



## SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

A very warm welcome to the new academic year, and especially to those of you who are new to our school community.

Your sons and daughters have been given a Student Planner for the year. In that Planner you will find the email addresses of each Head of Department and Head of Year to ease school-home communications. Attached to the email along with this newsletter you will find a calendar showing the main events for the coming year. Our intention is to also publish an online web version of the calendar on the website as soon as possible.

### FUNDING NEWS

Attached to the email with this newsletter is a letter regarding school funding. Please do take the time to read this.

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

As you may have seen in the news, examination boards have again awarded fewer top grades than in recent years, both at A Level and at GCSE.

At A Level, slightly fewer A\* to B grades were awarded than in the last three years. However, students at the very top end attained the highest percentage of A\* grades that the school has achieved since the A\* grade began being awarded in 2010. Despite it being harder to achieve the very top grades most Year 13 students were accepted on to courses of their first choice as the same picture in terms of slightly depressed examination grades was being played out nationally, plus universities were being funded this year to take more students. Thankfully, each of the 8 students who were holding an Oxbridge offer attained the grades they needed to take up their place. Excluding General Studies, 28 students achieved 3 grade As or better, of which 13 attained at least 2A\*s.

At AS Level, the average points per candidate and average points per entry were virtually the same as last year which is no mean feat given the fact that as at A Level the grade boundaries were raised again this year.

The GCSE results were pleasing overall, and it was gratifying to see the hard work of the students, their parents and teachers rewarded. Despite examination watchdog Ofqual's warnings that grades might be markedly different to those in recent years, we did not notice any major changes. The average number of GCSE subjects taken by a student in the year group was 10.75, and the average points score per candidate was 513. 77% of all the examinations taken were passed at the top grades of A\*, A or B, and 94% were at grade C or above. We were delighted to see so many of the students achieve the grades they were capable of, whether that be those who were aiming for grades B and C, or those aiming for A\*s and As. Special mention should be made of the 12 students who achieved 6 or more A\* grades, one of whom gained an A\* pass in each of the examinations she took, a fantastic achievement.

Our congratulations go to each and every one of our students who took external examinations, and we wish them luck for the coming year, especially those who have left Manwood's to move on to the next stage in their life, whether that be work, higher education or travelling.

The full breakdown of results, by subject, can be found below. Please note that these are the results **before** remarks.

<b>A LEVEL 2014</b>	Total	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design (Fine Art)	12	0	2	5	3	2	0	0
Biology	23	2	4	4	6	3	4	0
Business Studies	14	0	3	2	4	1	2	2
Chemistry	33	7	9	6	5	6	0	0
D&T: Product Design (3D Design)	10	1	1	0	3	3	2	0
D&T: Product Design (Textiles)	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Drama and Theatre Studies	4	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
English Literature	35	8	7	8	11	1	0	0
Film Studies	10	0	4	5	1	0	0	0
French	8	1	1	2	2	1	0	0
Further Mathematics	17	8	3	4	2	0	0	0
Geography	19	3	0	8	6	1	1	0
German	4	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Government and Politics	18	1	6	5	4	0	2	0
History	23	2	4	8	6	3	0	0
ICT	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Mathematics	61	18	13	11	9	8	2	0
Music	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Physical Education	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Physics	26	5	10	3	4	3	0	1
Psychology	20	0	2	7	3	3	2	3
Religious Studies	34	1	9	13	8	3	0	0
Spanish	6	0	4	1	1	0	0	0

<b>AS LEVEL 2014</b>	Total	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design (Fine Art)	21	2	10	5	4	0	0
Biology	54	16	11	14	4	6	3
Business Studies	19	2	8	4	3	2	0
Chemistry	53	9	14	7	8	9	6
D&T: Product Design (3D Design)	16	3	2	3	3	5	0
D&T: Product Design (Textiles)	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
English Literature	50	21	20	8	1	0	0
Film Studies	15	1	11	3	0	0	0
French	16	6	8	1	1	0	0
General Studies	149	19	29	38	29	20	14
Geography	36	9	12	12	2	1	0
German	10	1	1	3	5	0	0
Government and Politics	29	4	9	7	6	2	1
History	55	13	16	18	5	2	1
Information & Comm Tech	5	2	0	0	2	1	0
Mathematics	72	26	10	13	5	6	12
Music	4	0	3	0	1	0	0
Physical Education	16	2	4	4	4	2	0
Physics	42	4	5	12	8	2	11
Psychology	39	3	6	8	10	7	5
Religious Studies	45	14	19	9	2	1	0
Spanish	6	2	2	1	0	1	0
Religious Studies	35	17	12	5	1	0	0
Spanish	11	5	2	1	2	0	1

<b>GCSE 2014</b>	Total	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	34	4	5	13	8	3	1	0	0	0
Biology	106	28	28	31	18	1	0	0	0	0
Bus. and Communication Systems	125	16	44	41	19	3	2	0	0	0
Chemistry	106	17	33	36	16	3	1	0	0	0
Chinese	10	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
D&T Food Technology	15	0	5	5	4	1	0	0	0	0
D&T Graphic Products	11	1	2	5	0	3	0	0	0	0
D&T Resistant Materials	25	0	4	5	9	7	0	0	0	0
D&T Textiles Technology	11	3	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drama	16	0	1	6	4	4	1	0	0	0
English	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
English Language	125	12	42	35	27	9	0	0	0	0
English Literature	125	6	34	55	28	2	0	0	0	0
French	55	17	11	17	6	4	0	0	0	0
Geography	52	10	14	13	9	3	3	0	0	0
German	35	4	10	10	10	1	0	0	0	0
History	87	10	28	24	11	10	4	0	0	0
Information & Communications Technology	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	127	28	42	50	6	1	0	0	0	0
Music	14	0	4	5	3	2	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	36	0	9	11	11	4	1	0	0	0
Physics	106	17	36	37	14	2	0	0	0	0
Religious Studies	51	14	26	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
Science	21	1	3	13	3	1	0	0	0	0
Additional Science	21	0	2	10	8	1	0	0	0	0
Spanish	41	6	8	11	12	4	0	0	0	0

## **STUDENT NEWS**

You may remember that I wrote in the summer term newsletter about Bobby Clay, a young lady then in Year 12, who had been selected to run the 1500m at the Under 20 World Athletics Championships in Oregon. I am pleased to report that Bobby came 8<sup>th</sup> despite being several years younger than most of her competitors.

Also starting Year 13 this week is Jake Ling. Over the summer we learnt that Jake was selected to play for the England Schools' hockey team, another fabulous achievement.

As part of the Open Water swimming section of Dover Life Guard Club, Ben Fidock, Year 13, has been training in all weathers since April at Dover Harbour for a cross channel relay swim attempt. The day of the relay is fast approaching and we wish him, and the other team members, success.

Another group of Manwoodian students who are busy training for a challenging event are Dash Eyles and Charlotte Nicholas in Year 12, and Lucy Nicholas in Year 11, who are going to be attempting to cycle 100 miles each day, for 5 days, during the October half term in order to raise money for Leukaemia Research. They will start at Edinburgh Castle on Sunday 26 October and finish in Hyde Park in London on Thursday 30 October. To make a donation in support of them, please go to [www.justgiving.com/E2LforSimon](http://www.justgiving.com/E2LforSimon)

During the summer holiday two of our students attended courses run by The Smallpeice Trust – Toby Freeland went to the Naval Architecture course held at Plymouth University and Aaron Ram attended the course on Automotive Engineering. These residential courses are intended to provide an opportunity for students to learn about an area of engineering or technology. There are different courses for different age groups. To find out more visit [www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk](http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk)

## **STAFF NEWS**

We are welcoming a few members of staff to Manwood's this term:

Stefan Catto – Music  
Oliver Chipchase - English  
Louise Lacaille – French  
David Pestell – English  
Chris Riley – cover supervisor and learning support assistant  
Tony Smith – Film Studies  
Isabel Stocks – cover supervisor  
Alison Wells – History  
Sarah Jane Wnek – English and Drama

In addition, to the new members of staff mentioned above, some of our existing staff are taking on new responsibilities:

Kirsty Lightfoot – Head of Year 9  
Carolyn Noy – Head of Trappes  
Jo Poole – Head of English  
David Smith – Head of Music

## ALUMNI NEWS

Geoff Pomeroy, a student at the University of Portsmouth's School of Architecture received a prize for excellence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Geoff was a winner of the Architecture Degree Prize. The Prize is awarded by the RIBA Hampshire Branch that represents nearly 900 architects based in the county. Geoff's project was a design for a Food Bank. His building provided teaching rooms, a food distribution centre and soup kitchen. The judges described Geoff's project as 'very believable, and well presented, with particular merit for its ability to sum up the scheme in a single image'. Qualifying as an architect in the UK takes at least seven years and Geoff has now completed the three-year Part 1 course. He will next be undertaking a Part 1 placement in Basingstoke before returning to university for a further two years to complete his Part 2.

