

Sir Roger Manwood's School



September 2024 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. As well as the incoming Year 7, we had several students join other year groups just before we broke up for the summer or on Thursday. In addition, this year, we had the largest number of external students (25) join Year 12 from local schools that the school has ever had. We are delighted to welcome 6 German students who will be our guests in Year 12 up to Christmas.

STAFF NEWS

Mrs Hurst, our Assistant Headteacher that has responsibility for the oversight of all pastoral and wellbeing matters in the school, is now back with us after her maternity leave, as is Mrs Moore.

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

Miss Applegarth – Art

Mrs Barrett – 2nd in English

Mrs Gale – RE and Cover Supervisor

Mrs Gale – Cover Supervisor

Dr Higgins – Science

Mr Lawrence – English

Mr Malpass – Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Martin – Governance Professional

Mrs Niblett – Business and Economics

Mrs Patmore - Mathematics

Mrs Todd – Finance Assistant

STUDENT NEWS

In an earlier newsletter I shared the news about 3 of our Year 11 students (who are now just starting Year 12) who had been awarded a highly prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. At the time we did not know who their sponsoring companies would be but I am delighted to now be able to share that information with you, together with some background on each of those companies: **Esther Kuruvilla** is being sponsored by A G Manly Charitable Trust. This Trust provides funds for charitable purposes, in particular for the development of engineering for public benefit and the advancement of engineering education. It is particularly supports activities related to building services engineering. **Esther House** is being sponsored by AtkinsRealis, which is a world-class engineering services and nuclear organization that connects people, data and technology to transform the world's infrastructure and energy systems. Together, with their industry partners and clients, their global team of consultants, designers, engineers and project managers aims to change the world. Lastly, **Aicha Jebari** is being sponsored by the Royal Air Force. The RAF defends the skies of Britain, projects Britain's power and influence around the world and provides vital support to humanitarian missions worldwide. The UK and our allies face many diverse threats in an uncertain world, from unauthorised aircraft entering protected airspace, to increasingly complex cyber-attacks. Over half of RAF personnel work in engineering, on equipment from aircraft engine components, hydraulics & avionics to radar, communications systems, flying helmets, stealth and space technology. The RAF provides extensive opportunities for training & qualifications within engineering, both on the ground and in the air.

The report on the CCF's last day at camp obviously arrived after the end of term newsletter was published, but their last day was spent in competition against the other 9 contingents also at Camp alongside them. The SRMS Contingent came 3rd overall but won the Escape Room and Archery team events. Congratulations to **Cadet Riley** who came first in the full-bore rifle shooting and **Cadet Mirsky** who came third in the dismounted close combat training (DCCT). Captain Mitchell commented that all

of the adult volunteers at Camp with him were very proud of what our cadets achieved and he wanted to thank all of them - Capt Capper, 2Lt Dack and 2Lt Woodruff - as without their assistance the Camp would not have happened.



Having been a participant on the UK Maths Trust Summer School in 2023, **Ben Pointon** (Year 13) was invited by the Trust to be a mentor at the 2024 Summer School. I received a lovely email from the organisers saying how well he had done.

Amélie Radix (Year 9) successfully passed auditions for Peter Pan and will be performing in the pantomime at the Malthouse Theatre (which is part of Kings School in Canterbury) this Christmas.

In August, **Seb Mugford** (Year 9) competed in the RTTC National Closed Circuit Championship. He rode in the Junior category of the 10 mile Individual Time Trial and the 10 mile Team Relay. He had a great day and represented his club (VC Deal) very well. Whilst he wasn't the overall Junior Champion (the race was won by a 17-year-old competitor) he did achieve the success of coming first in his age range – in other words Seb was the fastest 13 year old boy at the National Championships! Seb also competed in another race on Sunday 8th September - the GHS Youth National Time Trial at Newbury. Seb came 3rd in his age category which gave him a new personal best, taking 9 seconds of his previous best. This makes Seb the fastest 13 year old on a Closed Circuit and the third fastest 13 year old on the Open Road.

As well as Seb, we also have another student who is a top-level cyclist - **Nina Reid** (Year 11). Nina competed at the RTTC National Road Time Trial in Cambridge at the end of August and came 5th nationally in the Junior Girls Under 18 category and 3rd in her actual age category. Most importantly of all, she recorded a personal best.

Congratulations to the 10 students who completed their Gold practice expedition during the summer holiday and the 6 of the 10 who then went on to compete their Gold assessed expedition. For those parents/carers not aware of what a Gold expedition entails, in order to successfully complete it participants must carry all of the camping gear and food required for 4 days (3 nights) of an expedition. The remaining 4 of the 10 will be completing their assessed expedition during the October half term.

Alex Dack (Year 13) continues to impress with his athletic prowess. He was selected to represent GB in the European Triathlon Champs in Banyoles in early September and came 5th overall in the individual event, only 11 seconds from Gold. In the relay, the GB team came 4th with Alex having the fastest overall split in the race.



WELCOME EVENINGS

If you are a parent or carer of a student in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 you will no doubt have noticed the Welcome Evenings on the Parents' Calendar that you were emailed back in July. If not, you will have been reminded of them by the emails that were sent out at the start of this term. These evenings cover the structure of the coming year, often contain presentations from departments and give key dates. I would like to thank our Heads and Deputy Heads of School for their time, and the tutors of each year group for their involvement in these evenings.

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.

REQUESTING AUTHORISED ABSENCE FOR PLANNED ABSENCES

The correct form to complete to our Attendance Officer, asking for permission for your child/ren can be found on the school website: <https://www.manwoods.co.uk/page/?title=Student+Absence&pid=154>

FUNDRAISING

In the July newsletter I wrote about the fact that the School has been running a lottery club for many years in order to provide additional income and that in recent years the funds raised through the Club have been put towards a new sound system for the Sports Hall, new curtains for the Hall, outside benches, and the Wellbeing and 450th Gardens – all good examples of benefits to the whole School community. The income of the Club is derived from current (and past) parents and staff purchasing shares at a cost of £1 per share per month (i.e. a total of £12 per share per year). Your share entitles you to a unique allocated share number. Each month, a draw is made and the ‘winning’ share receives a cash prize, currently worth £25. There is no fixed upper limit to the total number of shares in the scheme, so if we go over a total of 200 shares then the name of the Club will change to reflect that! Many thanks to the parents who have joined the Club - if you would like to join in, please set up a monthly or yearly Standing Order with your bank (required details are below) and also complete the separate form that is attached to the email this Newsletter came out with and email it to finance@srms.kent.sch.uk. (Your share number/s will be sent to you once your payment has been received).

Account Name: Sir Roger Manwood’s School

Sort Code: 30-93-34

Account Number: 60897960

DRAMA PRODUCTION

Please see the poster that was attached to the email that this newsletter was sent out on. There are only 20 tickets available for each performance so you will need to be quick if you wish to come along!

KEEPING ABREAST OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please ‘Follow’ or ‘Like’ the School’s Facebook and/or Instagram pages in order to stay in touch with the wide variety of activities taking place in school. The links to each can be found at the bottom left of every page on the School website <https://www.manwoods.co.uk/>

ADVANCED WARNING: EARLY DISMISSAL FOR YEAR 7

On Thursday 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 from the last academic year. Details of what time Year 7 will be dismissed will be sent nearer the time as it can change if the train timetable changes!

PARENTAL SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to the parents who took the time to complete the survey we sent out in the summer term. The results are shown below. 237 responses, approx. 23% of the parent body, were received so we are hoping that means the rest are satisfied with what we do. However, to be sure, if you are someone who did not complete it this time, can I please urge you to do so when the next one is sent out as your feedback is very important to us and is summarised below.

Statement	% satisfied (based on 23% responses)
My child is happy at Manwood's	91
My child feels safe at school	97
The school makes sure its pupils are well-behaved	86
When my child was bullied, the School dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	94
Manwood's has high expectations for my child	91
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	74
My child is making good academic progress at Manwood's	89
The school lets me know how my child is doing academically	92
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this School	86
When I have raised concerns with the School, they have been dealt with effectively	87
My child has SEND and the School gives them the support they need	96
My child can take part in a wide range of clubs, activities and trips	97
The school supports my child's wider personal development through PSHCE in lessons and tutor time	90
My child is given good advice for the next stage in their life (careers, universities & other post 16 options)	83
I would recommend Manwood's to another parent	91

Overall we are very pleased with the high levels of satisfaction reported but as we always strive to improve we immediately focussed on the lower end.

The question with the lowest satisfaction score (74%) was the one that asked if the School made parents/carers aware of what their child/ren will be taught. Last year, we introduced Welcome Evenings to every year group (apart from the incoming Year 7 as they had theirs in June and Year 13) which were held in the first full week or two of term in September in order to cover just this. To be honest, attendance was not as high as we expected. Attendance seems to have been higher this year but it was still nowhere near 100% attendance. Given that those evenings were on the parents' calendar that was emailed out back in July it is a shame. If you did not come along, then do please make an effort to do so next year as these are a new initiative introduced to give the information that parents say they would like. In addition to these evenings, do take a look at the school website as it contains information on what is being taught in every subject, for every year group. This can be found via this page:

<https://www.manwoods.co.uk/page/?title=Departments+%26amp%3B+Subjects&pid=89>

The next lowest percentage was our careers provision, which is a shame given the amount of effort that goes into careers education here at SRMS. We obviously need to be better at communicating what we do! It was rated much higher in the older year groups presumably because parents of students in those year groups have seen the entire programme from Year 7 onwards. We have many resources and events taking place in school. These range from a biannual whole school careers fair, a comprehensive Careers Booklet that all students have access to via Google Classroom (it is also on the Careers page of the school website - link below) and an enormous online repository, called Frog, of career-related information (ask your children about it and ask them to show you how they access it). They are encouraged to engage with Frog at various times during their school journey, mostly in PSHCE lessons. In addition, our independent careers adviser sees Year 9 students in small groups, and Year 11 students individually. He is also available for sixth formers by appointment. As well as all of the above, lunch time talks from outside speakers, who are very often successful alumni, take place from time to time in the Library. These speakers then often go into subject specific sixth form classes too.

Link to the Careers page on the website: <https://www.manwoods.co.uk/page/?title=Careers&pid=70>

The 2023-4 Careers Guide is on that page. Our Careers Coordinator is currently in the process of updating it for this year's version.

ALUMNI NEWS

The caption says it all... this young lady never ceases to impress with her cricketing exploits.

Brilliant Beaumont stars in record England victory



GETTY IMAGES

Tammy Beaumont now has 10 one-day international centuries, the most by an Englishwoman

Mr Anderson, with the support of the alumni association, has placed 6 new alumni on 'The Wall' of the Hall. Do look out for them when next at an event in the Hall.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

GCSE

The average grade per entry achieved by this year's Year 11 cohort was just above a grade 6, and as with A Levels we are proud of each of our students and what they achieved. For those that like some statistics:

10 students in the year group achieved a 7 (and old A) or above in all 10 of their GCSEs, 98% achieved a pass in at least 5 subjects including English and Maths, 87% achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths.

Two performance measures stood out particularly:

40% of all the exams sat were at grade 7 or above as opposed to 34% last year, and 43% of the year group achieved 5 or more GCSEs at 7 (the old A) or above as compared to 34% last year.

We look forward to celebrating these results at Speech Day in December.

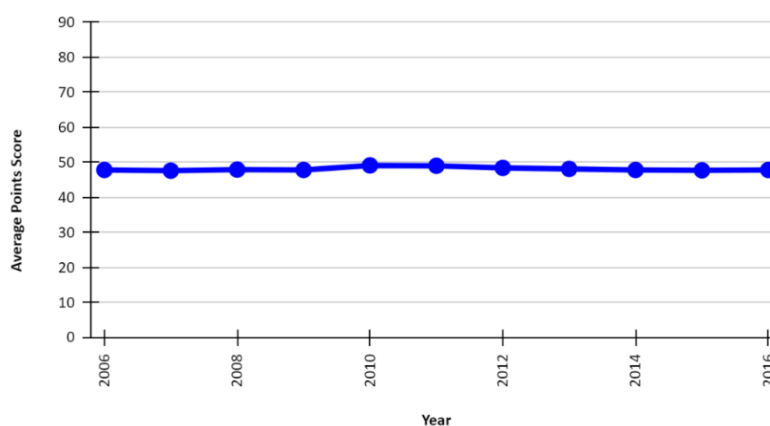
Trends in GCSE Results

The two graphs below show the average points per entry achieved by our students since 2006. There are two graphs to reflect the fact that reformed GCSEs started to be introduced from 2017 onwards, which are examined in a totally different way and are more rigorous and challenging than the pre-2017 GCSEs.

Points used from 2019 onwards	Points used in 2017 and 2018	Points used pre 2017
9	Grade 9 = 9 points	A* - 58
8	Grade A* = 8.5	A - 52
7	Grade 8 = 8 points	B - 46
6	Grades 7 and A = 7	C - 40
5	Grade 6 = 6	D - 34
4	Grade B 5.5	E - 28
3	Grade 5 = 5	F - 22
2	Grades 4 and C = 4	G - 16
1	Grade 3 and D = 3	
	Grade 2 and E = 2	
	Grade F = 1.5 points	
	Grades 1 and G = 1 point	

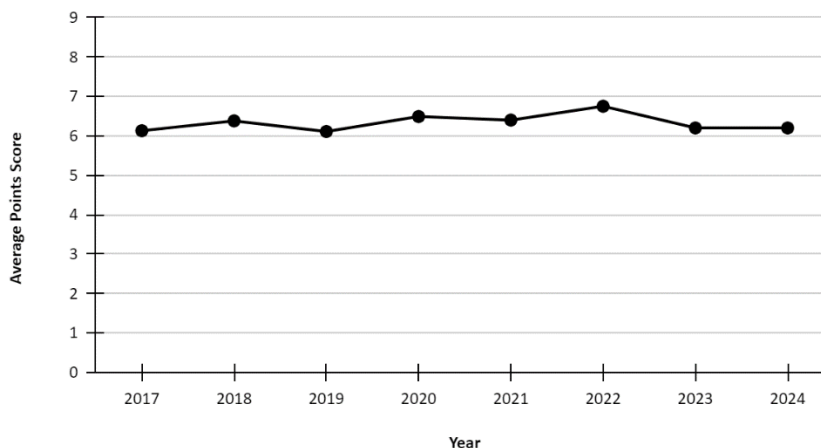
The graph for 2006 to 2016 below shows that the average points per entry were consistently at a high grade B (a B was worth 46 points and a grade A was worth 52 points).

GCSE Average Points Score per Entry 2006-2016



The graph below for 2017 onwards shows that the average points per entry is above a 6, which is the equivalent to the top third of the old grade B. (Note that 2020 and 2021 were the two years where grades were awarded by teachers).

GCSE Average Points Score Per Entry 2017-2024



A Level

76% of all grades achieved were at grade C or above, and 57% were at grade B or above.

89 of the 105 students in Year 13 applied to university for the coming academic year. 90% of those that applied will be starting at either their first or second choice institution, with another 4% gaining a place via Clearing.

As always, we are proud of all our Year 13 students wherever they will be starting – what is of most concern to us is that each student gets the grades that their ability and effort over two years deserves. However, as I know parents and carers like to know this, 3 students will be starting at Cambridge or Oxford in October, 1 will be starting medicine and 1 veterinary science.

We look forward to celebrating these excellent results and destinations with the leaving Year 13 at the A Level Celebration Evening in December.

Trends in A Level Results

The two graphs below show the average points per entry achieved by our students since 2006. There are two graphs to reflect the fact that reformed A Levels started to be introduced from 2017 onwards, which are examined in a totally different way and are more rigorous and challenging than the pre-2016 A Levels.

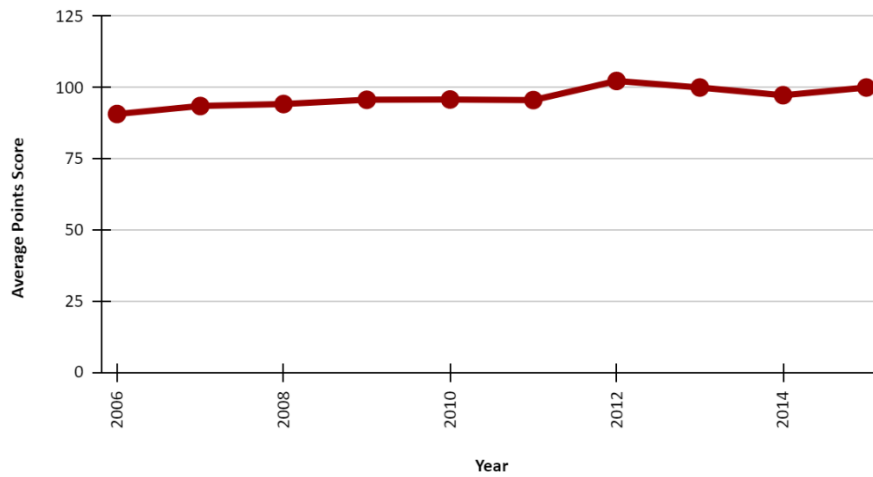
A Level grades are converted into points according to the table below:

Pre 2016: A* 140, A 120, B 100, C 80, D 60, E 40

From 2016: A* 56; A 48; B 40; C 32; D 24; E 16

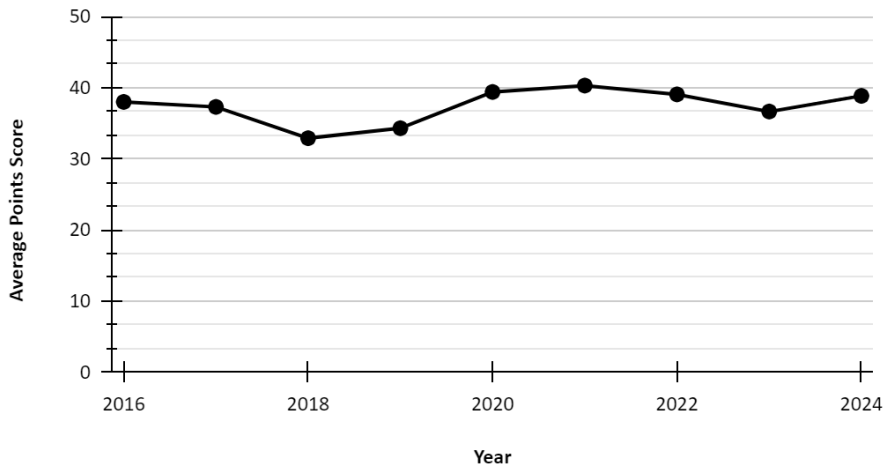
The graph for 2006 to 2015 below shows that the average points score per A Level entry was just below 100 points i.e. just below a grade B. There is a very slight increase over the years reflecting the grade inflation that the new more rigorous A Levels were introduced to rectify.

A Level Average Points Score Per Entry 2006-2015



The graph below shows the average grade each year for the more rigorous A Levels that were introduced in 2016. Even though the exams are now harder, our results have generally continued to be just below a grade B. (Note that 2020 and 2021 were the two years where grades were awarded by teachers).

A Level Average Points Score Per Entry 2016-2024



Finally...as I said in the whole school assembly on Thursday last week, in order to be as successful as possible our students need to **PLAN TO BE SUCESSFUL** (i.e learn how to organise themselves to always put in 100% effort in whatever they do) but *in addition* also have the mindset that when they find something hard or difficult (whether in an academic subject or life in general) they don't give up but instead have the attitude that they cannot do it **YET** (i.e. they don't give up and resign themselves to a situation, rather they knuckle down and work harder until they do). Do please join with the staff here in school in communicating these two vital messages: 1) encourage your children to organise themselves and resist the temptation to organise them yourself - instead teach them **how** to become organised - and 2) reinforce the message that they **WILL** be able to do something they are finding hard if they stick at it for long enough.

Best wishes to everyone for the coming term.

Mr Hunter