



Dear parents

I thought you would like to know that yesterday the government published some provisional data on 2017 GCSE exam results. As you'd expect, there are no surprises for any of us in the school because we've been analysing the data since results day, but it is obviously important to see the official data and we are very proud of our results this year.

As you can see from the table at the end of this letter, our students have done extremely well in comparison with the national and local picture. We are especially delighted to be able to report that we topped the Warrington league tables on the new, all-important 'basics' measure of the number of students gaining a 'strong pass' (i.e. grades 9-5) in both English and Maths. In fact, **we are in the top 8% of state schools (including grammar schools) in the whole country on this measure.**

We also saw 83% of students gaining grades 9-4 in English and Maths, which is similarly an exceptionally high score. Unlike the 9-5 measure, it is possible to make comparisons with previous years using 9-4 grades because they are equivalent to the old A*-C. Such comparisons show us that we have improved by 6% since 2016 and a huge 14% since 2014. We are now confident that these are **the best results the school has ever had** at this key benchmark.

It might also be worth pointing out that Progress 8 scores are at least partly a reflection of the curriculum students study in any given school. At Lymm High School, we take a very strong stance in this regard and have made absolutely sure that our curriculum is built around the needs of our students rather than school league tables or Ofsted. It would be very easy to significantly improve our Progress 8 score by, for example, forcing all students to take the full suite of Ebacc subjects or by entering them all for qualifications that are very easy to pass but have no value as far as sixth forms, colleges and employers are concerned. However, we are convinced that this would be the wrong thing to do and are happy to accept that, on this measure at least, the official performance tables will not truly reflect how well we are doing. This is a policy that seems to be popular amongst the parents I have spoken to about this and I certainly hope you feel we are doing the right thing here.

Since arriving at Lymm High School, I have tried to get the balance right between, on the one hand, celebrating the successes of our students and the school and, on the other hand, not wanting to over-state things and risk falling victim to complacency. We know we still have plenty of work to do. However, it does feel important to recognise what is a genuinely impressive achievement and what a strong place the school is now in. As always, I am grateful for your support; without it, we would not be able to help the students produce results as striking as these.

Yours faithfully

Gwyn Williams
Headteacher

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Provisional 2017 results, as published by the Department for Education, 12th October 2017:

MEASURE	LYMM HIGH SCHOOL	NATIONAL AVERAGE	WARRINGTON AVERAGE
Grade 5 or above in English and Maths	66%	39.1%	45.5%
Grade 4 or above in English and Maths	82.7%	63%	68%
Percentage achieving Ebacc at Grade 5/C or above	34%	19.5%	19%
Progress 8 score	0.10	0	0.11
Attainment 8 score	53.7	44.2	46.8
Pupils staying in education or going onto employment	97%	94%	96%