

September 2018

## Welcome to Year 10

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back, I would like to say how proud I am of the students on their return to Lymm High School. They have all started the year with a very positive attitude to their learning and are embracing the GCSE courses they have chosen to study. I have received such wonderful feedback about so many of them, with lots of staff praising them for their effort and enthusiasm in lessons. At the start of such an important academic year I thought it would be helpful to outline the year ahead and provide some information on how the school and I will support your child through the first year of their GCSE courses.

The journey through Year 10 can be challenging; an increase in independent learning, exam structure, deadlines and new subjects that have not been covered in Key Stage 3. It can be a stressful and challenging year, but rest assured, as a pastoral team, we are vastly experienced in supporting young people through this journey. This year we have Mr J Whittle joining our Year 10 team as our Student Support Officer and he will be on hand to offer any guidance and support students need throughout the year.

As they start Year 10, it is crucial that pupils start investing greater time outside of the school day into their studies. With a number of courses now being assessed at the end of Year 11 rather than a modular approach, it is important that the pupils adopt a good revision routine as soon as possible. This will enable them to become more confident in their knowledge and understanding of the subjects they are studying and it is often Year 10 content which students find more difficult to revise in Year 11 if it hasn't been embedded properly this year. In support of this, in subjects across the board students will be receiving topic specific knowledge organisers which are an excellent tool to be used both in and out of the classroom and throughout the year staff will guide the students in how to use these effectively to support their revision.

Students and parents can also access Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs) on the school website under Curriculum; these provide valuable checklists for revision in all subjects, and once complete, allow students to identify those areas which need more attention. It is worth mentioning that the PLCs will be frequently reviewed in order to ensure that they reflect the most up to date content, so if there are any queries or uncertainties, please liaise with specific Faculty Leaders. Additionally, students will be using form time each morning to support their revision in subjects with a range of specific Maths and English activities which can help to consolidate prior learning, truly embedding key concepts. This initiative is aimed at maximising the opportunities students have to study and gain support from their teachers and peers.

As I am sure you are aware, letters sent out before the end of Year 9 outlined our plan to enter the year group for their GCSE English Literature exam which will take place in May 2019. Further

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information on this will be provided throughout the year and at our Information and Guidance evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6pm in the Main Hall. With students sitting their English Literature GCSE it is absolutely imperative that they are fully focused in this area and take advantage of the resources and revision sessions which will be provided for them.

It is also going to be vital that students maintain excellent attendance to ensure that they do not fall behind in their studies as absences may pose a greater challenge to them this year than in previous years. At Lymm High School, we strive for students to have attendance above 97%. Whilst we understand that illness is sometimes unavoidable, we urge parents to consider carefully whether their child can be sent into school. Often differing to the advice from primary schools, we are more than happy to have students in school if they are feeling slightly 'under the weather' and we can support them in Student Services if necessary. Sending them into school means they don't miss out on crucial lessons, which, especially in Year 10 and 11, can make the difference between a grade they want and one they don't. If a student's attendance drops to 90%, they will have missed approximately 95 hours of lessons by the end of the year – a frightening statistic when time is short in Year 10 and 11 anyway.

I'm sure there will be some occasions when you need to contact the school. The table below will hopefully help to identify the best person to contact.

Subject specific query/concern	Teacher or Head of Faculty for that subject
Student welfare query/concern	Mr Whittle (Year 10 Student Support Officer)
General progress query/concern	Form tutor
More serious/complex concerns	Mrs Feast (Head of Year)

Finally, I'd just like to draw your attention to some key dates for this year so that you can plan ahead.

Year 10 Information and Guidance evening (parents only)	20 <sup>th</sup> September (6pm, Main Hall)
6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening	8 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 10 English Literature mock exam 1	7 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 10 Parents Evening	14 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 10 English Literature mock exam 2	1 <sup>st</sup> April
GCSE English Literature exams (2 papers)	15 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> May (provisional dates)
Year 10 Mock Exams	17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> June
Mock Results Day	11 <sup>th</sup> July

I am really looking forward to supporting your child once again as their Head of Year. I am confident that they have the correct environment in order to thrive and achieve their full potential. It is, however,

vital that we don't underestimate the hard work needed to be successful and that we work together to support students along the way.

As previously noted, I will be hosting an Information and Guidance evening for Year 10 parents on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This will provide vital information on how best to support your child in Year 10. I look forward to seeing you all there. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further advice or information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs E Feast, Head of Year 10