



ALUMNI

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

Les Misérables

Lymm High School stages
spectacular performance of Les
Misérables

Cheshire Cup Champions

Lymm High School
defeat Wirral Grammar at the AJ
Bell Stadium to be crowned
Cheshire Cup Champions for the
second year running.



WELCOME

HEADTEACHER GWYN WILLIAMS

Dear Alumni

I write this a few days after receiving the report following a visit by Ofsted in February. We are not driven by Ofsted but it does matter and we are pleased with the report, which we feel is a fair summary of where we are as a school now and contains some lovely lines about our wonderful young people and the staff who give so much to support them. However, writing to you, the alumni of Lymm High School, causes me to reflect upon the bigger picture.

Ofsted frameworks and reports come and go (indeed, for some of you who left many years ago, they never came in the first place!) just as hundreds of students do every year and just as the physical footprint of the school is constantly changing. Throughout all this though, I would like to think that the basic ethos of the school endures and that many of you will recognise something in those parts of the report that stress the positive relationships between staff and students, the pride students have in Lymm High School and how we aim to combine scholastic ambition with inclusivity. It is a special place, I am sure you will agree.

Aside from Ofsted, the things that tend to keep headteachers awake most often are exam results and funding. On the former, we are feeling very positive and I

am sure many of you have seen the various stories alluding to the fact that we are now performing at a very high level again; this is something we are proud of, and will continue to work very hard at. As regards funding, the picture is far less positive and the situation in education is as challenging as it has been for over a generation. We are trying not to complain and instead to be pro-active in facing up to the issues, but it is hard and we do need to find ways of increasing funding from external sources. If you do have any contacts or ideas that may help, we would really appreciate your support. Even if you could just sign up for the school lottery (see page 11) it would be a great help.

Enough from me on the serious stuff. Please enjoy reading all the stories about some of the things that our current students have been up to, as well as some magical memories from those of you involved with the school in years gone by. Thank you again to those of you who have contributed.

Kind regards,
Gwyn Williams
Headteacher

Head Girl

Libby Richardson

Although my final year here comes with incredible responsibility, I have had an amazing time so far! Lymm Sixth Form is a friendly, welcoming learning environment, all of the teachers are very supportive and are available almost 24/7 to help with any questions you might have.

Studying at Lymm has provided me with so many incredible opportunities: performing at the National Theatre with drama and representing the school nationally as part of the Senior String Group. As part of my role as Head Girl I have helped organise the Autumn Social; an event for students to mix outside of school. The Student Leadership Team has also been working hard to maintain our excellent links with charities and have organised charity events such as the Macmillan coffee morning and Children In Need dress up day. Everyone's enthusiasm to get involved in these events has helped me realise that Lymm High School and Sixth Form has an outstanding community spirit - I am very proud to be a part of it!

Looking forward, I am excited to be involved in many more of these fundraising events, continuing to give back to the school that I have come to love so much. Although I am currently looking to study Psychology at university next year, I will never forget my time spent at Lymm, the memories and the experiences I have gained with friends I will have for life. I feel privileged to have been part of the history of the school, carrying on the legacy of high standards that the school holds. I honestly couldn't think of a better place to go to Sixth Form!



"I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL, CARRYING ON THE LEGACY OF HIGH STANDARDS THAT THE SCHOOL HOLDS!"

Head Boy

Francis Young



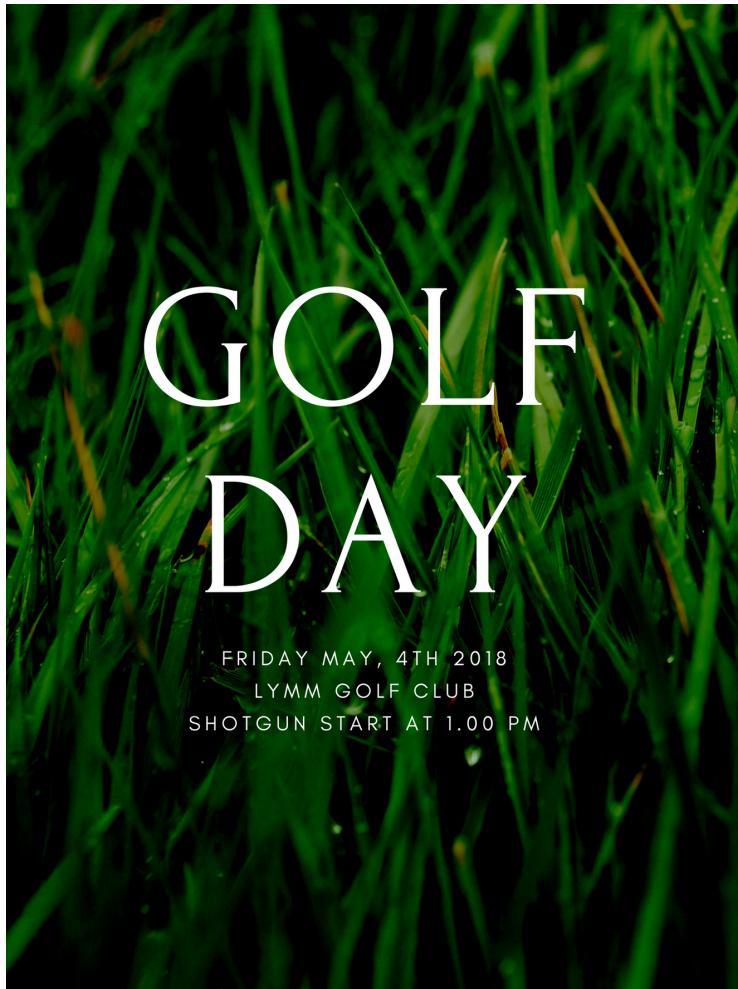
"A KEY THEME FOR THIS YEAR HAS BEEN INTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY COHESION."

As this school year moves forward into the new year I have had a great time being involved with Libby and the rest of the student team holding events for lower school and sixth form. With the added responsibility of Pitch In! this year, the sixth form team have been dedicated to finding ways to raise money. Our most recent event turned out to be a huge success raising just under £100 for Pitch In! And all from selling pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

Along with fundraising, a key theme for this year has been integration and community cohesion. Just before the Christmas holidays myself and other members of the Student Leadership Team held a Christmas coffee morning for some of our senior members of society in the hope that it would make Christmas just that little bit more special. I'm happy to say we had positive complimentary comments in response.

This year has seen lots of new and interesting projects and ideas be put into place, none more so than the Eco-Council set up by one of our students. The aim is to create a more eco friendly school and to gain the Green Flag award. The role of Head Boy has given me the opportunity to voice my opinions and to represent the opinions of the entire student body. I am extremely grateful that Lymm High School and Sixth Form has given me the opportunity and responsibility to represent this fantastic school.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



GOLF DAY

FRIDAY MAY, 4TH 2018
LYMM GOLF CLUB
SHOTGUN START AT 1.00 PM

Golf Day

Local golfers are raising funds for the Lymm High School "Pitch In" project. We are looking to raise £100,000, which will be match funded by the government, to pay for a state of the art artificial sports pitch which will not only benefit the students but the local community too.

Big Red Events, with the kind support of Lymm Golf Club, are hoping to support this fantastic initiative with a Golf Day, taking place on Friday 4th May 2018, at Lymm Golf Club.

The event will begin at 1.00 pm with great prizes, refreshments and a raffle on offer, followed by an informal meal and prize presentation.

We do hope you can support the golf day in whatever way you can. Be it attending and playing, donating prizes, raffle prizes or sponsorship. All will be greatly received.

Entry is £140 per 4 person team! To enter a team, please make payment to Big Red Events Limited, Sort code – 30-98-97, Account no – 46396268, stating your team name in the reference section. We do hope you can support our event for this great cause!

Bavarian Bierkeller 2018

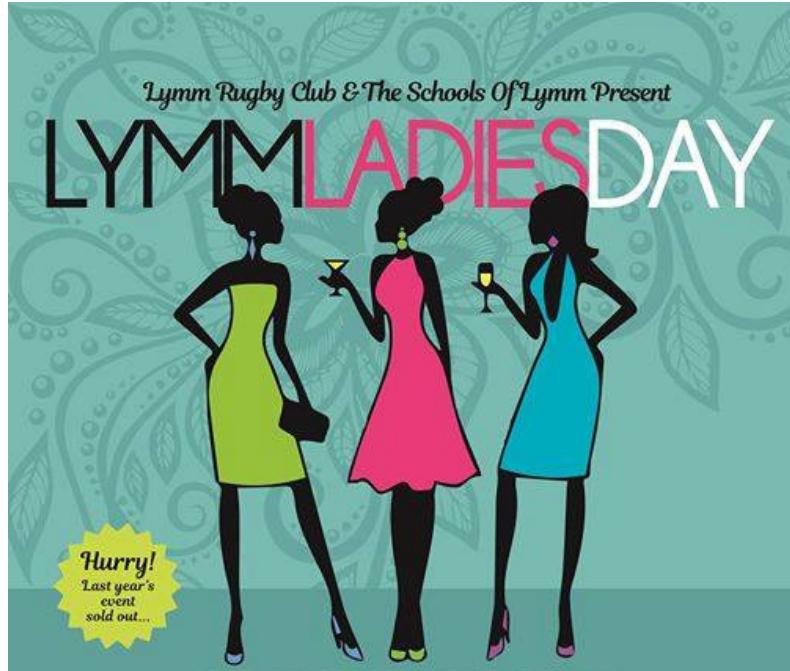
Bavarian Bierkeller comes to Lymm High School on 16 March! Lymm High School is proud to announce its very own Bavarian Bierkeller Party! In aid of Prevent Breast Cancer Care and the Lymm High School Pitch in! Campaign, we'll be turning the main hall into Lymm's one and only Bavarian Bierkeller, for some serious sing-a-long stein-clinking madness!

Includes: German beers and lagers on draught, prosecco and gin bar, hog roast with all the trimmings, a selection of delicious desserts, and the finest traditional Bavarian music and entertainment brought to you by Robert Burton.

We will update you to its success in the next issue!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Lymm Ladies Day

Ladies' Day brings a touch of elegance for the ladies of Lymm High School, providing the opportunity to browse an array of gorgeous boutique stalls and enjoy a suitably glamorous fashion show, followed by a two-course lunch.

Taking place at Lymm Rugby Club, tickets are £32.50 and include a glass of fizz on entry and fabulous goody bag, available to buy through the Lymm High School PTA and the school shop.

Make Ladies' Day the one time in 2018 that you get together for a truly memorable celebration.

Spring Fayre

Roll up! Roll up! Why not join us for a Spring day of fun for all the family? Our annual Spring Fayre is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year and takes place Saturday 9th June, 12pm, at Lymm High School.

There will be games organised by students and staff as well as stalls run either by Lymm students or local community enterprises. The day includes all the traditional attractions of a fayre including raffles, rides, inflatables, music, hot food, bar, face painting, craft stalls, music, performances from our talented students....and much much more!!

Local businesses are invited to sponsor a stall at the Fayre. These donations help us cover the costs of attractions and in exchange your business will be promoted to all who attend the event. We also welcome donations of raffle prizes.

This is always a great event for family, teachers and LHS friends to have fun outdoors. All are welcome to join us for what promises to be a great day.





FIRST ENCOUNTER OF THE TYNNY KIND

by Dennis Oakes

I joined the school at Easter in 1973. I decided to settle into my new job before getting involved at Tynny. A number of colleagues wanted me to join in activities that summer. The following year I had agreed to join one of the summer camps and by way of preparation, agreed to go for a weekend working with Fred Totton.

A friend of ours also invited us to join her for a holiday at a farm in Tudweliog on the Lynn Peninsular. I couldn't go for the fortnight but it seemed ideal for the girls to take the children and I would drop in at the weekend as it coincided with the agreed visit to Ty'n y Felin.

SPRING WEEKEND 1974

At lunchtime on the Friday the Land Rover and trailer were readied. Personal kit for the pupils and myself were loaded in along with items of building material. I had spoken to Lynne on the Thursday evening and arranged to meet her and the kids at the Antelope pub by Menai Bridge. Assuming naively that it would be a two and a half hour journey to Menai Bridge, I arranged to meet at approximately 7pm.

After school – all aboard the Land Rover and off to Tynny via Fred's house. At Fred's, the Totton children loaded bikes and their bags into the trailer and, at about a quarter to five, Fred came out with some gear and announced that he was going shopping! Nearly an hour later he came back with goodies for the weekend and we were finally on our way!

This is in the days before mobile phones and iPads. So with no way of contacting Lynne, I drove as fast as possible given the conditions of the old A55 across North Wales, reaching the Antelope pub at around 10:45.

Lynne and her friend were frantic, the kids were tired and just about to climb the walls. This did not bode well for the weekend!

After breakfast on Saturday, Lynne, Pat, the kids and myself set off for Tynny. 'Turn left at the first lights' were my directions. Pass the railway and bear right. After the bridge, bear left and you will see the estate entrance on the left.

**“Don’t know
why we want
showers.
What’s wrong
with a bar of
sea soap and
the creek?”**

The first traffic lights were in Llanfair PG with a turn immediately after, which went under the railway and forked. I followed the right hand track, crossed a small bridge and finished in a farmyard. Not Ty'n y Felin.

Back to the main road and onward towards Holyhead. I found the Valley lights and turned left. Crossed the railway, baring right over the bridge and turned left again. I missed the estate entrance and finished up on Rhoscolyn Beach. I about-turned and back-tracked, found the entrance to the estate and after trying all of the possible tracks, I eventually found Tynny.

There was no sign of Fred or the Land Rover but Mrs Totton was taking advantage of the good weather to top up her tan. ‘Fred went to the builders’ merchants’ she proclaims ‘Don’t know why we want showers. What’s wrong with a bar of sea soap and the creek?’

This did not endear the girls to Tynny and they head back to Tudweliog if they can find the way.

I found my gear and sleeping bag amongst the grass and got changed ready to work. Tynny was more run down than I had been lead to believe. Perhaps Mrs T was right, there was more to be done than having showers.

We got stuck in and soon had the base and walls for the showers up. The next day, assorted tiles were attached to the outhouse walls and floor and the cubicles made ready for the installation of showers, which were being installed by Mike Lawton and Barry Evans the following weekend.

After what seemed a long day we headed back to Civilisation that was Lymm. I again drew the short straw for driving. With Fred and Marjorie in the front with me and the pupils and Totton children in the back, we set off. By the time we had reached Valley lights Fred was asleep and resting his head on my shoulder. By Gwalthmai Marjorie had dropped the paper against the window and she too was asleep. One of the pupils managed to clear the paper and by the time we left the island I was the only one awake.

Keeping up a good pace, well, 40 mph along the A55. It was as I changed gear on Rhuallt hill that Fred woke and inquired where we were before going back to sleep. After 110 miles with someone’s head on your shoulder and the other side squashed against the door, I was glad when we stopped to let people out at various parts of south Warrington.

Did the ordeal put me off? Well no!! Over the next 30 or so years Tynny almost became a second home.



THE SUMMER SHEEP



"We did have exceedingly good roses that year, even though many of the PTA felt rather sheepish!"

For many years Lymm High School would run a 'Summer Fete' where over a whole Saturday, near the end of the Summer Term, hundreds of parents could be found on the School Field, buying from a range of stalls, provided by the PTA taking part in silly games, organised by the staff, and listening to music provided by talented pupils.

The school would also have Sheepdog Trials, that would take place on the school field. These did not always go to plan.

One year the sheep were duly delivered, on the Friday evening, and placed in the Tennis Court area of the school – where the Main Office is now.

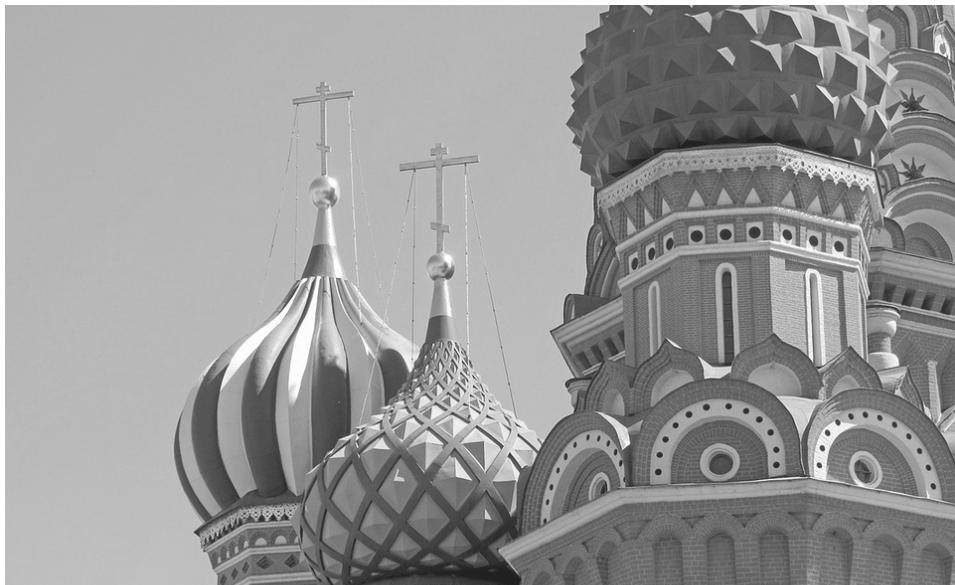
Members of the PTA would camp out, overnight to ensure the sheep were safe.

They did not expect however, to spend some of the evening chasing certain of the sheep who had made a break for freedom. You can imagine the chaos that ensued.

It was also not very pleasant for the first pupils on Monday morning who had chosen Tennis as their P.E. option, to have to spend their time clearing up, what the sheep had left behind !

We did have exceedingly good roses that year, even though many of the PTA felt rather sheepish!

RUSSIA



by Richard Coleman

School trips are always exciting for a number of different reasons. I always remember going to Moscow, when our Deputy Head-teacher was arrested for trading on the street.

He called the staff together in the evening and asked for us to keep it quiet. How unfortunate that I was in charge of the school Newsletter at that time, and had journalistic tendencies. Published by accident, of course. I don't think he ever forgave me.

ALUMNI NEWS

NORMAN BANNER RECIEVES MBE

courtesy of South Warrington News, Issue 299

Norman Banner is a well-known and much-respected Warrington solicitor and former Lymm Grammar School student. After gaining a BA in Law at Manchester Polytechnic, in 1971 he was articled to Robert Davies & Co and has practised law since 1973. Since then, he has worked with one or another of the companies which have formed the present partnership of FDR Law.

He retired from the partnership in 2013, but remains with the company as a legal consultant. In addition, Norman is vice Chair of the Cheshire Community Federation and vice Chair of St Rocco's Hospice in Warrington, after being Chair since 2010. Earlier in his career, he was National Chair of the National Association of Crossroad Care schemes, which grew, during his chairmanship, from about 50 schemes to over 200 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Norman was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of Warrington in 2009 and was also a trustee of Lymm High School for many years.

At the news of the MBE, Norman said: "I am delighted to receive the award in recognition of my community work over the years and, in particular, my role at St Rocco's. I like to think that it is also a reminder to everyone of all the splendid work done at the hospice by staff and volunteers."





ENGLAND FOR ELLIE FLETCHER

We are really proud that one of our past sporting stars and role models, Ellie Fletcher has received her 3rd England football call-up.

The ex-Lymm High student (who left Year 13 in 2017), is a regular for Liverpool Ladies 1st team and has had considerable success with them. She has now had 3 caps for England U19s ladies; her debut against Wales in the Euro qualifiers resulted in a 4-0 win



for the squad, followed by her 2nd cap in a 1-0 win over Slovenia.

Ellie has now had her 3rd cap in a friendly against Finland, and is one of only two Liverpool players who've been selected.

With Ellie's help, the England squad have now made it through the initial round of the UEFA European U19 Championship qualifying and

sealed their place in the elite qualifying round which takes place in Spring 2018.

We wish Ellie every success in this and her future matches and are exceptionally proud of her incredible achievements.

You can follow Ellie's progress at @EllieFletch7

THE LHS LOTTERY

Calling all Alumni! We are pleased to announce the launch of the Lymm High School lottery! With a draw every Saturday evening, tickets cost £1 a week and 40% of ticket sales go to our school guaranteed cash prize to one of our supporters every week! Match all 6 numbers and win £25,000 in a national draw! Joining is easy, just visit our web page to support us now:

To start supporting, visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for: Lymm High School (supporters must be 16 years of age or older)

On joining, you will receive your own unique six-digit ticket number. It is guaranteed that someone from our school community will win every week.

The more tickets that are issued within the Lymm community the bigger the prize. The size of the prize will be published on the School Lottery Website leading up to each weekly draw.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

A draw every week!

In our weekly online lottery:

- Tickets cost £1 a week
- 40% of ticket sales go to our school
- Guaranteed cash prize to one of our supporters every week
- Match all 6 numbers and win £25,000
- Joining is easy, just visit our webpage to support us now



LYMM
HIGH SCHOOL



JOIN AND SUPPORT TODAY

*supporters must be 16 years of age or older



VICTOR GAMA

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER OF QHASANA
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, POTSDAM VILLAGE
MDANTSANE, EAST LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Victor Gama shortly after our return from a successful sixth biannual Afritwin visit to South Africa in September.

Victor was instrumental in the establishment of the twinning relationship that has now endured for over 13 years and continued to be a driving force of the project. He was extremely welcoming to all the groups that visited his school and was so proud of his pupils and their efforts.

As the member of staff who led the project at Qhasana High School, he co-ordinated our activities whilst working at his school with confidence and enthusiasm and worked with their school council to move the project forwards.

Victor was well liked by his pupils, loved football and sport in general. Until his health failed in the last couple of years, he always played in the Lymm vs Qhasana football match, which he insisted took place during our visit.

Pictures: On the occasion of our visit in 2010. (Back left)

His favourite outfit was his South Africa tracksuit, which he always wore proudly on the last day of our visit, closely followed by his Liverpool Football shirt and Manchester United woolly hat!

Like all good teachers, he was proud of his school and worked tirelessly to make improvements to the teaching environment of his pupils. He loved his school and will be deeply missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

I was privileged to have been able to call him a friend and to have welcomed him into my home during his visit to Lymm in 2007. Our future visits to Qhasana will not be the same without his warm welcome and happy smile.



SHEILA WOODYATT MBE

It was with deep sadness that we heard about the death of Sheila Woodyatt. Our thoughts and condolences are very much with her family.

An ex-pupil, Sheila had also been a governor at Lymm High School for almost 40 years and was always a huge supporter of the school and community.

She was a remarkable woman and will be greatly missed. Having recently introduced the Woodyatt Cup for Social Responsibility, which is now awarded every year at Awards Evening, we will be discussing in due course how else we can best remember Sheila.

HILDA CROW

Unfortunately in July of this year we said 'goodbye' to a much-loved member of staff from Lymm High School. Hilda Crow was born 26th August 1935 and lived for many years in Lymm with her family, whilst working at Lymm Secondary School, then Lymm High School.

She worked in the Reprographics Department, based in the old school tower, on the Grammar School Road site, and was firmly convinced that it was haunted due to the many strange experiences she had, whilst working there alone. This was an era of the twin reel tape recorder, the old video recorder, and the purple ink-stained Banda Machine. On many occasions she would recount tales of tapes rewinding themselves, machines switching on and off, and on one occasion a figure in a black gown, brushing past her into an office, only to find, on investigation, the office to be empty!

Hilda always had a kind word for everyone, and was loved by all - no matter what problem you presented her with, usually at very short notice.

Our thoughts are with her husband Grahame and the rest of her family.





'WHERE ARE
THEY NOW...?'

'WHERE ARE THEY NOW...?'

by Catherine Milsom

I taught English at LHS from the January of 2000 to the summer of 2004. I was Phil Scott's 'second in command' in the English Faculty; I remember that he had extremely high standards, but thankfully he also had a sense of humour, a great deal of patience and many encouraging words. There was a fantastic group of people in the English Faculty at the time and we laughed a great deal! I learnt so much and will always be grateful for my time at LHS.

I had my first child in Manchester that summer of 2004. Seven months later my husband's work as a haematology researcher took us to Cincinnati, Ohio. We landed in the middle of the Mid-West with George Bush as president. They were 'interesting' times and, although we settled quickly and made wonderful friends, it was a huge culture shock. I loved being a 'stay-at-home-mom' for an extended period of time and took the opportunity to join lots of clubs and family activities.

The beginning of 2008 saw a move to Boston, Massachusetts, for Mick's job. By now our second boy was a year old and I quickly got involved with our local community in Quincy on Boston's South Shore. We loved Boston and took full advantage of the beaches and islands and wonderful parks, as well as the museums and galleries. We enjoyed the blazing hot summers, the long knee-deep snowy winters and the rich foliage colours of 'Fall', and we had the emotional experience of sending our firstborn off to elementary school on a big yellow school bus.

We visited New York, Vermont and Maine and lived like tourists much of the time. We also experienced the most gracious American hospitality from friends who treated us like family.

By the end of 2010 we were expecting our third child (another boy) and planning a move back to Europe (I have now completed my personal survey of maternity services in different lands). We ended up here in Heidelberg in southwest Germany – another culture shock! There were many bumps along the road to settling in here – I have discovered that language learning is not my strong point - but I manage to get most things done in German these days.

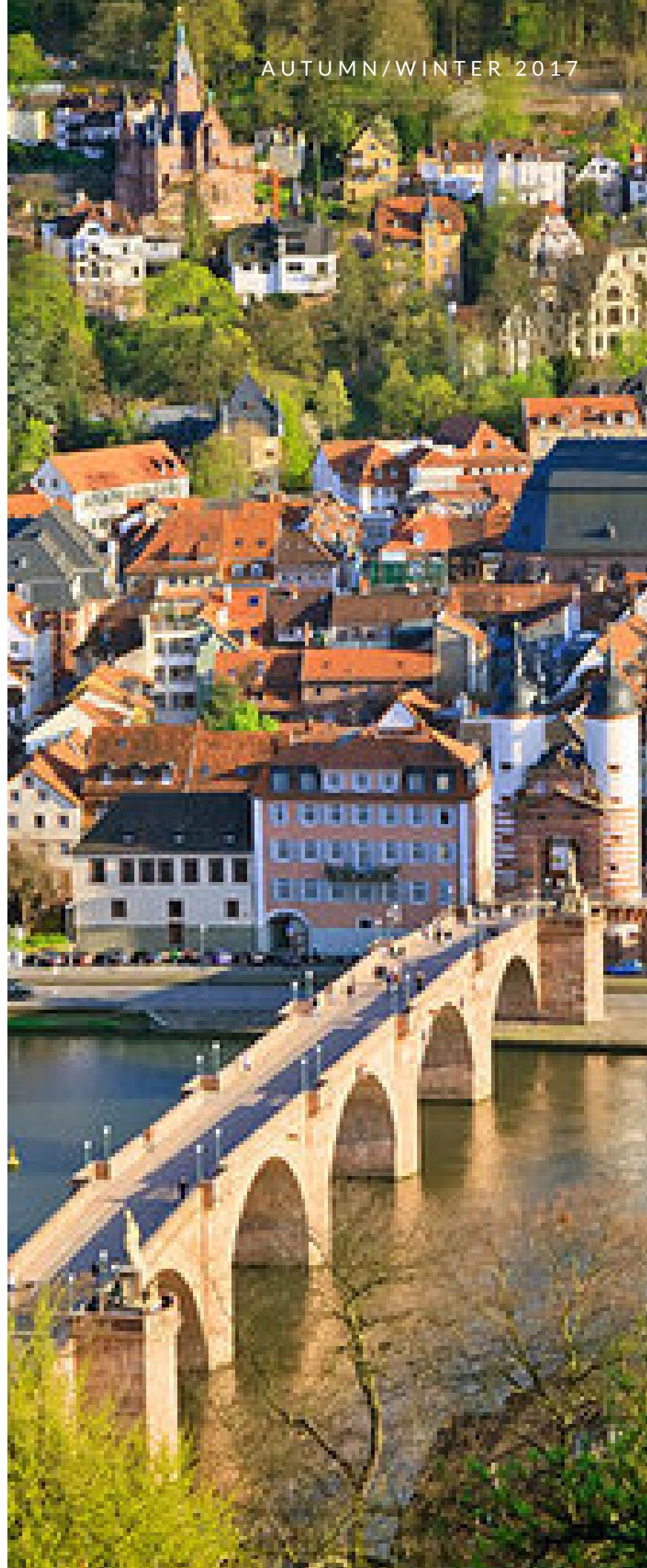
Mick's research is going from strength to strength (www.hi-stem.de) and I'm teaching again, at a small independent German-speaking 'Jenaplan' school. Ironically, I lead the foreign languages team (English is compulsory for 6-18 year olds and we offer French, Spanish, Latin and Ancient Greek, despite only having 110 children). I tandem teach tiny classes with my colleague who has become a close friend. I love my job, but the school currently lacks a suitable building and is fighting for its survival (www.lernzeitraeume.de), so I might be entering another period as a 'Hausfrau' soon.

Brexit was a huge disappointment to us (perhaps things look different from outside the country and when one has bilingual children who move so easily between two cultures) but it has at least pushed us into making the decision that Germany will be our long-term home. We've sold up in the UK, bought a house here and we'll apply for German citizenship as soon as we're able. Heidelberg (we live just along the Neckar River in the small town of Bammmental) is stunningly beautiful and an incredibly peaceful part of the world – and we find our German friends and neighbours to be warm, generous and full of good humour.

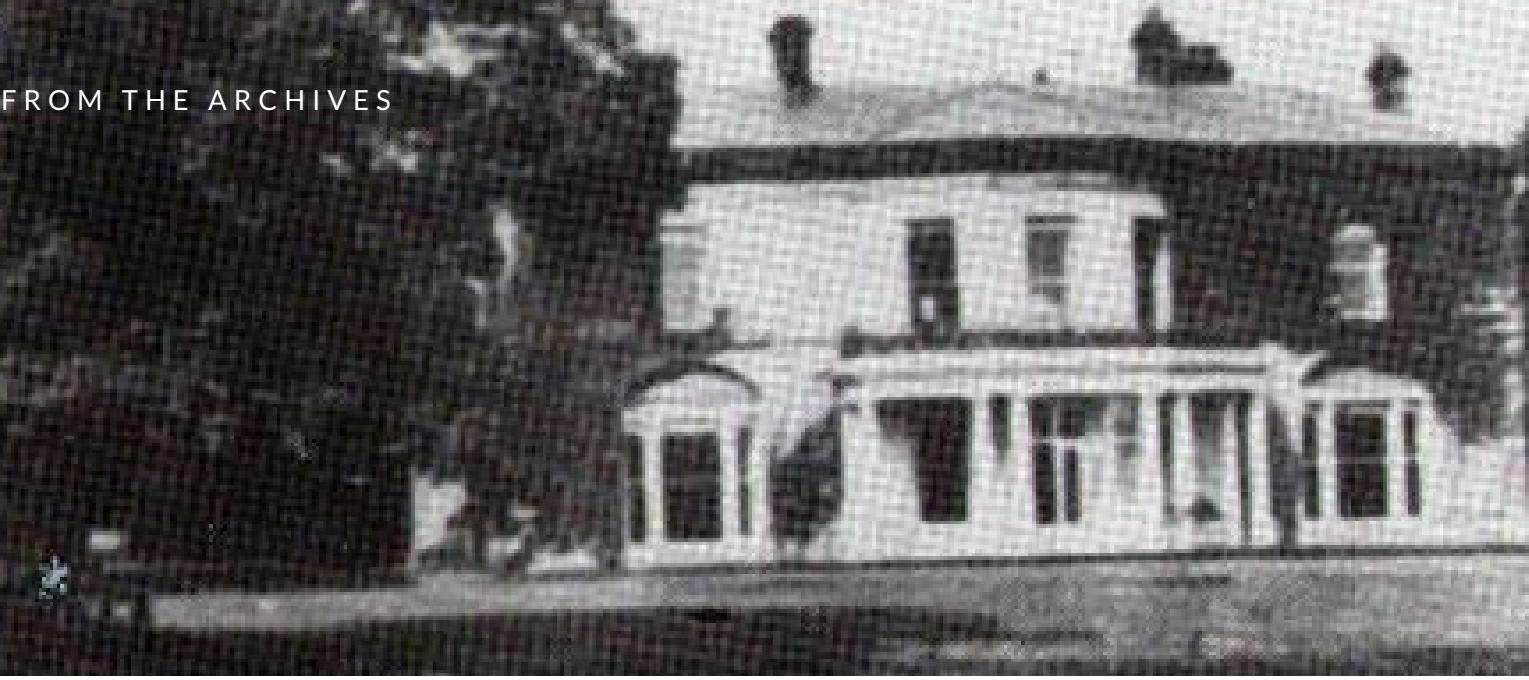
"Warmest regards
to anyone who I
worked with, or
taught, at LHS, and
- to those of you
now living leisurely
retired lives!"

We consider ourselves to be extremely privileged: neither an academic research career, nor a part-time teaching job bring us great material wealth, but we're absolutely delighted by our children and the experiences we've been able to offer them, and by the opportunities we've had to live in diverse places. We've had periods of homesickness, of course, but we've done so many fascinating, memorable things with so many wonderful people from all over the world - we simply wouldn't change a thing.

Warmest regards to anyone who I worked with, or taught, at LHS, and - to those of you now living leisurely retired lives - please consider this to be an open invitation to park your camper van or touring bike in our driveway!



SEND US YOUR MEMORIES FOR
OUR NEXT ISSUE
ALUMNI@LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK



THE FRANKELBERG'S

Once more, Sue Latham delves into the Archives of Lymm Oughtrington Grammar School, and provides us with an insight of life between 1938-1945.

In 1938 Oughtrington Hall was bought by a Mrs Frankelberg, whose husband's family owned the Greengate Rubber Company in Salford. She moved to Lymm from Macclesfield after her husband's death as she wished to move to a smaller property and her two sons, and daughter Ursula, moved with her. Ursula came to visit Lymm High School recently.

Ursula was away at school for most of the time and her brothers were away in the forces, but she still had many vivid memories of her time at the Hall. She remembered riding her pony, 'Monty', into the Hall and up the main staircase to the first landing when her pony then refused to go up or down! She also remembered riding down to Lymm Post Office and the horse followed her into the building. Apparently one day, the windows of the drawing room and library were left wide open and their goat came into the room and began to chew any papers that were left behind.

The family kept pigs and chickens, who were mostly looked after by any of the three people who they employed, and Ursula spent a great deal of time in the stables and to celebrate the end of the war in 1945 she was given the honour of restarting the clock in the tower.

At first the family had their bedrooms on the first floor of the hall, overlooking the grounds, and her brother's large room also doubled up as his laboratory. Unfortunately, one day an experiment went wrong, and caused a minor explosion and fire.

However, early on in the war Mrs Frankelberg offered the use of the hall to the Greengate's Childrens' hospital in Salford. Forty six children and teachers, and several care staff arrived and the large bedrooms on the first floor were given over to them. Unfortunately, many of the children were handicapped in some way – many had Ricketts – and the task of getting them down to the cellars when the air-raid siren went, proved to be difficult.

There was one occasion when an anti-aircraft shell dropped close to the hall, and many windows were broken, but as everyone was in the cellars, no-one was hurt.

Mrs Frankelberg then paid to have lighting and plumbing put in the cellars under the hall and from then on, all of them – children and family – slept in the cellars. Ursula remembers where the children slept, where the family slept, and where the bathrooms were.

Most of the children were five or six and on reaching seven moved elsewhere. At the end of the war Mrs Frankelberg was anxious to leave and move south, and so in 1945 she sold the Hall, outbuildings and grounds to Cheshire County Council for use as the Lower School of Lymm Grammar School.

by Sue Latham

(Most of the information in this piece came from a visit made by Mrs Ursula Kennedy, nee Frankelberg, to Oughtrington Hall in June 2011.

She had never been back to Cheshire and commented on how much she had enjoyed her visit and that "it was good to see that the original fabric of the building had not been vandalised by municipal ownership)

FAISAL RASHID MP VISITS LHS



"...I was very impressed with how knowledgeable the students were, and how engaged they are in politics and current affairs."

Students were delighted to take part in a Q&A session with MP Faisal Rashid who talked about his route to becoming an MP.

Lymm High School students were offered a fascinating perspective into life as a politician during a question-and-answer session with Faisal Rashid, MP for Warrington South.

Mr Rashid was welcomed to the school by Headteacher Gwyn Williams before speaking to students about his recent experiences as a new MP. Students packed into a room to hear Mr Rashid, as he explained how he entered into a career in politics and talked about the current challenges being faced in his constituency.

During his visit Mr Rashid faced a series of well-thought out questions from Lymm students on a range of issues, including the abolition of University fees and lowering the voting age to 16.

Students also gained an insight into the work of an MP as Mr Rashid gave a detailed account of his average working week, and encouraged students to consider getting involved in politics.

Commenting on his visit afterwards, he said: "It was a pleasure to visit Lymm High School last week. I was very impressed with how knowledgeable the students were, and how engaged they are in politics and current affairs. I am incredibly proud of the students in Warrington South, and I look forward to catching up with them again."

Mr Williams, Headteacher, said "We were delighted that Faisal Rashid took the time out of his busy schedule to come and talk to our students about politics, education, current affairs and their wider implications. There was a stimulating Q&A session and I am sure our students will have gained from these experiences."

PITCH IN!

“Pitch In!” urge Lymm High School Pupils launching new 3G pitch campaign.

Our scheme for a 3G pitch and floodlighting at Lymm High School, which would be used by all of our students and the wider community, has been launched and we need your help!

The state-of-the-art pitch, which allows sport to be played in all weather conditions on a surface that feels very much like real grass, would be a joint venture between Lymm High School and the Football Association, Football Foundation and Cheshire FA.

We are looking to make an application to the Premier League/Football Association fund next year and have embarked on a major fundraising campaign.

As a school, we are hoping local people will show their support for a community 3G football pitch by helping to raise at least £100,000 to help support the bid.

Obviously, this is a very ambitious target - but this is an ambitious project and we believe that our students deserve the very best.

As well as seeking support from local businesses and other sporting organisations, we are looking to enlist the help of parents, alumni and young people of the school and the local area.

Fundraising to improve the student changing facilities also took place last year, with generous donations made by many of you to the school development fund.

We now intend to combine the funds raised for the two projects, ensuring that the changing room refurbishment meets the FA's regulations for changing facilities – something that is necessary for a successful bid for the 3G pitch.

This is a fabulous opportunity for the school – and one that may not come around again for many years. Having such a facility on site would benefit every single student, being used for PE lessons in all year groups and a wide range of extracurricular sport.

It will also be a fantastic asset for the whole community, who will be able to use it in the evenings and at weekends.

So far, students and staff have shown great enthusiasm for the campaign, with a number of planned events and activities held to try and raise funds towards the new pitch.

Five Lymm High School teachers challenged themselves to climb Mount Snowdon and raised more than £1,000 for the campaign and hundreds of students turned out in Santa Hats for a sponsored Santa Dash which raised more than £21,000

Sport is a key part of every child's education and development and together we can make a truly deep and lasting impact on the school if successful with this bid. We're all very excited to see so much enthusiasm for the project so far and look forward to seeing the plans become a reality.

For more information or to donate, please visit www.lymmhigh.org.uk

PITCH IN! LYMM HIGH SCHOOL





OFFERS FROM OXBRIDGE

Smiles all round - meet our Lymm High School Sixth Form Oxbridge offer holders so far!

Two talented pupils from Lymm High School have been offered the life-changing opportunity to study at Oxford and Cambridge universities.

William Catlow has received an offer to study Law and student Hannah Leighton-Jones has received an offer to study Geography.

Focus and determination have paid off for the pair, who are stepping up their revision to secure conditional offers from the world-renowned institutions.

Congratulations to them both! We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming examinations.



LYMM ROVERS PITCH IN!

Premier League referee, Anthony Taylor, and Liverpool and England player Ellie Fletcher visited Lymm High School yesterday to witness a cheque for £10,000 being handed over to support "Pitch In!", the school's bid to build a brand new 3G pitch.

The money was being donated by Lymm Rovers Junior Football Club and the two celebrities were joined by students from Statham Primary School as well as Lymm High's own students, all of whom also play for Lymm Rovers.

Gavin Laidlaw, chairman of Lymm Rovers said: "Lymm Rovers have worked as a partner with Lymm High School for many years now, continuing to grow as a club and continuing to provide a safe and fun environment to allow children and adults to learn how to play the game."

"We share the school's ambition to have first class facilities in place for the students and wider community. It gives us great pleasure to donate £10,000 to the Pitch In! campaign with money that we have set aside for exactly this sort of opportunity."

Gwyn Williams, Headteacher said: "We are very grateful for the money, which provides a significant boost in our campaign to raise £100,000 this year.

Having Ellie and Anthony here today, alongside children from Statham Primary and representatives from Lymm Rovers, underlines the fact that this is a bid for a facility to support the whole community.

I know Anthony is desperate to see more pitches built locally in order to support training of referees and it would also allow us to offer significantly more pitch time in the evenings and weekends to local groups. It's a very exciting project."

Ellie Fletcher, who has been capped three times for England this season, said: "Having a 3G pitch in the area would be fantastic for local clubs.

"There's growing evidence that girls in particular love playing on these surfaces and having one in Lymm would provide a massive boost for girls football. I'm delighted to be able to support this campaign."



THE RYMAN CHALLENGE

The Ryman National Enterprise Challenge is the UK's largest school's enterprise competition and on Friday 16th February, our Year 9 students were fortunate enough to take part.

From selecting a project manager, to designing a product and creating a marketing campaign, our Year 9 students acted both maturely and professionally; listening intently to the brief, and showing real enthusiasm and energy throughout the challenge. Their ideas were both creative and innovative, with the teams designing products from pocket printers, to projectable pens!

The Higher Horizons team then had to embark on the difficult task of whittling the fifty teams down to eight finalists who would present their idea to the whole year group, all with the hope of making the final three teams going through to the regional finals in Chester!

The judging panel consisting of Mr Eyres, Mrs Feast and Mr Simon Price had a very difficult decision to make. However, taking into consideration the pitch itself, the product and advertising, the judges declared the names of the three winning teams; Bee School Ready, Too Cool for School and Start Your Year the Ryman Way!

On Monday 12th March these teams represented Lymm High School in the regional finals at Chester Racecourse. All students represented the school brilliantly and we are pleased to announce that team 'Start your year the Ryman Way!' finished in third place!

They will now go on to the national final competition in July. We wish them the best of luck.

BEING BRILLIANT

Fifteen Y8 students have successfully completed the initial 'Brilliant Schools Brighter Futures' training as part of the 'Future in Mind' Project 2017/18.

The training has been taking place across Warrington schools with the objective of equipping young people with the knowledge and skills that enable them to take charge of their own wellbeing. The aim is to share some of the 'secrets' of Positive Psychology, focusing on learning new habits of thinking and behaviour that will sustain personal 'brilliance'.

Our 'brilliant' Ambassadors are now busy designing their own wellbeing programme that they will deliver across their school and community.

The project runs throughout the school year embedding the initiatives and will culminate with an attempt to break the World Record for 'random acts of kindness in a day' for participating Warrington Schools - teenagers making headline news for the right reasons!

Utilising cutting edge research, the 'Brilliant Schools Brighter Futures' is based on 12 years of PhD study into happiness, wellbeing and flourishing lives. The initiative covers wellbeing, happiness, positive psychology, resilience, personal responsibility, mindfulness, growth mind-sets, goal setting, strengths, altruism and emotional intelligence designed to be engaging, thought-provoking, inspiring and fun.

If you would like any further information, the best-selling book 'Brilliant Teenager' is available.





YOUTH HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Contributing to the huge and continued success of last year's Youth Health Champions, the current Year 9 group have held their first campaign planning session. The group, who were selected by the current Year 10 team will be focussing on promoting physical activity school wide.

The team conducted extensive research surrounding physical activity and were able to find direct links to improved mental health and wellbeing. They are extremely motivated and feel passionate about trying to engage all students, prompting them to be mindful of their physical and mental health.

As a side project, the team are working on developing their visual presence within the school community. Badges and new ties are among the discussion points. Watch this space...

Meanwhile, the Year 10 Youth Health Champions were also informed this week that they have successfully achieved a Level 2 qualification accredited by the Royal Society for Public Health.

This dedicated group of students have delivered campaigns around school and have completed training to become peer mentors for health and wellbeing. This qualification demonstrates how hard the group have worked and we are very proud of their campaign and effort to raise awareness around mental health for our students.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Every year students and staff show their support for the BBC Children in Need campaign and, as always, this year they did it with great gusto!

Sixth Form students campaigned throughout the day, collecting donations in buckets for the appeal.

There was an amazing array of costumes from Minions and animals to comic book characters and movie icons, not to mention an extremely energetic inflatable dinosaur! Staff also joined in the fun, which included wearing spots and Pudsey bear clothing.

Last year Lymn High school was recognised by Children in Need as one of the top fundraisers for the appeal, receiving a Loyal Supporter badge for the loyal support offered to the charity.

Students managed to raise an impressive £1055.16 which is a fantastic achievement.



LES MISERABLES

Mesmerising and simply brilliant – Lymm High school students enthralled the audience of parents, friends and teachers with a stunning performance of Victor Hugo's epic tale.

Many tried, and failed, to hold back tears as the curtain fell on the school edition of the hit musical. The final sold-out performance ended in a standing ovation for the impressive sixty-four strong cast of students aged twelve to eighteen.

Performances from the cast were faultless; the key emotions of the story made all the more powerful by the sheer youth of the cast. Zac Green played the long suffering protagonist Jean Val Jean with intensity. Tom McFarland, in the role of young student Marius, was passionate, yet poised and convincing in his performance, playing superbly alongside his stage love, the perfectly pitched voice of Eve Shaw, in the role of Cosette.

Providing the emotional torment of unrequited love, Eponine, played by Ella Worsley and Suzie Underwood, both delivered heart rendering performances of 'On my own'. As did Fantine, played by Aphra Proudfoot and Tabitha Ashcroft whose emotional renditions of 'I dreamed a dream' brought the audience to tears. Sam Anderson's gripping performance of the ruthless policeman Javert created a powerful and sinister air to the tragic tale. And rousing the troops with passion was student Reece Connell as Gavroche.

Madame and Monsieur Thenardier, played by students Carla Samsa and Imogen Walsh, entered the stage evoking rapturous laughter with their larger than life characters.

The couple expertly embraced the roles with a bit of cheek, allowing the audience a moment of humour before returning to the bleaker yet poignant moments within the story.

The chorus was superb and sang with confidence and ease; from the rousing 'Do you hear the people sing?', and 'One day more', to the mood-changing and melancholic 'Drink with me'. The orchestra was well led by Head of Music, Mr Dominic Starkey, whose interpretations of the familiar, haunting, often spine-tingling and stirring pieces merely enhanced the sheer drama of the show.

Mrs Richards said that the show was a hit with the audience, who spoke about how much they enjoyed it. "It's been a hard slog and six months of intensive rehearsals but I couldn't be prouder of the cast, crew and musicians. The performances by our talented students have been outstanding and we have had lots of wonderful feedback from audience members who were extremely impressed."

Gwyn Williams, Headteacher, added: "I have been amazed by the talent in our school at taking on such a complex production. The staff and pupils, have produced a brilliant show that would be fit for the West End!"

This has been a great team effort, with over 100 pupils and staff involved, and will be a production to remember." Following this success Lymm awaits announcements for the next show to, once again, showcase all the talent the school has to offer.





THESE BRIDGES

Following the hugely successful production of "The Snow Dragons," last year, Lymm High School students recently performed this year's ambitious National Connections play, "These Bridges" by Phoebe Éclair-Powell.

"These Bridges" follows four sets of teenagers who, when the Thames bursts its banks, submerges London and the north and the south of the city become separated, ignore the risks of the treacherous crossing to find out whether life on the other side is all it's cracked up to be.

The cast took on the challenge brilliantly, becoming the sea of drowned commuters and brave teenagers with confidence, not only having to remember their lines, but also the constant movement, lifts and manoeuvring the number of milk crates around the stage! The feedback we received from our audiences was fantastic, recognising the incredible focus and commitment of each and every performer.

Students will now take 'These Bridges' to The Crucible Theatre in Sheffield on the 22nd March, which we are very excited about.

Students will have the opportunity to work with professional theatre teams and the cast will perform in the professional theatre, which is the pinnacle of the Connections Festival itself. We wish them the best of luck!

KS3 ART EXHIBITION

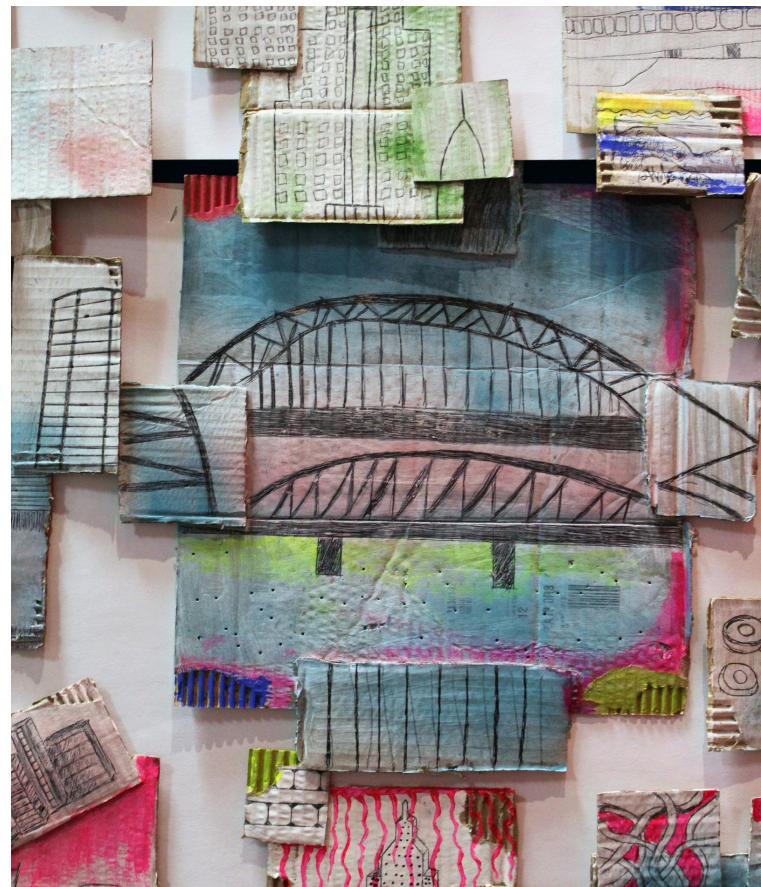
On Wednesday 31st January, the art department held their annual KS3 art exhibition.

The exhibition showcased all of Year 7, 8 and 9 student's recent art pieces. Year 7 have recently been working on the theme of Day of the Dead, Year 8 have been studying portraiture and Year 9 have been learning about architecture.

Parents, staff, students and members of the local community gathered in the main hall to celebrate the student's artistic achievements.

All the students' work looked fantastic and many commented on the high standard of art that had been produced.

We are extremely proud of the student's successes and had a lovely evening celebrating their achievements.



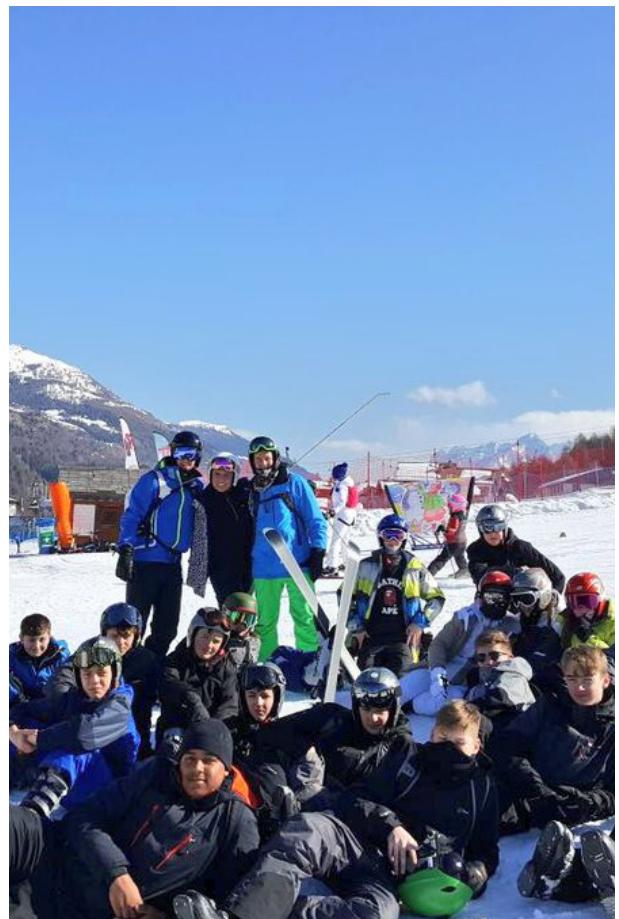
APRICA SKI TRIP

During February half term twenty students spent a week skiing in the fantastic Italian resort of Aprica, a small town situated between Lake Como and the Dolomites in the Northern Italian Alps. Students spent five hours each day skiing in the glorious Italian sunshine after a 27-hour coach journey, via Sandbach School.

To begin with, students skied together whilst being assessed to see who would be placed in the advanced, intermediate or beginner groups. Despite fog creeping in over the mountain at times, amazingly students persisted in learning a very challenging new skill even when tiredness started to creep in.

Away from the snowy Alpine mountains, students were able to sample the local Italian cuisine and culture as well as karaoke, which led to some very bad singing! During their stay, our students also headed down to the arcade for a pool tournament which included all students and teachers in pairs. There were plenty of shocks and surprises throughout but students James Anderson and Tom Roberts emerged victorious, beating Mr Mason and Mr Hardman in the cup final. Miss Moreno and Mr Hayes also won their plate final.

Each evening students had a range of après ski activities to take part in which included, snow ball fights, bowling, swimming and a disco! All of the students were a credit to the school, themselves and their families with many locals in the town commenting on their behaviour and maturity.



SPANISH EXCHANGE

Sixteen students and two teachers embarked on an exchange programme with our partner school in Malaga, Instituto El Palo. Students arrived in Malaga after an early flight from Manchester Airport, anxiously awaiting the arrival of our exchange partners at their school. All nerves were quickly forgotten as they were incredibly welcoming and went out of their way to make our students feel at home. The following day students visited la Alhambra - the palace and fortress of the Moorish monarchs of Granada - with their fellow exchangees where they learned about its historical significance and influence that it had during the time period.

Over the weekend, students bonded further with their newly found friends, enjoying each others cultural differences and playing games on the beach. Our LHS cohort also participated in lessons at Instituto El Palo, interested to see the similarities and differences between the way they are taught.

On the final full day, students visited the picturesque town of Frigiliana which consists of white buildings and narrow roads arranged in a methodical pattern before visiting the caves in Nerja; a five kilometre stretch of caves that were discovered by pure coincidence. Our new exchange friends will now join us in England in March.

BERLIN

Our 4th annual trip to the German capital, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in German culture and history!

A historical walking tour of Berlin gave our cohort a fun opportunity to explore this vibrant city. The tour involved visiting some of the most visited attractions in Berlin including the Brandenburg Gate, Museum Island, the Jewish Memorial and Hitler's bunker.

All of these sites link to our History GCSE studies where students investigate the Weimar Republic and then the Rise of the Nazis followed by the Cold War including the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Other cultural and historical highlights of the trip included poignant visits to the Reichstag to see the centre of German democracy, a rather sombre visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Story of Berlin Museum and the Topography of Terror Museum that is built in the grounds of where the Gestapo Headquarters used to be.



NEW YORK

Years 12 and 13 went on a history trip to New York and Washington over October half term, which supported their studies of 'In Search of the American Dream: 1917- 1996', which is a breadth study of American history including politics, the economy, culture and standard of living. The trip included plenty of sightseeing in both New York and Washington.

Students went up the Empire State Building, visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island (the centre of immigration to America), St Patrick's Cathedral, the New York Public Library and the Rockefeller Centre. Students also took their time to appreciate the tragedy of 9/11 by reflecting at the memorial and pieced together what happened that fateful day in the museum.

After three days in New York, students took a change of pace and visited America's capital Washington D.C. They enjoyed a guided walking tour of Washington visiting The Library of Congress, the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington Cemetery.



U18 CHESHIRE CUP CHAMPIONS

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL LIFTED THE CHESHIRE SCHOOLS U18 CUP LAST SATURDAY AFTER A THRILLING GAME AGAINST WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In an early Christmas present for our school, the 1st XV rugby team became champions for the second year running.

With the snow falling, Lymm took on the opposing Wirral team at the AJ Bell stadium, as curtain raiser to the Sale Sharks European fixture against the Cardiff Blues.

Lymm had already been beaten by Wirral 34-20 in the National Vase a month earlier but after coming off that pitch feeling disappointed and with something to prove, Lymm had trained hard and prepared well for the upcoming fixture.

From the kick off, we set the pace, keeping the ball in play as much as possible. After a few early mistakes and potential scoring situations blown, the chance that we were looking for opened up. Captain James Sherlock managed to get on the outside of his tackler and offload the ball to Josh Hadland.



With support coming and only the full back to beat, Josh dummied and scored near the post, making the conversion for Alex Galloway easy.

Lymm went on to dominate the first half of the game but couldn't quite find a way to score the next try. Whilst Lymm were attacking well, they were making mistakes at critical times and missing opportunities to build a score.

The only blemish to an almost perfect 1st half defensive display was a late penalty to allow Wirral to take three points and go into the half 7-3 down and gain a little momentum. After a half time regroup, we knew that Wirral's next 10 minutes were going to be their strongest and we weren't wrong.

"This kick was a lot easier than the first, a kick he could probably do with his eyes closed, but with the memory of the last kick and less than two minutes on the clock, the pressure was huge: this would win the cup once again for Lymm."

If Lymm had all the ball in the first half, Wirral had all the ball in the second. The pressure started to mount. Wirral started to find some leaks in Lymm's strong, water tight defence of the first half.

Scrambling defence, last gasp tackles and simply working hard kept the Wirral side away from the Lymm try line. However, despite their hard work, our boys couldn't keep the opposing team's kicker from attempting out of range penalties, of which he managed to kick three, taking the score to 7-9.

With only 10 minutes left to play, Lymm started to get some ball as they pressed for a score to take them back into the lead.

Much like in the first half, they started to dictate play again, making their way back into the Wirral half. Then the opportunity was there: a penalty in front of the posts but about 35 metres out! A chance, but not a given.

With Alex Galloway off the pitch, James Rooney stepped up to take the kick; however, the kick was pulled wide and Wirral breathed again. Lymm kept the ball, pushing for a score to win the game.

Despite a few last ditch tackles from Wirral, which kept Lymm away from the line, the pressure started to tell and they were caught off side in front of the posts.

James again stepped up. This kick was a lot easier than the first, a kick he could probably do with his eyes closed, but with the memory of the last kick and less than two minutes on the clock, the pressure was huge: this would win the cup once again for Lymm. James composed himself and, like all good kickers, forgot about the last attempt and took his time.

The kick was successful! Lymm took the lead with seconds left in the game. Wirral managed to get the ball back but with pressure coming from the Lymm defence, knocked it on. All that was left to do was win the scrum and kick the ball off the pitch.... and celebrate.





ALUMNI

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

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