quick email to say how superb the concert was on Thursday, and how enormously I feel the Music Department contributes to the strength of school life. When we were looking for a secondary school for our daughter we consistently heard about the brilliant Music Department at Manwood's...even friends in mid Kent had heard about it. It was one of

the contributory factors of our decision to send our daughter to Manwood's. I was deeply moved by the students who spoke of the support, friendship and solace they found through the choirs and orchestras the department and how it was even a place of sanctuary during difficult times. I also have to say too how delighted I am at the strength of the Art Department. The art work being produced is amazing. My daughter adores these two subjects and along with the wonderful P.E. Department I think the School is creating the foundation of fine, thoughtful and balanced young people with a much needed, rounded, education".

"I wanted to let you know how enjoyable my wife and I found the concert last week. I'm sure you'll agree how impressive the quality of the playing and singing was, with the audience's evident enthusiasm matching that of all the players and singers. We also enjoyed the words spoken by some of the more senior participants. It was evident that music has played a very important part in their school lives. We can testify ourselves that our daughter gets not only great enjoyment from her music making at the school, but also values the sense of camaraderie, support and achievement that it offers".

"I just wanted to express my thanks for a fabulous concert. My son is excelling at Manwood's and I'm certain that the breadth of music he is able to participate in at school is helping him to grow in confidence and thrive. Thank you for the support given to student musicians by encouraging them. I look forward to the next one".

"I have been meaning to write to say how impressed I was with the music concert at Manwood's last week and how events like this are such a good reflection of the School. The breadth and quality of music-making was truly commendable, and the positive environment which clearly exists to involve all these young people should also be commended. The Sixth Formers are such an asset and were able to clearly reflect and articulate on the importance of music throughout their time at Manwoods, which is reassuring to hear as a parent, but also must equally be inspiring to hear as a pupil. In the current [slightly depressing] narrative of how music is declining in schools, the evidence of music making and sense of community it engenders is something to be celebrated. To see the school hall absolutely packed for a music concert shows the level of support and importance of music to the wider school community and long may this continue".

"I just wanted to mention to you how impressive the Music Department is at Manwood's and what an amazing concert our daughter had the privilege to be part of last week. All the ensembles and soloists performed extremely well and there has no doubt been a huge amount of practice and preparation going into all the performances. The standards achieved by the pupils really are exceptional and a credit to the school and to the music department. To hear the students speak about the impact music has had on their school life was lovely to hear. Our younger daughter will be starting at Manwood's in September and she is looking forward to many aspects of school life, but particularly playing in concerts and getting involved in music like her sister".

"I just wanted to send a quick note to say a huge thank you for the truly superb music concert on Tuesday evening last week. It is the first one that I have been able to attend as a parent and I was just blown away by the quality of all that you have on offer for your students at SRMS. It was a really inspiring evening. Both of our children thoroughly enjoyed taking part. I feel very privileged that our two girls are able to benefit from such a dedicated music team and so many varied opportunities to engage in music making".

Our thanks to Mr McArdle, a parent who is a professional photographer, for taking the photos below at the concert:



We are hoping to hold a **Music Theatre Showcase** next term and a poster has been sent out to form tutors asking for all dancers, singers and students with choreography skills to join together and bring our stage to life once more. We will have a live band, sound and lighting. The Showcase will cover a variety of different musicals and pull from the interests and talents of our students. If you have a child (or children!) who could take part in this, please encourage them to step forward and go to see Mr Smith.

PE

The PE Department have completed over 90 interschool extracurricular fixtures in the twelve weeks of this term. This has been across a range of sports, including hockey, netball, football and rugby. In addition, The Department has run internal school clubs for badminton, basketball, hockey, rugby and netball.

PSHCE

Online Harms Day

As part of their public health approach to violence reduction, the Office of the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner offered schools a day of free assemblies and an interactive media workshop delivered by their partners and creative media experts, Collaborate Digital Ltd. They delivered an assembly, separately, to each of Years 7, 8 and 9 and then ran 2 hour workshop for 30 students (15 Year 7 and 15 Year 8) during which the participants created podcasts with the aim of spreading the word to other young people about how to enjoy a healthy online life, whilst avoiding potential threats and dangers. The students were split into 5 groups, each scripting and recording their own podcasts which was professionally edited after the workshop. Later in the year, experts will judge the best podcast and enter this in to a national competition at which point everyone across the country has a chance to vote for their favourite with the best podcast in the country winning a trophy. The whole school community will be informed when voting starts so everyone has the chance to get involved and vote for their favourite!

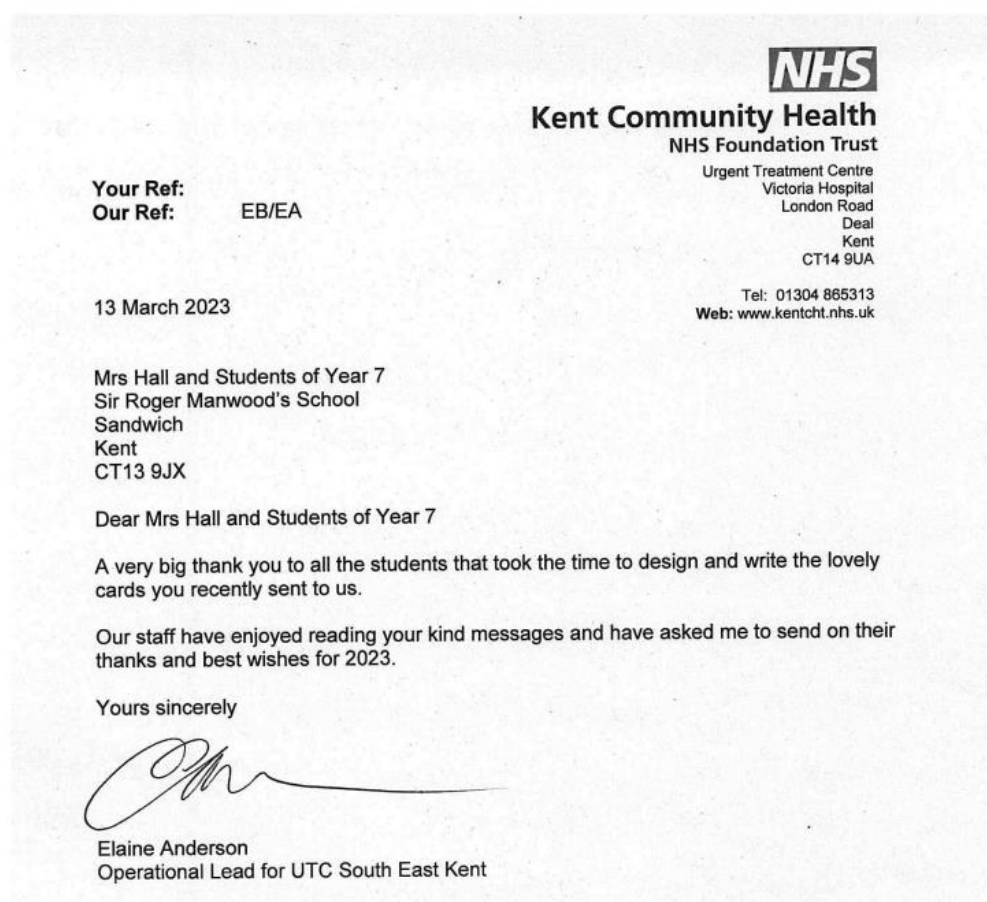
Mental Health Friends Handbook

The Mental Health Campaign Group of the Kent Youth County Council have published their Mental Health Friends Handbook for young people aged 13-16 to give them the confidence to

respond if someone they know is experiencing poor mental health, help them understand the importance of their own wellbeing, recognise signs and symptoms of a young person who needs mental health support and to know where to go to get professional help and support. SRMS has received delivery of these handbooks and they are now being distributed to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 in PSHE lessons. Students are also being shown the Mental Health Friends Handbook launch clip and will see a familiar face in Michael Richardson in Year 11 who has been on the Kent Youth County Council, where he has been part of the Mental Health Campaign Group for 4 years, and in fact chairing the Group for 2 of those years.

Thank You Cards

In their PSHE lessons, Year 7 wrote New Year cards to people who work in the Urgent Treatment Centre and the Martha Trust in Deal, and to the residents of a local residential home. We received some lovely thank you cards back in appreciation.



Technology

Jamie Hassan and **Angus Allen** (both Year 11) took the examination for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship a few weeks ago. This Scholarship is a prestigious award given to students to help them fulfil their potential in engineering by supporting them through their A

Level and degree courses. It also links them with local engineering companies. Both students took the examination really seriously and even came in during their lunchtimes to prepare. Jamie has been called for interview, the next stage of the process. Any students in Years 7 to 10 who are thinking of becoming an engineer can find out more about these scholarships at [Arkwright Engineering Scholarships](#).

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Express Theatre Company

On Friday 17 and Saturday 18 March 2023, ETC performed *The Grange*, a site specific piece of theatre, as ETC took over the Grange in order to create drama inspired by what was inside. They had to work with the space, covering up anachronistic items and creating a story around what they already had available. Furthermore, the cast had to work with improvisation more heavily than any other form of dialogue, because in immersive theatre, actors must adapt to their surroundings to create realism. A lot of time went into researching all of the 'inmates' in the hopes of portraying their situations as accurately as possible. The key theme when creating the characters was that none of them deserve to be in the Grange Institute, but who have nevertheless found themselves there as a result of sexism, homophobia, or severe misunderstanding/mistreatment of their condition.

Below is an extract from the programme:



Visiting Doctors Outwitted as Inmate makes Grand Escape

A terrible incident occurred tonight at the *Grange Mental Institution For The Clinically Insane*. The former War Hospital turned Asylum has housed inmates for over 6 years, keeping those who

provide danger to our town locked inside. Well, this wasn't quite the case today. Visiting doctors and medical professionals in the field of clinical psychiatry report that their tour of the Institute was interrupted by an incident like no other. Patient C. Jones (given name unknown) found an opportunity tonight to pose as Nurse Burton, a practitioner at the Institute. Doctors claim the inmate took Burton's position in the tour, and dangerously led the visitors around the hospital – the doctors, unaware of the risks, followed. Jones *is* still on the loose; security professionals from the Grange advise: *"Please do not go looking for the inmate. We assure you that our top security measures will help to find them. But for now, just have a cuppa and keep your wits about you."*

Eco Society

On Monday 20 March, the Eco Society planted 10 trees on the Home Field. The students successfully applied for a grant from the Tree Council which has paid for a line of cherry trees to be planted along the path between Science and Music and a clump of mountain ash that will provide welcome shade in the summer by the gym. Well done to all involved, especially as they took the time to research different tree species that would improve the biodiversity of the school grounds and for working with our grounds company to decide on the best locations.



Manwoodian Economic Journal

One of our Year 12 Economics students, Finlay Burgess, has started this new initiative. His intention is that the MEJ will be published regularly through the year, and will contain articles about business and economics. As part of this project, Finlay wants to invite some of our top alumni from the business world back to Manwood's to sixth formers - and he has managed to

engage a major name for the first of those – Mr Jonathan Akeroyd, SRMS alumnus and current CEO of the fashion and accessories company, Burberry (and previously of Alexander McQueen and Versace). Jonathan will be coming to Manwood's in June.

Manwoodian Magazine

The magazine covering the 2021-22 academic year will be distributed shortly to those parents who have replied to the recent letter from Mr Mount. The School would like to place on record its thanks to Mr Acourt who has been the Manwoodian Editor for over a decade. This is such a vital position, and one that captures the essence of an academic year. We have these records of each annual year going back over 100 years in our archives!

ALUMNI

Colin Worman's (1955-1961) name is synonymous with the OMA. Last year Colin decided after serving the OMA for 35 years to step down from his roles of Membership Secretary and compiler of the regular OMA Newsletter. Colin joined the OMA Committee (OMAC) in May 1987 and was Chair of OMAC from 1994 to 1996. He became the Hon Secretary of OMAC and the OMA in 1997. Colin also served on various planning and commemorative committees including OMA Dinners or for the more celebratory occasions such as the Centenary for the school's present site and the 450th Anniversary of the foundation of SRMS. He has with the aid of every The Manwoodian since 1897 (the first being termed "School Calendar") enjoyed fulfilling the occasional family history requests that he receives for someone's forebear. He would be the first to admit that he could not have fulfilled these roles without the support of his wife Karen and two daughters in proof reading, answering the phone, message taking and similar back up activities.

Colin has been persuaded to tell us a little more about himself. In his words:

I was at SRMS from 1955-61. I entered SRMS in September 1955 as a day boy and due to a parental house move I was offered the choice of either another school or becoming a boarder after the first term. No hesitation - A BOARDER I became. Some of my fondest memories include: sleeping outside on the roof of The Grange during summer nights and slipping out during the evening to have a few puffs of a 'Seniors' with a couple of similarly-minded housemates. Also in the summer, getting up in the early hours to go and acquire some illicit strawberries and then selling them to the first form boarders. This came to an end when housemaster Mr Bilsborrow complained in house assembly about the inedible bits piling up on the ground outside the dormitory windows. When as an HMH boarder, last night of term, the

housemaster Tony Hiles entered the dorm quite late on his rounds, sniffed the air and requested those that had been smoking in bed to own up. The result was two strokes on the backside for two or perhaps three of us. Two strokes but only one neat weal due to the master being a very fit and accurate tennis player! He then led a conga around the school corridors. When the flat roofed classrooms were being built onto the new school hall, boarders going for their breakfast were amused to see that the pre-war Austin 7 belonging to a member of staff Tony Hiles (I think) had taken up position on the roof thanks to the builders leaving their hoist available overnight. Or when the car was found bricked up in the main corridor. On another occasion, when Brian Kennett was temporary housemaster, three of us HMH boarders went A.W.O.L. for 24 hrs or so and had to be retrieved from Blackheath by a parent. Brian must have been absolutely livid with us and on our return was almost speechless but did not pronounce sentence (cancellation of all privileges and exeat for the rest of the term) until later when he was more composed. I received average detrimental academic school reports as I wasn't a rote learner for end of term exams, but tended to think outside the box i.e. a meaningful learner.

In 1971, ten years after I left SRMS I became an inaugural student with the Open University and this was followed by a PhD after Haematology and Immunology Studies at University College, London. After my time at UCL I joined DEFRA in Kent which enabled both my two daughters to follow in their father's footsteps with a Manwood's secondary education.

David Stevens and **Keith Simpson** have recently taken it upon themselves to reinvigorate the OMA. David and Keith came into school during the February half term and did a great deal of work sorting through the archives, and have also spent hours tidying up the OMA Membership database. Our thanks go to both for this work. They have also spent a great deal of time on a couple of other exciting initiatives but we do not want to reveal what they are just yet! Watch this space.

The School and OMA co-hosted the first London get together in decades on Friday 24 March. About 30 alumni turned up, ranging from 3 students who left us only 5 years ago through to a 1955 leaver. Everyone had such an enjoyable evening, and the event will definitely be held again - in fact, we intend to make it a regular occurrence. Below are a few photographs of the evening. The one below left shows the Headteacher with the oldest attendee on the evening – **John Clarke** (1950 - 1955) – who was a boarder in the Grange in the first year it opened in 1950.



Following the success of the London drinks, there will be a get together for alumni who live locally on Thursday 25th May from 6pm onwards at the Fleur de Lis in Sandwich. This is a particularly apt day as the School will be celebrating Founder's Day on that day. We hope to see many alumni there. If you are an alumni, do please come along, whether for an hour or for a few hours...and if you are coming along, please rope in some of your contemporaries as well – the more the merrier!

The School and OMA will also be holding its second ever Alumni & Family Open Day on Saturday 1 July from 10am to 2pm. All alumni, and their families, are warmly invited to attend. As above, if you are an alumnus, please do come along, and drag a few others from your year group with you as well as your children - come and relive your school days! The Leaving Year of 1993 are making a special effort to try and get as many of their group to attend, in celebration of it being 30 years since they left. We would also like as many of the women who were in the first ever group of girls to join the School in September 1982 to attend as well, as we would like to celebrate the fact that this academic year is the 40th since the School became co-educational.

Jeffrey Frank Grigg (1945 - 1952) passed away on 23 September 2022 aged 88. He was a keen sportsman at school where he played 1st XV Rugby for several years and was invited by both Blackheath & Saracens to play for their Junior teams. On leaving Manwood's he joined the Civil Service and worked for HM Customs & Excise at the Port of London before moving to Dover in the early 1970's. He retired in 1991 as Deputy Collector, Port of Dover, having been involved in negotiations with Brussels involving the Channel Tunnel and being responsible for Customs activity at the ports of Folkestone and Ramsgate. He kept close ties with Manwood's, serving on the OMA Committee for several years and attending many OMA Dinners. While at Manwood's he met his wife Margaret to whom he was married for nearly 65 years; sadly,

Margaret passed away just 7 weeks after his death. They leave a son **Andrew** (Manwood's 1972 - 1979) and two daughters Jean & **Elizabeth** (1985 - 1992), plus granddaughter **Charley** who is currently in Year 11 at the school.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, **William Middlemas** (1931-1940) donated £300 to the School in his Will, requesting that the money be used for cricket. The photos below show a photo of William in 1938 that Mr Riordan found in the Pavilion and the equipment we bought with his donation. If any other OMs would like to leave a bequest to the School in their Will, details of how to do so can be found on the School Website

(<https://www.manwoods.co.uk/page/?title=Fundraising&pid=48>). Past donations from alumni include the Claringbold medical scholarship and various prizes at Speech Day. A growing number are also leaving money to the School to use as it sees fit, which is of enormous help when it comes to funding improvements to the School's fabric. Many UK alumni now pay a fixed monthly contribution to their old university, but not many do the same to their old school, despite state schools being in far greater need of support from their alumni body than universities are. If any alumni would be interested in starting such a regular donation, then details can be found on the same website page as the bequests. As the old Tesco advert said: "Every little helps".

Julian Francis (1966/1973) has featured in previous newsletters such as. In the OMA [newsletter from February 2013 it said:](#) "Julian Francis has recently published *Tom Chadwick and the Grosvenor School of Modern Art* which is a comprehensive study of Chadwick's life and work and who was famous for his woodcarvings. It was published in February 2013 by the Fleece Press (www.fleecepress.com) with over 80 illustrations". And in the OMA Newsletter from March 2015 it said: "Julian Francis and co-author Martin Andrews have recently had a new book published by Little Toller Books which is a biography of Rena Gardiner 1929-1999, who is described as a draughtsman, printmaker and publisher, having produced thousands of guide books with lithograph illustrations of historic places, buildings and the countryside. A brief section of Peyton Skipwith's Country Life review of the book states [the authors]...."have done a great service in elevating Gardiner's work from the guide book to fine art: she deserved to be among the stars of this year's London Original Print Fair." The book has almost 200 illustrations of Gardiner's work". Julian has had another book about an artist published – Antony Gross, who was an Official War Artist in the Second World War. This book contains more than 120 illustrations. It is called *My Brush Is My Sword* and is published by Fleece Press. Below is a recent review.

Recording what he saw

The lyrical power of an important but neglected war artist

JENNY UGLOW

MY BRUSH IS MY SWORD

Anthony Gross, war artist

JULIAN FRANCIS

176pp. Fleece Press. £218.



"Shelter in Battered" by Anthony Gross, 1940

IN LATE 1945 a major retrospective of Official War Artists showed more works by Anthony Gross than any other artist. Today his name is less well known, something Julian Francis sets out to rectify in *My Brush Is My Sword*, his crisp account of Gross's war years, based on unpublished journals and writings. Superbly produced in a limited edition of 330 by the Fleece Press, the book includes more than 120 illustrations, from exuberantly illustrated letters to atmospheric sketches, their delicate lines overlaid with subtle watercolour washes.

In a line-up of mugshots from a 1940 *Illustrated London News*, Gross appears as one of the five youngest war artists, alongside Barnett Freedman, Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden and Edward Ardizzone. He found Bawden disconcertingly tetchy, but was good friends with the "very charming" Ardizzone, with whom he shared a studio in Cairo in 1942. Yet he was always slightly detached from his fellow artists, more European in background and outlook. The son of a Hungarian father and an Irish-Anglo-Italian mother, he left the Slade to study in Madrid and Paris, where he married Marcelle Marguerite Florenty (known as Daisy) and where he worked until returning to Britain at the outbreak of war. The book's first pages include sombre sketches of sandbags in Bethnal Green and fires in bombed Piccadilly streets.

His life as a war artist began tamely, painting soldiers in training. Humour was present from the start: the caricature strictness of a Guards regiment on parade is undercut by the scruffiness of the adjutant's dog; earnest exercises in the gym contrast with a riotous, off-duty Saturday night. He got on well with soldiers of all nationalities, but his refusal to glorify war could raise eyebrows: the ATS complained that he showed their women as insufficiently smart; his paintings of the wounded after El Alamein were thought too explicit to display.

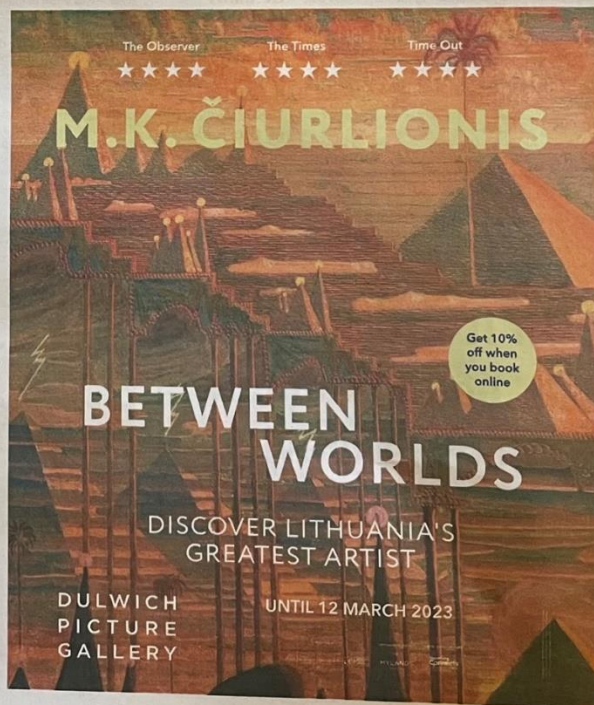
The most remarkable aspect of this story is the sheer distance Gross travelled. From Cairo in 1942 he went north to the Transjordan frontier, to Lebanon and Syria, through Iraq to northern Iran, dashing back to Egypt to cope with bombing in the desert and sand in his paint. His next foray was across India to Burma, to record the Allied stand against the Japanese among rice fields, jungles and ruined temples. He then walked 450 miles through the towering Chin Hills to record the Chindit levies, the most remote outposts of the "forgotten war". His time in Burma, he said, had an "enormous intensity", a feeling that illuminates his remarkable drawings of the people and their lives.

On his return to Britain Gross sailed with the D-Day landings, sketching sleeping troops on deck and recording the devastation on Gold Beach, drawing Montgomery in a Normandy wood and

“He got on well with soldiers of all nationalities, but his refusal to glorify war could raise eyebrows

painting Resistance fighters in Brittany. Then he joined the race to Paris, drawing the joyful liberation crowds on the Route d'Orléans, evoking thousands of people with tiny flicks of the pen, and the frightened, swaying crush when rooftop snipers fired at De Gaulle on Place de la Concorde. His watercolours of the last phase of the war have a lyrical power: French soldiers patrolling on Mont Blanc against snow-covered peaks, Cologne

Cathedral soaring above a ruined wasteland; the tangled wreckage of an iron bridge across the Rhine. He made no claims for his art, happy to leave "philosophical" paintings to artists like Moore, Sutherland and Piper. His own work, he said, was simply "to go and record what I saw". But such reporting, as this fine book shows, is rich with imagination, at once a fine art and a record to treasure and inspire. ■



Jenny Uglow's most recent book is *Sybil & Cyril: Cutting Through Time*, 2021

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JANUARY 20, 2023

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The OMA forwarded a lovely email from **Mike White** (1945 -55):

"My father, **J B White**, boarded at Manwood's in the late 1920's, and his brother my uncle, **A E White**, likewise in the 1930's. For reasons I never understood my father named the family home in Ramsgate where he lived his entire life, bar the war, Manwood! On returning home to Ramsgate from evacuation at Newbury in 1945, I attended the preparatory school at Manwood's as a dayboy from 1945 until I took the Eleven Plus in 1947, which to this day I am amazed I passed. We (some 20 of us from memory) were the last pupils to attend the

preparatory school which was closed in 1947 after the Eleven Plus. Miss Newman was our teacher and I believe she later held a position at the Grange under Ray Bilsborrow, but that may not be correct. I became a boarder at the Grange in its first year, and progressed to School House in due course. One great sadness, my best friend at school and another boarder, Major **Richard Jarman**, was killed on active service in Ireland. For several years I returned to OMA events, captained the OMA Hockey team, was a committee member, but eventually moved to the other end of the country and lost contact. I believe all the boarding houses at Manwood's have now closed, another sign of these benighted times. This is all a very long time ago. I'm in my 87th year, and understand little about the complexities of modern education! I never married so have no heirs to follow in my footsteps, otherwise Manwood's would certainly have been first choice. I wish the school well. Manwood's made the very best of my limited potential and gave me a great start in life for which I am eternally grateful".

Sadly, we learnt that **Richard Hope** (1949-1955) recently passed away. He died peacefully at home with his wife, Sally, and three daughters, Kerry, Mel and Sam, by his side. He had been suffering from a difficult lung condition for some months. These were the pages in the 1974-5 Manwoodian that recorded Richard's achievements post-School and post-RAF in the world of sailing:

VOYAGES OF THE "MOTLEY ONE"

Richard Hope left school in 1955. Between 1968 and 1973 he achieved a circumnavigation of the world in his 30 ft. fibreglass "Oceanic" motorsailer catamaran. The outward journey to New Zealand was crewed with his family; the return journey in 1973 was a solo effort—six months non-stop, covering 17,000 miles . . . and alone.

Here is his account of the outward part of his adventure, written as he was crossing the Atlantic, homeward bound, in November 1973.

It is mid-November and I have my fingers crossed that the winter weather will not be too unkind on this, the final leg of a six month voyage from New Zealand that completes my circumnavigation, begun five years ago.

It started out as a family venture, but I am returning alone; my wife and three daughters still in New Zealand waiting, I hope not too anxiously, for the news of my safe arrival, after what will be more than 200 days at sea.

To ask why I have made the voyage is like asking a mountaineer, not

why he climbed the mountain, but why he came down. For me it was necessary, to complete what I had set out to do.

After leaving the R.A.F. in 1968 I bought Motley One, and in December sailed from Chichester with my wife and children and an adult nephew as crew. Originally we had planned a straight-forward three year cruise around the world. By the time we had finalised our plans and paid the bills it was clear that we could not hold to our intentions in their entirety but resolved to set off anyway, knowing we would have to stop and work between stages. Launching out into the imminent winter gales we were a novice crew, with an untried boat so made a cautious start. Crossing to France we day cruised along the coast from Cherbourg to Morlaix, settling to life afloat, getting the feel of sailing the catamaran and keeping out of the way of the shipping which had claimed as victim a similar craft to our own, run down in heavy weather shortly before we set out.

From Morlaix we began the first long run, across the Bay of Biscay to Vigo, which in January, with gales of Force 9 and 10, firmly convinced us that we had a sound and seaworthy home. A tedious beat against continual strong south westerlies took us to Madeira; and leaving there bound for the Canaries we came near to losing the boat, all but cast ashore by the sudden onset of a deep depression. When we reached the promised sunshine at last we had proved that the catamaran was safe in anything the sea could dish out, even if, with its modest motor sailer sail-plan and well loaded, it made hard work of getting to windward and was rather slower than our family's patience would have liked.

The Atlantic crossing was largely a matter of time, 35 days of it, in inconsistent winds, but we arrived eventually in Antigua and there found a niche for earning a living. For a whole year we stayed, operating from a Beach Hotel, offering day sailing cruises to the guests. This was a trial at times, for, though my nephew had returned to England, we lived family life aboard in full view of the hotel, and had to continue with the childrens' lessons.

In June 1970, after a months cruise down through the islands, we set sail from Grenada, to go via Curacao to Panama. Into the Pacific, our plan was to go to the Galapagos Islands, then reach south across the Trades until able to turn eastward, to gain Callao in Peru, and take up an invitation to holiday with American friends. Having stayed in Antigua to complete the 'season', the four months of intense activity which had to make up for the rest of the year spent at tick over, we were, of course, out of step with the seasons for easy sailing passages westward, particularly out of Panama.

With poor windward ability, and no motoring capacity to speak of we found the 900 miles from Panama to the 'tortoise islands', against constant light head winds and a strong counter current, not just hard,

but impossible. In five weeks we never got within 600 miles of the destination. So we set about what we knew was almost impossible, beating southward, down the coast of South America, against the cold Peru current, and winds that were always parallel to the coast. Nine weeks out from Bilboa we put into Paita in northern Peru, and after a ten day stop for rest and repair essayed the final 500 miles. Running out of wind entirely we used up all our fuel, which included a 45 gallon drum in the cockpit, bought specially for that passage, and after a stop in Chimbote for more, motored non-stop for 72 hours to reach Callao in November.

After two years of life aboard and the intense strain of the fight down the poorly lit, inhospitable coast, often in fog, amongst shipping, we much appreciated a month of comfortable living in the home of our friends. Generously accepted as long term guests by the Yacht Club of Ancon, a resort just to the north, we had left Motley One in safety there and returned aboard to live through the summer. Then we were allowed to take Motley into the Peruvian Navy dockyard in Callao, where, lifted on a floating dock, she was accessible for the cleaning and painting preparatory to the long haul to New Zealand.

Downhill, with wind and current, to the Galapagos Islands in April 1971, we took eleven days in the gentle conditions. Knowing what to expect we had no compunction about loading Motley with about twice what she had ever been intended to carry. As well as family possessions, and six months stock of food, we had a drum of water on the foredeck, making a total of 200 gallons, and another of fuel in the cockpit, 100 gallons, and 20 gallons of kerosene.

Our sails, the originals, after two and a half years of almost constant use, in strong sunlight, and I must admit it, not under covers when furled, had been thoroughly overhauled but were tired. We had two jibs for running, though only standard size, a genoa; no spinnaker; no spares.

The Galapagos Islands did hold the enchantment which made our efforts to see them worthwhile. Digressing again from the usual yacht route we dog-legged back south, to answer the call of Easter Island, where the stone 'long ears' were fascinating, despite the rain, and we wished we could stay longer than the dubious anchorage encouraged.

Turning west we felt that at last we had started definitely toward what we had determined was to be the end of the voyage, a new homeland; New Zealand. Next stop was Pitcairn. Welcomed by the kindly, generous people living an idyll in a perfect setting we regard it as the highlight of our island visiting. A radio call from there to Tahiti gained us authority to put into Mangareva in the Gambiers, 280 miles further on, and before we would pass the French nuclear test zone. Calms and vicious storms from the northwest made that a very protracted passage. Then, while we beat across the final two miles of lagoon, horrendous squalls struck and one by one the sails were torn. With the engine also useless we drifted

sideways out through the pass again, sewing frantically, just getting the stays'l mended in time for it to claw us clear of an atoll past which we were blown in the night. Not till a week later did we struggle back and thankfully drop anchor in front of pretty Rikitea.

Our two week stay at Mangareva was given added interest by an overnight incarceration in the cavernous fall-out shelter, together with the total population of over 500, while the cloud from a French test blast drifted by; harmlessly, but we had been warned not to eat fish from the lagoon, poisoned by 'le dust'.

Continuing to Tahiti we were located by an aircraft checking that we had stayed outside the 120 mile radius safety zone around Muraroa. Knowing the largest bang was imminent I was being very careful. From 150 miles out we still heard the crack and could see the building cloud of the 1 mega ton H-bomb.

There was another bout of nasty weather as we arrived off Tahiti. Papeete is very hospitable to yachtsmen, providing excellent berths at minimal cost, but the island itself we found disappointing. The hurricane season was approaching and we were in a hurry to complete the voyage. Cutting out the Cook Islands and denying ourselves a visit to Fiji, we called only at tiny Palmerston, Niue, and Vava'u before the final leg. Sewing again after another stormy night we had plenty to occupy ourselves in the days of calm that stretched our diminishing food stocks to the limit over the 25 days that it took to make the 1250 miles to New Zealand. At long last, in December 1971, we hoisted the cobbled up remnants of the mizzen to help the half mainsail to make the final beat, up the ten miles of peaceful river to Whangarei, a marvellous place to arrive at, with a yacht basin right by the town.

We had spent our allotted time, three years, getting only half way round the world, but as the children got bigger, the boat seemed to shrink. There was too much strain for us to continue, and the children were overdue for more stability and steady schooling. We entered as immigrants.

That I did not succeed in settling is evident; here I am almost home again. My family will return to join me soon. I have made the voyage on my own, and without stopping at any port on the way to cut costs and time away from the family. The story of these solo days will have to be told separately, but it is my hope that the return of Motley One will show that catamarans can provide safe cruising homes.

Last November it was brought to the OMAs attention that there may be a missing person on the memorials for service men on the School Hall wall. After extensive investigation it was concluded that the man in question was **A R Morris** (1971-1975). As the Thanet Times reported on Tuesday 1 July 1980: "A Margate man was killed when a Royal Navy helicopter crashed in the

sea off Dorset on Friday. Lieut. Ashley Morris, 23 years old, of Knockholt Road, was on a routine training flight from a naval base at Portland. He and two colleagues were killed when their Wessex helicopter went down in about 150 feet of water off Portland Bill. The aircraft was missing for some hours before being discovered by H.M.S. Brecon about 15 miles from the coast. Lieut. Morris, a member of 737 Squadron, was a former pupil of Sir Roger Manwood School, Sandwich". The OMA Committee have agreed to fund the addition of Ashley Morris, RN to the memorial plaques in the School Hall.

The OMA Committee and some alumni have been liaising with St Clements Church in order to get a memorial plaque commemorating **Howell Griffiths** (Headmaster, 1978-1990) added to those already in the church commemorating former Heads.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THIS TERM

The last 2 pages of this newsletter list the clubs and societies that have run during this term. As always, thanks to our dedicated staff for giving up their time for them to run.

Day	Club/Society	Year	Time
Monday	Art Club (begins after Oct half term)	7-9	1.30-2.10
	CAMEO	7	1.30-2.00
	Earth & Sky Group	7-13	1.30-2.00
	French board games (Week A)	7-9	1.30-2.00
	French Support - GCSE	10+11	1.30-2.00
	French Support Club (Week B)	10-13	1.30-2.00
	History Club	7-9	1.30-2.00
	PE Support	10-13	1.30-2.05
	Reading Group	7	1.35-2.05
	Recorder Consort	see DPS	1.35-2.10
	Senior Strings (by invitation)	Grade 4+	1.35-2.10
	Support Room Club	by invite	1.30-2.05
Tuesday	Careers Club (drop in club)	7-13	1.30-2.00
	Drama Club (Week A)	7	1.45-2.10
	Drama Club (Week B)	8	1.45-2.10
	DT Catch up	7-13	1.30-2.00
	Eco Society	7-13	1.30-2.00
	French Support Club (Week A)	10-13	1.30-2.00
	Junior Charity Committee (Week B)	7-11	1.40-2.00
	Manwoods Strings (orchestral string instruments - no audition)	7-13	1.35-2.10
	Maths Clinic	7-9	1.30-2.00
	Netball - Girls	7	1.30-2.00
	Senior Charity Committee (Week B)	12+13	11.00-11.25
	Badminton	7-9	1.300-2.00
Wednesday	CAMEO	8	1.30-2.00
	DT Catch up	7-13	1.30-2.00
	Elastic Band (wind instruments - no audition)	7-13	1.35-2.10
	GCSE Business support club	10	1.30-2.10
	GCSE German Study Club	10+11	1.30-2.00
	Maths Challenge Intermediate	9-11	1.30-2.00
	Maths Challenge Junior	7+8	1.30-2.00
	Robot and Programming Club	7+8	1.30-2.00
	Manwoodian Editorial Team	7-13	1.45-2.05
Thursday	Brass Group	see DPS	1.35-2.10
	DT Catch up	7-13	1.30-2.00
	Maths Clinic	7-9	1.30-2.00
	Netball - Girls	8	1.30-2.00
	Senior Ukulele (ukuleles provided)	10-13	1.30-2.00
	Rock Choir	7-9	1.32-2.10
	Spanish workshop (priority to GCSE)	7-13	1.30-2.00
	Badminton	10-13	1.30-2.00
Friday	French board games (Week B)	7-9	1.30-2.00
	Junior Ukulele (ukuleles provided)	7-9	1.30-2.00
	Percussion (by invitation)	see DPS	1.35-2.10

Day	Club/Society	Year	Time
Monday	Art Coursework support sessions	10-13	3.30-4.30
	Drama Production	10+12	3.30-4.45
	Golf (Paid activity)	7-13	3.25-4.25
	Hockey - Boys (Week A)	7-9	3.25-4.25
	Hockey - Boys (Week B)	10-13	3.25-4.25
	Homework Club	7-13	3.20-4.15
	Kent Football Academy - Boys (Paid activity)	7-10	3.25-4.25
	Netball - Girls (Week A)	9+10	3.25-4.25
	Netball - Girls (Week B)	11-13	3.25-4.25
Tuesday	A Level Chemistry Workshop	12+13	3.20-4.30
	A Level Economics revision club	13	3.30-4.30
	GCSE Physics Workshop	10+11	3.30-4.30
	Homework Club	7-13	3.20-4.15
	Maths Clinic	10-13	3.30-4.30
	Orchestra (wind and string instruments)	Grade 4+	3.30-4.10
	Rugby - Boys	7-10	3.25-4.25
	Sports fixtures		
Wednesday	A Level Biology Workshop	12+13	3.30-4.30
	A Level Business Revision Club	13	3.30-4.30
	A Level Physics Workshop	12+13	3.30-4.30
	GCSE Biology Workshop	10+11	3.30-4.30
	Homework Club	7-13	3.20-4.15
	Jazz Band (by invitation)	see DPS	3.30-4.30
	Kent Football Academy - Girls (Paid activity)	7-10	3.25-4.25
	Table Tennis	7-13	3.25-4.25
	Sports fixtures		
Thursday	CCF (Y8 aged 12+)	8-13	3.30-5.45
	Chamber Choir (by audition)	see DPS	3.30-4.10
	Cheerleading	7-13	3.25-4.25
	Basketball	10-13	3.25-4.25
	Chess	8	3.30-4.30
	GCSE Chemistry workshop	10+11	3.30-4.30
	Homework Club	7-13	3.20-4.15
	Sports fixtures		
Friday	Sports fixtures		
	Basketball	7-9	3.25-4.25
	School of Rock (by invitation)	see DPS	3.30-4.30