



Lymm
High School

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Witchcraft and wizardry at LHS Pg. 4

Students enjoyed a special Harry Potter themed event.

Maths in Geneva Pg. 12

Year 12 students went to Switzerland to study the applications of maths in the real world.

NEWSLETTER

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BEST EVER MATHS CHALLENGE

Around 100 students in Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge.

Hundreds of thousands of pupils from across the UK sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Lymm High students did fantastically well, with eight receiving gold certificates, 24 silver and 41 bronze. To further this, UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) also run two follow-on challenges, which allow the top 8000 students to sit one of the very elite Mathematical Olympiads (around 500 students per year group). An amazing 11 Lymm High students

got onto the Kangaroo follow-on round, with Isobel Williams in Year 9 being the highest scorer of these – well done all! However, the biggest success comes from Zuza Konca, who got herself into the Year 10, Hamilton Olympiad, having scored 127 out of 135 (just 1 incorrect answer!). Zuza has been working towards the Olympiad outside of school and, with her narrowly missing out last year, this is a huge achievement. It has also led to

her being invited to UKMT events such as their summer school, which is an incredibly elite opportunity. Rachel Greenhalgh, UKMT Executive Director, said: “The Maths Challenges provide material to provoke students’ mathematical thinking and test their problem-solving skills in an accessible yet challenging way. Many congratulations to Lymm High School on their success; it is great to see achievement in maths recognised.”



A NEW REALITY

A letter to parents and carers from Mr Williams.

Well, these really are strange times, aren't they? Sitting at home in self-isolation, reading through all the stories in this edition of the newsletter has really underlined to me just how vibrant life at Lymm High School is. Even though school is closed, we wanted to share with you the kinds of things students have been getting up to over the past few weeks and I'm sure you'll agree when I say that there are some really impressive achievements in here and some very important projects. Very well done to everybody who features this time.

Of course, none of us know how long it will be before school re-opens and we have to assume it won't be for a while. We have all been trying very hard to adjust to this new reality and to ensure that students are provided with plenty of work to keep them occupied so that they can continue their education as far as possible.

After speaking to many parents and carers this week, subject leaders, heads of year and senior leaders have been reflecting on what kinds of things seem to have worked best. We are also considering

what is realistic for teachers to deliver, given that many of them have young children and elderly relatives to care for themselves and that not all have the same technology or reliability of Wi-Fi connections at home.

I must say that the feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive and I want to thank everybody once again for their understanding and support; this really has made things a lot easier for us and staff have hugely appreciated the large numbers of you who have been in touch to thank them.

We won't be setting any work for the next two weeks.

Although it might not seem like a 'holiday' in the usual sense, we still think it is important everyone tries to switch off from work and I'll be in touch again after that with a few more messages about home learning. In the meantime, I shall repeat what I said in my most recent update: please try not to worry too much if things haven't always run smoothly so far when your child has been trying to work at home. This situation was never going to be ideal and there will be times when things simply don't work.

We will continue setting various challenges for students – look out for these on Show My Homework and our social media accounts. If you haven't already seen it, make sure you take a look at the Taskmaster challenges being set by Mr Hayes and Mr Dobson. We have already had some very promising entries and parents are welcome to join in!

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and wish you all the very best for Easter and the next couple of weeks.

Kind regards

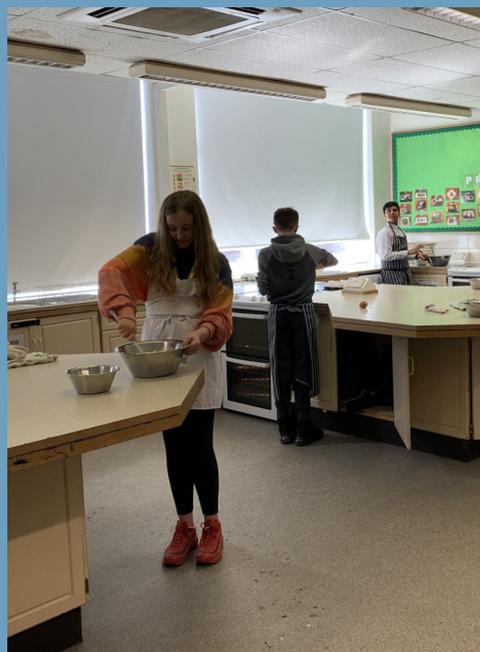
Gwyn Williams

Our social responsibility



We have been trying to practise what we preach in terms of the importance of social responsibility during the current lockdown. For example, we have donated safety goggles to medical practices and are in discussions about how our 3D printer might be used to produce protective face masks to protect those working in health and social care.

We will also remain open throughout the next two weeks for keyworker parents who really need childcare in order to get into work. Spare a thought for the few who have been in school over the last couple of weeks too. As you can see from the pictures, we have tried to keep them engaged whilst practising strict social distancing!



THE MAGIC OF HARRY



A little bit of Hogwarts magic transformed the ILC in February as students and staff celebrated all things Harry Potter to tie in with World Harry Potter Book Night.

Excitement grew in the run up to the event when students were encouraged to take part in one of three competitions. They were asked to design their own Patronus; to create and draw a Magic Potion; or to design a fifth Hogwarts House Crest.

All competition entries were awarded hall points

and students winning each competition were also given Amazon vouchers and Harry Potter themed prizes.

The school canteen offered a special Harry Potter themed menu on the day, including 'Weasley's Firework Pasta' and 'Cockroach Clusters' to tempt the taste buds!

HARRY POTTER

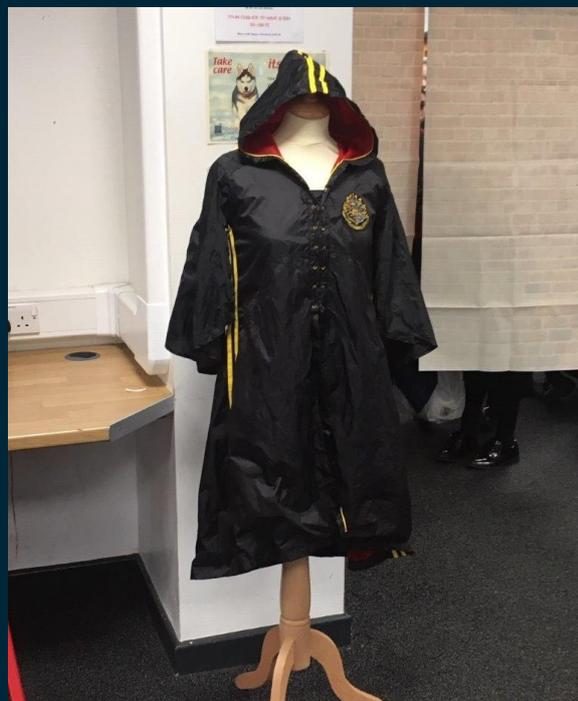
Just before lunch time the ILC computer suite was sealed off with a Platform 9¾ curtain wall backdrop. Students were fantastic as they queued patiently despite their excitement whilst they waited for the big reveal. They then flooded into the room, which had been decorated with posters and displays.

Over 100 students visited the event during lunch time to take part in the quizzes, competitions and colouring sheets. They also supported the hall charities by enjoying one of the delicious biscuits or cakes from the bring-and-buy bake sale which raised almost £40.

Before leaving the event, students were given the chance to have their photos taken in the Harry Potter photo booth – and of course reminded to read or re-read the books from J.K. Rowling's epic fantasy series!

The competition winners were Charlotte Liu (Hogwarts Hall Crest), Cameron Worsley (Magic Potion), and Mariela Pedroso Santamaria (Patronus).

Congratulations to everyone who took part for their amazing and creative entries.



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MAKE TIME TO LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES

Advice on how to cope and stay healthy while you're self-isolating.

Your emotional wellbeing is essential at challenging times such as these. It is really important that you look after yourself. This includes eating properly and drinking plenty of water when studying.

Exercising regularly (in line with advice about self-isolation and social distancing) is also vital. There are plenty of online videos that you can use to inspire you with activities to maintain fitness without leaving your home.

We know that there is so much at the moment that you can't control and that this must be a very frustrating time for you. But there are some really important things you can control and looking after yourself and your wellbeing needs to be at the top of that list!

We need to be aware of how pressured & stressful times can affect our emotional wellbeing and need to look after ourselves more at these times.

Here are our top tips:

- Do the things you love! Share them with other people and tell us what works for you.
- Make a routine, set personal goals.
- Increase your sense of control.
- Above all, stay positive. Be optimistic and accepting of the situation.

If you feel you are struggling, Kooth.com is able to provide support at this difficult time. Kooth provides online mental health and wellbeing support to young people via any internet accessible device. It provides an opportunity to interact in a supportive way with other young people as well as receive support from a qualified counsellor.

To find out more visit www.Kooth.com



DOING OUR BIT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

On Wednesday 18th March, a group of Eco Council Volunteers joined Richard Sawyer from local group Low Carbon Lymm for the start of the school's tree planting project.

Twenty pupils, undeterred by the inclement weather, grabbed their spades and spent 2 hours planting saplings along the edges of the football fields. The students did fantastically well, planting around 70 trees and even made time for a spot of litter picking too!

Thanks to the generosity of the Lymm group, who are donating the saplings, the Eco Council hopes to continue this project when school returns. As well as increasing the schools' hedgerows, we plan to create a tree nursery, which will include mixed shrubs and fruit trees. This means that the whole school community can benefit from this in years to come.



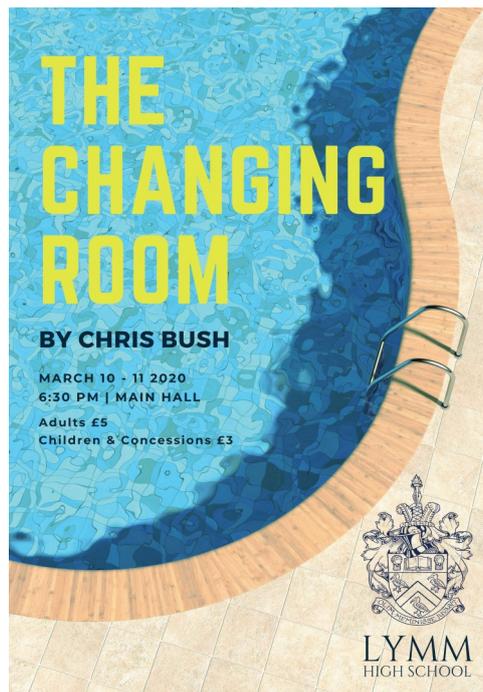
THE CHANGING ROOM

Our National Connections performance this year was a play with songs, set in a swimming pool, writes Mrs Richards.

Chris Bush's *The Changing Room* examines the trials and tribulations faced by teenagers as they grow up. Equally funny and thought-provoking, this challenging piece was tackled by an outstanding cast of 19 actors from Year 10 and Year 12 and was directed expertly by Zac Green in Year 13. The script was written for an ensemble and the cast and Zac worked extremely hard to create a high energy and poignant performance, which left many audience members reminiscing about their own teenage years. The songs, were beautiful and performed with stunning harmonies, which aided the story telling. Bedecked in a variety of swimming paraphernalia, including goggles, swimming hats and bright costumes, the cast transformed the main hall into a vibrant pool area complete with a piano-playing life guard!

One particularly important member of the audience was Matt Hassell, the National Connections Mentor Director, whose role is to provide

valuable feedback for the cast to work on prior to their performance at a professional theatre. He met with the cast and Zac to discuss the rehearsal process and asked how they had approached the script and what challenges they had faced. It was evident that he was hugely impressed



by the quality of the performances and he spoke highly of the collaborative spirit engendered by the cast: "When talking to the group after the show, the sense of camaraderie was infectious – they have clearly had a great time working together and on

this show in particular. The sense of ownership felt particularly striking, with the company reflecting on how with every rehearsal they feel closer as a company, and that this version of the show feels unique to them."

Matt also praised the quality of the performance and the direction: "The performers harness a truthful and authentic performance style in the monologue and dialogue scenes that works well with this material. They have found a connection with each character and this means the text sits well with the performers – they could be sharing their own experiences."

Unfortunately, the National Connections festival has been cancelled this year. However, we will be sending a video of the production to the National Theatre to be watched by a team of directors. We would like to thank all students for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication this year. We are now busy planning next year's projects!

TOILET TWINNING

The Geography Department raised funds to twin the girls' and boys' toilets in A block with toilets in Pakistan via the Charity Toilet Twinning.Org.

Approximately 2 billion people in the world do not have a toilet and every 2 minutes, a child under the age of five dies because of dirty water or poor sanitation. In poor communities around the world, many teenage girls drop out of school because of the lack of proper toilet facilities.

Women and girls are vulnerable to being bitten by snakes, or being attacked, when they go to the toilet in the bush. Hearing about this situation, some students in Year 7 decided to try and do something to help.

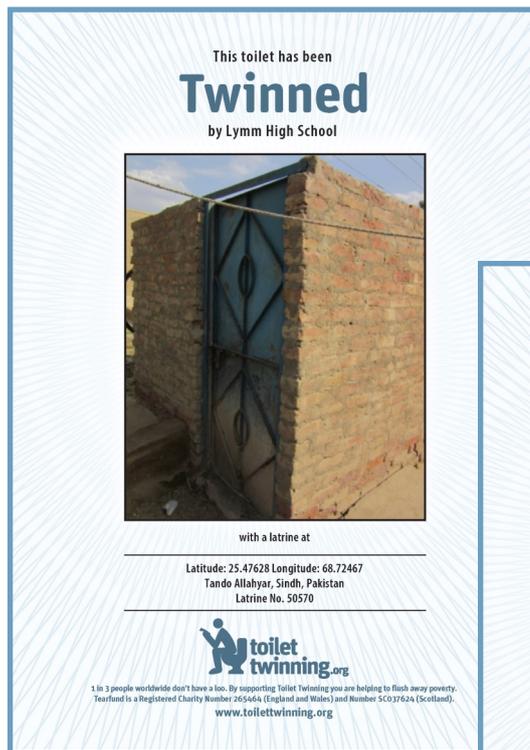
A group of students from 7TL and 7WL with the help of Mrs Rigby and Sixth former Laura Entwistle, got together and arranged to sell candy canes during the school

lunch hour in the penultimate week of term in December. As a result, pupils raised £126 and were able to donate the monies to the toilet twinning charity. The school has now received

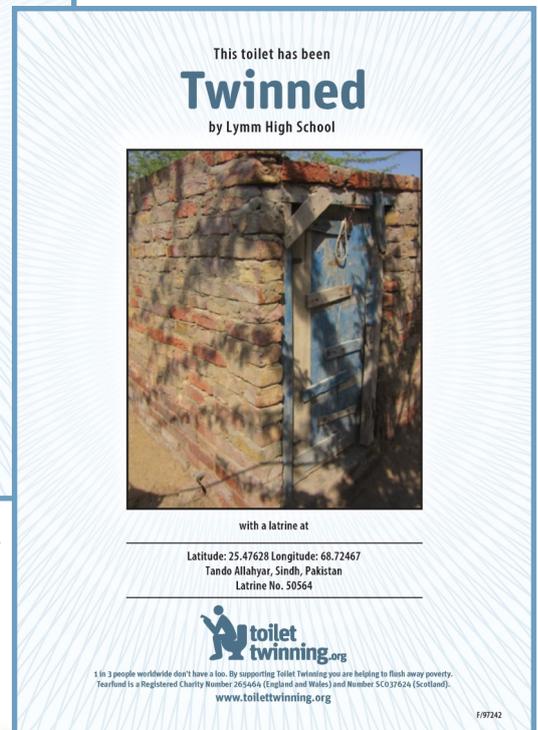
Pakistan and twinned with the A Block toilets in Lymm High School.

“The community of Tando Allayar are healthier and safer thanks to the efforts of these Lymm High students”, said Mrs Rigby.

“Well done Year 7 for such positive social responsibility.”



two framed certificates with photographs of the latrines that have been constructed in Tando Allahyar, Sindh,



Why toilets matter

Without proper toilets and clean water, people are trapped in a vicious cycle:

- They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases
- Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food
- Children often miss school, because they are sick or because they're busy collecting water
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt

Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about handwashing and other hygiene principles.

Dignity is restored when the whole family can use a private, hygienic toilet at their home and no longer have to squat in the bush.

More information can be found at <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>



CLIMBING HIGH

A group of Year 11 PE Students completed 3 days of indoor climbing at the Manchester Climbing Depot as part of their GCSE PE qualification.

Students benefited from expert tuition to improve their climbing performance and GCSE assessment score.

A number of skills and techniques were developed and students were then assessed at the end of the week on how they demonstrated

these in a competitive situation.

"I found the course very beneficial and enjoyable", said Ollie Daniels.

Mr Hampton said that all of the students worked extremely hard over the 3 days of climbing.

"The group behaved themselves impeccably and were a credit to the school", he said.



MATHS IN GENEVA

Year 12 A' Level Maths and Further Maths students went on a 3-day trip to Switzerland to discover more about the applications of maths in the real world.



The focus of the trip was a full day visit to CERN – The European Centre for Nuclear Research – and home of the Large Hadron Collider. CERN began in 1954 as a European collaboration between 11 member countries to promote the advancement of nuclear understanding.

At this time, it was known that the atom was composed of electrons and a nucleus containing neutrons and protons but there were still many unanswered questions about it. CERN was established to help answer

these and even bigger questions about the world around us. During our visit, the students discovered how CERN is still helping to answer some of the most fundamental questions: how did the Universe begin? What are the basic building blocks of matter?

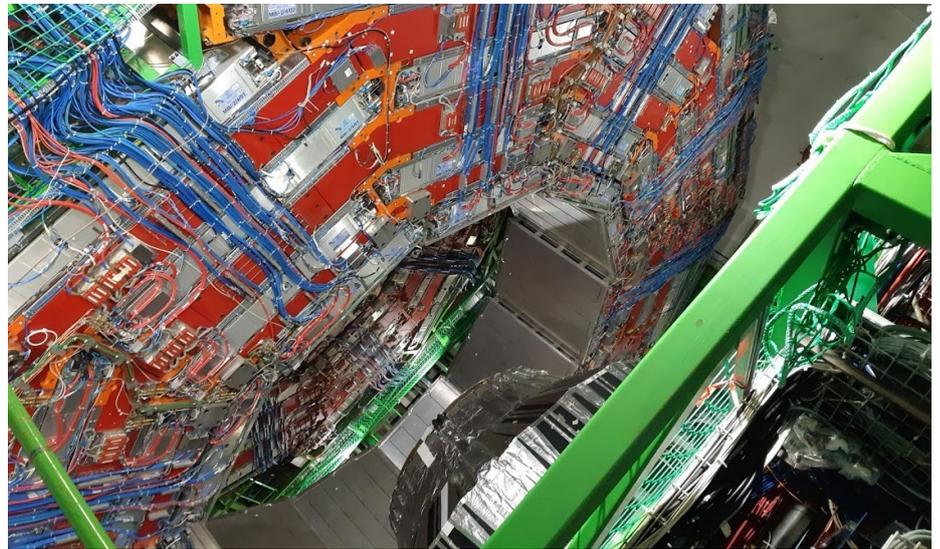
The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the latest in a number of particle accelerators designed to help us understand more about the world we live in. It is most renowned for the discovery of the Higgs boson particle,

which was discovered at CERN in 2012. Two of the scientists who led the project won the Nobel Prize for Physics the following year.

The LHC is the largest particle accelerator in the world and has a circumference of 27 km. It is located up to 170 m below the earth's surface and spans an area around Geneva extending into both the Swiss and French countryside. Its design, development and construction took over 20 years from an initial concept through to operation. Everything about the project

was ground breaking. It would require the largest electromagnets ever designed and would need a huge capacity for generating electricity in order to achieve the high energy levels required to produce the much needed proton collisions. This in turn would lead to extreme temperature differences in a very small volume and another challenge for the design engineers to overcome. During the visit the students gained an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges that were faced and overcome during the design and construction phases.

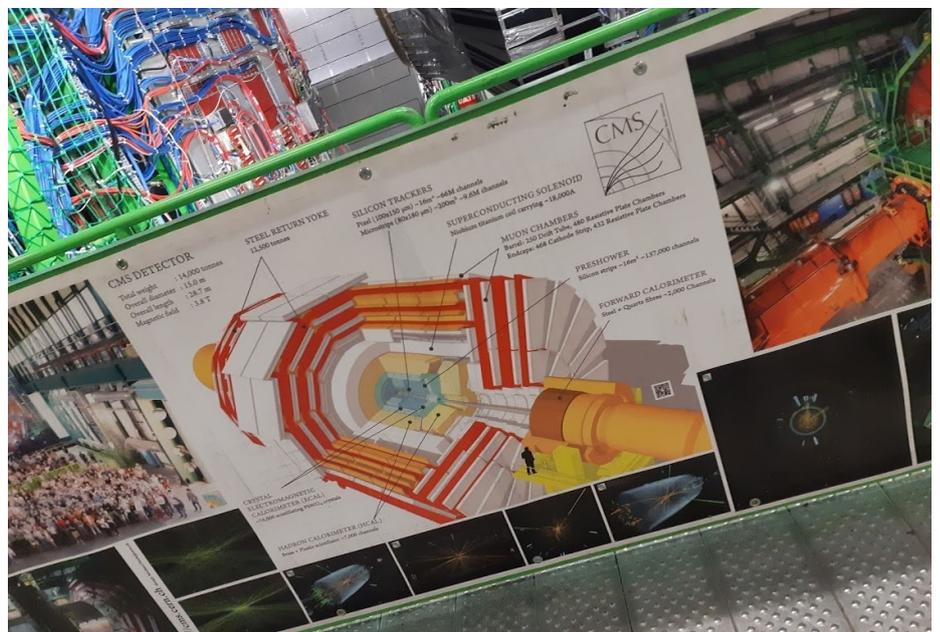
The LHC itself is only part of the operation at CERN. At various points around the circumference, detectors are placed each with their own distinct experimental purpose. We visited one of these detectors – CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid). It was actually at CMS that the Higgs boson particle was first detected. After learning about the design of the detector and how it functioned, we had the incredible experience of traveling over 100 m below the surface and seeing the detector first hand. This is only possible every 6 years when the Collider is not operational. We were expertly guided by Physicists



and Engineers whose day-to-day job is working on maintaining the detector or monitoring and interpreting the huge scale of the output data. We witnessed the complexity of the engineering and the scale of the high-tech equipment needed to observe some of the smallest particles in existence.

The scale of the science and technology at CERN is awe-inspiring and the resourcefulness and problem-solving skills of those involved in the

projects really challenges your thinking. Our visit left us feeling inspired and marvelling at the amazing things we don't still fully understand about the world. CERN was the undisputed highlight of our trip to Geneva. One of the students commented on our return: "CERN really opened my eyes to what engineering allows us to achieve and to see it on that scale in real life was amazing." It truly was an amazing place to visit.



SCHOOL NEWS

During our trip to Geneva, we also visited the Red Cross Museum and discovered the fundamental role of technology to help them deliver their key mission as "an impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose independently humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance". The museum hosts a number of permanent and temporary exhibitions that highlight the plight of individuals and communities throughout the world and over the 150-year history of the International Red Cross (IRC) and illustrate the role of the IRC as an information giver. One of the exhibitions was a collection of prisoner of war records from World War

II that could be accessed and reviewed. Much to our surprise one of the young men highlighted was originally from Lymm, which brought home the importance of the Red Cross role. The visit was both

fascinating and humbling and reminded each of us that human rights should not be taken for granted.

No trip to Switzerland would be complete without some chocolate tasting and we indulged with a trip to the Stettler Chocolate factory. We discovered the history of chocolate making and its association with Switzerland

and how advances in technology allowed chocolate to develop into the sweet treat that we love today.

We also took time to enjoy the beauty of Geneva. We viewed many sites of the city – The Palais de Nations, The broken Chair, The Jet d'Eau and Geneva Old town. We took in the



panoramic view of the lake and the City surrounded by the snow-capped peaks of the Alps.

Science and Maths aside, Geneva had a lot to offer and we had a very memorable trip. Mrs Ramsbottom, Mr Fitzgibbon and Mrs Dowdall feel incredibly lucky to have spent an educational and enjoyable 3 days with a great group of Sixth formers!

Geneva 2021 – Despite the current uncertainty with COVID-19, we are intending to run the trip again next year. If your child has signed up to study Maths or Physics at A' Level and you were unable to return the register of interest form, please email Mrs Dowdall (bdowdall@lymmhigh.org.uk) so that your child's name can be added to the list.



STEM

Year 8 Army STEM Workshop

The British Army require a huge variety of STEM professionals in order to operate successfully. From those who design specialist equipment and machinery; to the engineers who are needed in disaster areas and war zones to design and build the infrastructure so that rescue and relief efforts can continue undisturbed; to the engineers responsible for ensuring that all machinery and equipment is operating as it should, and to the medical officers who are needed at the front line. Most civilian STEM jobs have a military equivalent and their roles are crucial to the safety and safeguarding of both army personnel and to the communities they serve.

The theme of the Year 8 workshop was to demonstrate how scientific knowledge is applied by the army to help support its frontline services. The students were given three tasks to complete based around chemistry, biology and physics. Each task was design-based and students worked in teams.

One of the tasks was to design a new helmet. For this the students were given information about possible materials they could use and some guidance on what key features they could consider. For example, it needed to be lightweight but sturdy and would protect them both in warfare or humanitarian aid situations, potentially in earthquake zones or other adverse environments. Students engaged very well with the brief and we had some very interesting and novel suggestions put forward. The other tasks involved the design of a protective vest and designing a nutritional snack that could be given to people in emergencies and relief efforts.

Year 9 STEM Competition

The Year 9 STEM competition took place at Sellafield's Warrington offices, but sadly no photographs were permitted. A team of six students were tasked with building a bridge to allow radioactive waste to be carried across it for disposal. The students had to assume the roles of project managers, quantity surveyors, civil engineers and mechanical engineers in order to complete the task. Judging was based on how many trips they could get a remote-controlled car across their bridge and the maximum load their bridge could sustain before breaking. Though the students didn't win they had a really enjoyable day and were inspired to potentially pursue a career in STEM.

They also had a chance to hear from the CEO of Sellafield, which was quite exciting.

The workshop gave the students an insight into how science can be applied to very real problems and how relevant STEM is to the success of Army operations. This was the second year that we have held an Army STEM workshop in school and on both occasions, the students have found it a very positive, engaging and interesting experience. We sincerely thank the British Army for giving us the opportunity to get hands on with science and for supporting STEM activities at Lymm High School!





Leap into Spring Ball

When the decision was made to hold Lymm High's second PTA Ball on Saturday 29th February, it was primarily to avoid any clashes with the busy social schedule in May. In hindsight, the earlier date was a blessing in disguise with so many events being cancelled over the coming months due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Around 80 parents and friends of Lymm High School attended the Leap into Spring Ball at the Hallmark Hotel in Grappenhall. Guests were entertained by a

Lymm High Brass ensemble and a magician during the welcome fizz, and then treated to a sumptuous 3-course meal. A special Lymm High-themed Heads & Tails quiz kicked off the evening's fundraising, followed by a raffle and auction later in the evening. DJ Paul Slater then helped round off the evening with a mix of floor-fillers that encouraged dancing until the early hours. Prizes were donated by

individuals and companies in and around Lymm; and the raffle and auction raised well over £2000.

Commenting on the night, Mrs Ryles-Dean said: "It was great to see so many parents supporting this event. It was a lovely atmosphere, and the food, table decorations and music were all excellent."



Lymm High School PTA would like to thank everyone who kindly donated prizes, and all the attendees who helped to make the evening such a success.

FOOTBALL VICTORY

Mr Dore describes Year 8's thrilling Cheshire Cup Final.

Our Year 8 boys football team reached their County Cup Final in fine style with a 3-1 victory over Poynton High School.

Although falling behind to an early Poynton goal, Lymm soon settled into their familiar playing pattern and started to dictate play and create opportunities. Lymm dominated possession in the first half but went into half time a goal down.

Team talk was to remain patient and disciplined and to carry on playing the way we had in the first half.

The boys were playing some fantastic football on an ever increasingly sticky surface and

fully deserved their equaliser through Jack McGlinchey who was threatening the Poynton defence each time he received the ball.

Josh Maskall and Fin Yeomans were proving instrumental to all our attacking play and with their creativity it would prove only a matter of time before Lymm took the lead with Will Shahhet taking his chance to give Lymm a 2-1 advantage.

Lymm limited Poynton to rare attacks and half chances and on those occasions Charlie Holden and Leon Johns handled their impressive striker extremely well.

Goalkeeper Ben Buchanan saved well from a free kick and later made a brave save at

the feet of a Poynton attacker to keep our lead intact.

We continued to push for a game-clinching third goal, which duly arrived when Sam Clare chased the ball into the corner of the Poynton penalty area. He cleverly squared the ball to an on-rushing Josh Maskall who slotted the ball home with a little help from a deflection. 3-1 game done.

A superb team effort and thoroughly deserved victory. Thanks to all who came out to watch the boys: we had fantastic support and myself and the boys really appreciated it. Thanks also to Mr Hampton and Mr Mason for their continued support and advice during the game.





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YEAR 9 NETBALL SUCCESS

Lymm High put on a fantastic performance at the Year 9 Warrington schools netball tournament held at Cardinal Newman on 11th March.

The A team won the tournament and the B team (with one player short and two borrowed Year 7 players) came third. The A team (Francesca, Seren, Ellie, Laila, Abi, Neve and Ella) beat the following schools in their group: Cardinal Newman, Bridgewater High School and Great Sankey High School B.

They played our B team in the semi-final and beat them 10-1. The girls then went on to beat Great Sankey High School A team in the final 7-4.

“Congratulation girls on such a great team performance”, said Mrs Harrison.



INDOOR ATHLETICS WINNERS

On 9th March our Year 7 indoor athletics team competed in the county finals at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. The competition was really tough with some outstanding athletes from a number of schools across Cheshire

participating. Once again our Year 7s did us proud, especially on the track events where we won a number of races. Overall our girls team came 3rd and our boys team came 2nd, a fantastic achievement. What was even more impressive

was the manner in which the students competed. All of the athletes represented the school impeccably and showed great determination and sportsmanship throughout. As a result we won the ‘Spirit of the Games’ award for the entire competition.

Really well done to all involved. It’s a real shame our outdoor track and field season is not going to happen. We look forward to next year!



UPS AND DOWNS OF CHAMPIONSHIP SKIING

After competing in the English Alpine Championship, Year 9 Lymm High student Caitlin then had to battle a broken bone and a COVID-19 scare in Austria.

About 800 racers from all over Europe participated in the English Alpine Championships in Bormio, Italy. Caitlin displayed consistency and maturity coming 6th in the Giant Slalom and 11th on a terrifying Super-G run on the ice-injected men's World Cup downhill course. She came 3rd in the Under 14s Slalom out a field of 82, beating three girls who have all skied for GB this year. This is a terrific achievement for someone who was unranked just 2 months ago.

A month later, Caitlin was training at HochFugen, one of the resorts in the Zillertal Valley. She was based in a

small town called Wiesing, where she went to school. She also studied at her base with tutors.

Unfortunately, on the 10th March, she badly broke her thumb whilst training. Just 3 hours later, one of her coaches tested positive for Covid-19 after holidaying in St Anton, which was a huge hotspot for the virus. Caitlin then had to sit tight with her team for 2 days as the Austrian authorities tried to conceal the extent of the spread of the virus. For most of this time, Caitlin was stuck in a room on her own.



Finally, with the help of the Foreign Office the whole team were allowed to drive across Europe. After 18 hours of non-stop travel they arrived home on the 13th March at 2.30 am. The whole team were complimented on how well they handled the situation.

Caitlin then had to undergo a week in lockdown isolation. She did school work with her tutors by facetime and video link, although not being able to write has led to some challenges. She emerged from isolation last Friday, just as the school was closing. Caitlin is now in plaster. Rather than operating, doctors hope this will help her thumb heal properly.



CHESHIRE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS

The Cheshire Schools Cross Country Championships were held at Knights Grange in Winsford on Saturday 1st February in extremely blustery weather conditions.

Four Lymm High School students represented Warrington Schools: Jack Marwood, Tom Welsby, Eva Ferris and Jasmine Jones.

In the Minor Boys Race, Jack Marwood won the race, and was a comfortable winner

leading from start to finish.

And Tom Welsby finished in 16th place.

In the Intermediate Girls race, Eva Ferris finished in 7th place, and Jasmine Jones finished in 12th place.

Jack will now be automatically selected to represent Cheshire in a inter-county match.

The top 12 athletes in the inter-girls race are in contention to be selected to represent Cheshire in the English Schools Cross Country



NOTICES

LHS Gardening Club Bedding Plants

Unfortunately, we've decided to cancel the Bedding Plant Sales for this year. Apologies to anyone that had already returned the Bedding Plant Order Form.

Hopefully, we'll be able to provide hanging baskets and wreathes for the winter months.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Mrs Ridge who was this week's school lottery winner!

Buy your lottery ticket this term and you could WIN 12 monthly boxes of mixed organic fruit and vegetables, delivered direct to your door.

Food bank collection

The food bank collection from the last week before school closed had an amazing response from staff, students and their families.

Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Follow us on



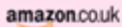
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