

September 2018

## Welcome to Year 11

Dear Parent/Carer,

As many of you know, I am taking over as Head of Year for this, the most important year of your child's education to date. I'm very excited at the prospect of working with this fantastic group of young people. Having already looked at their grades from last year, I'm aware that they have the potential to achieve an incredible set of exam results next summer. I've been a Head of Year for over ten years and this will be the third year group I will have taken through Year 11. As Head of Sixth Form last year I'm fully aware of the support students need when applying to Sixth Form and this experience I hope will support students will all their post-16 choices and ensure they are prepared for their next steps.

Mrs R Hunter will be the Student Support Officer linked with Year 11 and I know her skills will be invaluable as the year progresses and the exams grow closer. I was so pleased to hear about the results that many students achieved in their GCSE English Literature exam in the summer and this will hopefully provide a fantastic springboard for them to achieve the best possible results in their other subjects too.

My focus for this year should be to support students in achieving the best possible academic outcomes. However, it's also important that I ensure that students are consistently adhering to the basic expectations of the school in terms of appearance, behaviour and punctuality. Please can I ask for your support in ensuring that students arrive at school ready to learn to enable all energies to be focussed on supporting the students with their studies. If you are unsure about the rules surrounding any aspect of school uniform or appearance, please contact Student Services or have a look at your child's planner.

With such a crucial year ahead of our Year 11s, the highest levels of attendance are of paramount importance. 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 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 80 hours of lessons by May half-term – a frightening statistic when time is short in Year 11 anyway.

Revision is important from the outset, and it is important that student's start it as early as they can. Simply recapping Year 10 content and creating revision notes now will save a significant amount of time later, during more stressful times, and will mean students have more chance of remembering the oldest content. We will provide recommendations in the run-up to mocks about revision time as well as revision techniques. That said, it is important to ensure students continue to do the things they

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enjoy and finding a balance will relieve stress and make revision and study far more efficient. Extra-curricular activities can help to maintain a healthy balance between work and relaxation. The importance of exercise, sleep and diet can also not be underestimated.

There is a great deal of information on the website that will help you to support your child with their studies and new information will be added over the course of the year. Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs) are on the website under Curriculum which outline exactly what knowledge students should have for each subject. We have also subscribed this year to a new online learning support tool called "GCSE Pod". Students will be shown this in the next week and information for parents will be presented at our forthcoming Information and Guidance evening.

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	Mrs Hunter (Year 11 Student Support Officer)
General progress query/concern	Form tutor
More serious/complex concerns	Mr Scott (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 11 Information and Guidance evening (parents only)	27 <sup>th</sup> September (6pm, Main Hall)
6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening	8 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 11 Parents Evening	22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Mock Exams	10 <sup>th</sup> December – 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Mock Results Day	21 <sup>st</sup> January
Mock Exams (core subjects)	4 <sup>th</sup> March – 8 <sup>th</sup> March
External exams begin	13 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 11 Leavers assembly and prom	27 <sup>th</sup> June (to be confirmed)

I look forward to supporting our Year 11 students this year and hopefully we can work together to ensure that when they open their exam results envelopes, there are smiles on their faces.

Yours faithfully,



Mr T Scott, Head of Year 11