

21st April 2016

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am writing with news of a new scheme aimed at improving the experience of all Lymm High School students and to ask for your support.



# The Lymm High School Development Fund

The Lymm High School Development Fund aims to build upon existing fund-raising initiatives in order to improve the facilities we have available and, in so doing, further enrich the quality of education your child receives. Please see the enclosed details which are also available on the school website.

As you know, we are blessed with some fantastic facilities at Lymm High School, including our own swimming pool, beautiful sports grounds and the wonderful "Tynny" over in Anglesey. In addition, there are many new capital projects that we would like to undertake; these include a new canteen, refurbished PE changing rooms, a state-of-the-art Performing Arts space, more outdoor seating for students, a 4G football pitch, an additional ICT room and covered bicycle sheds. However, the current situation with public finances means that it is becoming extremely difficult to find the money to fund such projects and we are determined to be pro-active in the face of these pressures.

Our priority at the moment is to refurbish the PE changing rooms and any money we receive this year will be put towards this project. At the moment, these rooms are rather tired and in need of a facelift. Given that they are used by nearly all students every week, it would be fabulous to be able to get this work done soon.

### **Parental Donations: standing order forms**

One potential source of money for the Development Fund comes from parental donations. With this in mind, you will find enclosed a standing order form that allows you to make regular, voluntary donations to the Development Fund. Please note that all donations can be Gift Aided, which allows the school to claim an extra 25% of the sum of your donation at no extra cost to yourself. Following consultation with parents,

#### Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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the suggested amount is £5 per child per month - but we would be very grateful for any amount that you can afford. Please return the forms to Mrs Paula Chambers.

## **Parental donations: Parent Pay**

Alternatively, rather than completing a standing order form, you may find it easier to make an annual donation via Parent Pay. We have set up Parent Pay this week with a default option to make a payment of £60 (i.e. the equivalent of £5 per month); again this is simply a suggested amount and it is easy to pay more or less than this amount (or indeed to pay nothing at all). Donations via Parent Pay can also be Gift Aided.

If you return the standing order form, we will automatically remove the link to the Development Fund from your Parent Pay account.

## **Voluntary support**

Please note that any donations to the Development Fund are entirely voluntary there is no intention whatsoever that any parent or carer feels under any pressure or obligation to pay anything at all. We certainly do not want to offend anyone by asking for money and hope that you understand that the reasons for us doing so.

If all of our parents and carers choose to donate the suggested amount and use Gift Aid, we would raise £140,000 for the improvement of school facilities. Even if only 75% were able to donate, we would raise over £100,000, which would clearly make a significant difference to the experiences our students receive.

Many other schools, including some nearby, have found that parents have been very enthusiastic in their support of capital funds like our Development Fund and have raised these kinds of sums to support major projects. Initial consultation with parents of Lymm High School students has demonstrated that there is plenty of backing for expanding such a scheme here and we are extremely grateful in anticipation of any support you can provide.

Yours faithfully

Gwyn Williams