

A full response from the Head teacher regarding the recent Parent Information Evening on Drugs can be found at the end of this newsletter.

WHOLE SCHOOL

The Warrington Youth Team: Drop In Appointments

As mentioned at the recent Parental Information Evening, Mark Burrows from The Warrington Youth Team will be in school every Tuesday for the next seven weeks offering 'drop in' meetings for parents.

This will be **19th and 26th March** and **2nd April** and after the Easter break **23rd, and 30th April** and **7th May**.

Please contact Mark if you would like to drop in. T: 01925 443920 M: 07980736168

E: mburrows4@warrington.gov.uk

Pitch In! Update

We are pleased to announce that Warrington Borough Council have approved the planning permission for our proposed 3G sports Pitch. The school will hear sometime in May whether the bid has been accepted by the FA and football foundation.

2017/18 Duke of Edinburgh award participants

There are still a small number of students who haven't uploaded their completed Assessor Reports to their eDofE account online so we can't give students their awards. Reports should be scanned and uploaded, not photographed (as they cannot be read so we are unable to sign them off). If any student needs [help](#) or doesn't know how to scan them in using the school printer, please see Mrs Hill in the school shop.

Please see the school website under Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh for a huge amount of guidance and support.

2018/19 Duke of Edinburgh award participants

Students should now be finishing at least some of their sections (Volunteering, Skill and Physical). Once they have finished the agreed time frame (as they set on their eDofE account), they must get their Assessor to complete the Assessor Report in their booklet. If they've lost it, they should see Mrs Hill (school shop) for a photocopy. Once complete their Assessor Report should be scanned (not photographed) and uploaded to their DofE account, and then the 'submit' button pressed so James can approve the section. Students should aim to get as many of their Assessor Reports onto eDofE as they can before the Expeditions. Any [difficulty](#) with scanning using the school printers, students should see Mrs Hill for help.

Please see the school website under Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh for a huge amount of guidance and support.

Spring Concert

The annual Spring Concerts are one of our flagship set of performances where you see our fantastic young musicians showcase their skill, musicianship and talent for the year. From strings to brass, woodwind to

vocals, join us for an enjoyable evening of music on Tuesday 26th March, 7pm in the Main Hall. Tickets cost £6 and are available to purchase from the school shop.

LHS May Ball

Don't miss the Lymm May Ball organised by Lymm High School PTA.

The May Ball is an evening of indulgence, filled with an exciting array of entertainment, sumptuous food, music and drink.

Held on **Saturday 18th May 2019** at the Hallmark Hotel, Warrington, this event promises to be the highlight of the spring school calendar.

Don't miss out on our early bird offer with tickets costing £40 per person until 4th April (then £45).

Includes: Arrival drink, three course menu, entertainment including DJ, auction, prize draw with more to be confirmed.

Tickets can be purchased via the school Parent Pay system or by emailing ptachair@lymmhigh.gov.uk

Once booked, you will be contacted for your lead table name and any dietary requirements.

(Tables of 10. Dress to impress - black tie optional)

Summer Bedding & Hanging Plant Sales

Once again we'd like to give parents the opportunity of ordering summer bedding plants and hanging baskets. Orders and payment need to be returned to school by **Friday 5th April 2019** and plants will be available for collection from the school allotment on **Friday 24th May 2019**.

All funds raised from the sale of these plants goes towards the support of projects in school. Click [here](#) to download the 2019 bedding plant & hanging basket list.

High Legh Garden Centre Vouchers

The High Legh Garden Centre voucher scheme is open again - offering school gardening clubs the chance to acquire a variety of useful items in exchange for vouchers earned with shopping bought at the centre.

One voucher is given for every £10 spent in the garden centre in a single transaction. If 250 vouchers are collected it means an amazing £100 voucher for the Gardening Club. Don't forget to ask for yours next time you shop. All vouchers should be handed in to student services.

School Shop Closure

The School Shop will close at **3pm** on **Monday 18th March** due to staff safeguarding training. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Cashless Catering

Please remember to top up your child's cashless catering accounts via Parent Pay to ensure your child is able to purchase food during their lunchbreak.

LOWER SCHOOL

Year 9: DofE Logging & Awards

James Hellmers will next be in school to support students with the eDofE logging and DofE Awards on: **Friday 22nd March all day.**

Some students who need to take care of actions on their account will be given specific appointments, if your child wants to ask a question or needs help, they should see James at break or lunch.

Students can take their completed Assessor Reports along to Mrs Hill in the School Shop at break or lunch for help with scanning them in – students should not upload photos of the Assessor Report as they cannot be read.

Bronze Silver & Gold 2018/19 Pre-Expedition Meeting

Advanced notice: Bronze 2018/19 participants will need to attend a pre-expedition meeting in the Main Hall **3:15 – 4:30pm on Wednesday 3rd April.**

This is a very important meeting as students will be organised into walking and tent groups, be advised about what to pack and be able to request items to borrow (e.g. rucksacks, waterproof coats/trousers, sleeping mats). Tents and stoves will be provided automatically to all participants. Please direct any queries beforehand to Mrs Hill (shill@lymmhigh.org.uk).

The same pre-expedition meeting for Silver and Gold 2018/19 participants will be on **Wednesday 8th May** in the Main Hall **3:15 – 4:15pm.**

UPPER SCHOOL

Year 10: DofE Logging & Awards

James Hellmers will next be in school to support students with the eDofE logging and DofE Awards on: **Friday 22nd March all day.**

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Students can take their completed Assessor Reports along to Mrs Hill in the School Shop at break or lunch for help with scanning them in – students should not upload photos of the Assessor Report as they cannot be read.

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GCSE Summer Timetable 2019

Click [here](#) to view our Final GCSE Summer Examination Timetable for 2019.

Year 11 Assessments

Year 11 students are now in the process of undertaking their Year 11 Assessments. To view a full timetable of these assessments, please click [here](#).

Year 11 Prom

Arrangements for this Year's Year 11 Prom can now be confirmed. The 2019 LHS Prom will take place on **Thursday 27th June** at The Courthouse (Knutsford). **6.30PM Arrival - 10pm Carriages**. Tickets cost £36. An initial £18 deposit will be requested in the coming weeks. More information will follow shortly via a letter to parents.

Year 11 Visual Art examinations

Visual Art examination dates for students currently undertaking a GCSE in a visual arts subject can be found below:

CLASS	DATE
Photography	
IIB	22.03.2019
	25.03.2019
IIC	26.03.2019
	29.03.2019
Art & Textiles	
	02.04.2019
	04.04.2019

Year 11: 50 Days to Amaze

As you are aware, we are now just short of seven school weeks away from the first GCSE examination, with only four weeks before the Easter break. We are very focused on ensuring the best possible GCSE examination preparation and outcomes for your child and are delighted that so many students have engaged with the revision opportunities being offered in school and in the '50 Days to Amaze' countdown. This [letter](#) is intended to give you an update as to what is currently happening in school for Year 11 along with some information about the run up to the final days of Year 11. You can also click [here](#) for an overview of all revision sessions that are currently running.

Berlin Trip

For all students travelling to Berlin in July with the German department, all students should now have paid £250. Please ensure that you have paid this amount ASAP to avoid any delays in bookings.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12: DofE Logging & Awards

James Hellmers will next be in school to support students with the eDofE logging and DofE Awards on: **Friday 22nd March** all day.

Some students who need to take care of actions on their account will be given specific appointments, if your child wants to ask a question or needs help, they should see James at break or lunch. Students can take their completed Assessor Reports along to Mrs Hill in the School Shop at break or lunch for help with scanning them in – students should not upload photos of the Assessor Report as they cannot be read.

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The same pre-expedition meeting for Silver and Gold 2018/19 participants will be on **Wednesday 8th May** in the Main Hall **3:15 – 4:15pm**.

Year 12: Work Experience

We have now launched Year 12 work experience. Students have had an assembly followed by a tutorial researching ideas and looking at our past database. A letter with further information can be found below along with a Placement and Medical Form. Please note: All paperwork must be returned by **Thursday 4th April 2019**.

[Work Experience Parent Letter](#)

[Work Experience Placement Form](#)

[Work Experience Medical Form](#)

Parent Information Evening on Drugs

Thank you to all those who attended the information evening. Over 170 parents and carers came to the event, which certainly seems to underline what an important issue this is in our community at the moment. If you haven't already seen it, further information (including the presentation delivered on the night) can be accessed via the [safeguarding section of our website](#). In response to specific questions left at the end of the evening, we will be uploading more information to the website within the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, a couple of parents asked for a little more information on how the school currently deals with drugs within school and I hope the following answers those questions.

The first thing to say here is that we are currently reviewing all of our policies and procedures in relation to drugs - as I said on the evening, we don't mind admitting that we are all somewhat playing 'catch up' in the face of a rapidly changing situation in society. We are doing a lot of work to look at best practice in other schools across the country and are in the process of developing a more comprehensive drugs policy, which parents will obviously be able to access when it is ready.

Secondly, it is very important to keep all of this in perspective and reassure parents and carers that the presence of drugs within school itself is still extremely rare. As an indication of this, since I joined the school

nearly four years ago we have only had four instances where drugs have been found in school - and all of these have been at the lower end of the scale in comparison to the issues faced by most schools. Our main concern in addressing this issue so openly has always been the patterns of behaviour that are developing in the evenings and at weekends rather than in school itself. Nevertheless, we want to be more vigilant than ever in terms of monitoring what is happening and our precise approach to all of this as we go forwards is being considered very carefully. As a minimum, preventative measures will include more frequent visits from trained sniffer dogs and more frequent random searches of selected students.

Beyond that, the key point is that we take the presence of drugs in school exceptionally seriously. In terms of punishments, students should be in no doubt that any involvement in drugs puts their place in the school at risk and permanent exclusion is a distinct possibility - and almost certain in cases of supply. At the very least, students can expect to be issued with lengthy fixed term exclusions and subject to various conditions of readmission - such as consenting to regular, random searches, participation in a drugs education/support programme and giving plausible undertakings not to repeat the same mistakes again.

The police would almost certainly be involved as well, though they will typically leave schools to deal with the issue unless it is especially serious; they (and we) generally do not want to criminalise young people unless it is absolutely necessary.

At the same time, most people will understand that every case has to be taken individually and there are always unique circumstances and various mitigating or aggravating factors. For example, we would take into account: the age of the student; their prior behaviour record; their honesty in owning up to any mistakes and their willingness (or otherwise) to share information that might help us to keep other students safe; the amount and type of drug involved; the extent to which they have initiated any activity as opposed to potentially being pressured into something; and, above all, the likelihood of them being involved in any future incident.

We also provide support for students and their families in cases where they have admitted to having problems with drug use; for example, our in-house counsellors and work with Warrington Youth Service. We can also signpost families to a range of external services.

In addition to the above, we do already provide education on drugs and alcohol as part of our Life programme. The starting point in terms of message here is that taking drugs is illegal and dangerous and should always be avoided but, particularly for older children, also looks at harm reduction strategies. As mentioned elsewhere, we are reviewing all of this at the moment and want to improve what we do. For example, we feel more can be done to educate young people about the medium and long-term risks to physical and mental health that come from taking drugs.

I hope the above provides the kind of information people were looking for when they left questions in the box at the end of the information evening. If it is particularly urgent, then please get in touch; otherwise, if you do have further questions, I would encourage you to attend the next parent forum on **Wednesday 1st May**, where I will be on hand to answer them.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams