

Parent Update 20th April 2020

Dear students, parents and carers

I hope this finds you well and that you managed to find some time to switch off over the past couple of weeks. Please remember that, even though we are not physically in school, we still care a great deal about you and are very much here for you if you need anything.

As we all know, things keep changing almost day-by-day at the moment and I'm sure that will continue to be the case. Below are some important points by way of an update as things stand now:

- **Please do not hesitate to contact us** if you are worried about anything we might be able to help with. You can use Show My Homework or email to contact class teachers. Your Head of Year is probably the best place to start with anything else or if the issue is related to more than one subject. For students with SEND, then Mrs Bellers and her team are very much available and willing to help. If it is a safeguarding concern, then Mrs Ball should be the first person to contact.
- For **students in Year 10**, you will know that Mr Eyres has now left Lymm High School for pastures new. We are in the process of determining who your **new Head of Year** will be and expect to have arranged this within a couple of weeks. In the meantime, please contact Mrs Feast (Head of Year 11) if you need anything; she will be more than happy to help.
- We strongly recommend that students should **login onto their school email accounts** at least once a week to check for any messages from teachers. Sometimes responses to a message a student has written on SMHW may need to be provided via email, especially if an extended explanation or help is required. Instructions about how to access emails have been uploaded to SMHW for all students in Years 7–10.
- There has obviously been a lot of talk in the media this weekend about **schools possibly re-opening** in some form as early as mid-May. My own opinion is that such a date is hopelessly unrealistic for a whole host of reasons but we shall obviously be watching developments very carefully. The latest official information from the Department for Education is that schools will open only when “the scientific advice indicates it is the right time to do so”. In the meantime, we are working on the assumption that it will be quite some time before we are all back in school as normal.
- I have summarised our latest [expectations for home learning](#) for the next few weeks. Please take a moment to read it so that you know what to expect. We are, of course, still learning what works best and will keep adapting as we learn more.
- The appendix of the above document includes some [top tips for parents](#) when supporting home learning. You might also find this useful. I cannot keep emphasising or repeating enough that we understand things are very challenging in many households at the moment and that **students really must not worry if you cannot complete all the work** – just have a good go at what you can do. Likewise, nobody expects parents to be able to help much with completion of work at secondary level and **none of you should feel guilty about not being able to do more**.
- Ofqual have launched a [consultation](#) on the details of proposals for **exam grading this summer**. I have written a separate [letter](#) to parents and students in Year 11 and 13 about this; please read this carefully.

- Linked to the above, Ofqual have also written an [updated letter](#) to students which covers much of what I have included in my letter.
- The consultation suggests a change of mind on the part of government/Ofqual and that **Year 10 students** will now be able to receive a grade for **English Literature** this summer. We realise many of you will have lots of questions about this but we need a little more time to consider the implications first and will be in touch as soon as we can about the next steps for Lymm High School students.
- Miss Dixon has posted some more information for [Duke of Edinburgh Students](#); please read this if you are involved in DofE.
- Mrs Jennings is in the process of compiling work for **Year 11 students** planning on staying on for the Sixth Form and has [written a letter](#) with more about this.
- Mrs Jennings has also put together an [update on UCAS applications](#) for **Year 12 students** and one for [Year 13 students](#) that contains lots of useful activities that you can be getting on with to help prepare for university. It is especially important that Year 12 students start thinking about the UCAS process now.
- Please remember that our website contains lots of information on [safeguarding, health & well-being](#) that you might find useful. This includes information such as how to keep children safe online and links to websites and organisations that can help when we are struggling with anything while we are in lockdown, whether that be domestic violence, mental health issues or emotional well-being.
- If your employment or financial circumstances have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may now be eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)** and therefore eligible for the supermarket vouchers we are providing. If you are currently in receipt of any of [these benefits](#), you may be eligible for FSM. If this is the case, please see the 'Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding' section of the [school closure portal](#) for full details of how you can apply. If your child becomes eligible for FSM, they will also automatically become eligible for Pupil Premium when we return to school. This will enable them to gain access to extra support in lots of areas: for example, financial support for trips, uniform assistance, free breakfast in the canteen, revision guides and textbooks in Y11 as well as extra support in Maths and English.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams