

Headteacher's Update: 15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are all well. The key messages from me for the moment are as follows:

- Please [click here to see a video message](#), which includes me saying a little bit more about one or two of the key items in this update.
- We are making a significant change in our delivery of **online learning** next week for Key Stage Three students. Please make sure you have read [Mrs Brennan's letter](#) very carefully so that you know what is expected. There is also a [troubleshooting guide](#) for students.

Our aim is to deliver more and more 'live' online lessons from now on and next week is in many ways just a trial – there is no doubt that some lessons will not run as smoothly as others and we are asking for your understanding if/when this happens. This is a new way of working for all of us and any feedback will be welcome. If next week goes well, we will operate on a similar basis next half-term. Years 10 and 12 will be included in all this, but we are holding off with these year groups just now until we have a clearer picture of the situation regarding re-opening school for these year groups.

Please rest assured that we appreciate not all students have devices that enable them to access live lessons and we will continue to set work on Show My Homework. We will also be recording lessons so that students can access them later if they cannot join at the allotted time.

- Alongside this, we are working on changing our **rewards system** to adapt to current circumstances and we hope to roll something out soon after half term. We are very aware that lots of students are working really hard at home and we want to make sure we recognise and reward that properly.
- Similarly, we are hoping that most tutors will be able to deliver **tutor sessions** next week and they will be in touch individually about this. Again, please bear with us if these don't all go to plan!
- Hopefully all students have seen the online **assemblies** from the last two weeks – this is also something we intend to continue with. We are also holding our half termly **celebration assembly** this week and this will be posted on Wednesday. All assemblies are streamed via Microsoft Teams and students can access them via links on the announcement/notice board page of SMHW, email link and/or Microsoft Teams Taskmaster page. Whole school assemblies will be posted every Monday morning. Watch out also for video messages from heads of year, which will be posted on SMHW throughout the week.
- As we move towards more and more online lessons, we are more aware than ever of the limitations of technology and, in particular, the fact that not all students have unlimited access to suitable devices during the school day. I cannot promise anything at this stage, but am really hoping that we can be in touch soon with news of a **scheme to enable parents to buy laptops** at very reasonable

cost (with the option to spread the payments over a three-year period, meaning relatively small monthly payments). I say this now simply because, if you were thinking of buying a new laptop for this reason in the next couple of weeks, it might be worth you hanging on waiting to hear from us.

- Letters were sent out to Year 9 students about **options choices** last week. If you haven't received yours by next week, please contact Miss Dixon by email for confirmation of your child's choices. If after receiving your letter, you've contacted us about your child's options, please can all communication be via Miss Dixon (ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk). We ask for your patience with receiving a reply as there are a number of queries coming in at the moment. Thank you.
- Lymm High School has been selected as an Art World Records Ambassador, and we have been invited to be part of breaking the world record for the **largest online art lesson**! This will be an official **Guinness World Records** title attempt so if we are successful, we will be making history...from home! Additionally, the project is raising money to help fight COVID-19 which is no doubt front of mind for us all. Please [click here](#) for more details about how to sign up.
- A reminder that today is the deadline for letting us know if you wish to withdraw your **Year 10 child from English Literature** this summer. See my [letter](#) from last week on this.
- **Duke of Edinburgh**. Please see important information on our website under Enrichment/DofE regarding current DofE participants. If your child's activities have stopped because of COVID-19, they urgently need to change their activity on eDofE (deadline: 31st May). On our website you will find a helpsheet and various letters. Please ensure your child has done this so their award is not delayed. This is especially important for students on Bronze and Silver awards who may want to continue to the next level award in the near future.
- If you are struggling at the moment because your financial or employment status has changed in light of COVID-19, your child may now be eligible for **Free School Meals**. Whether or not your child becomes eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help a small number of families by providing food parcels at this time. Please contact Miss Dixon (ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk) if you need any support.
- Finally, I am extremely aware that many of you will have a lot of questions about the school potentially **re-opening for students in Years 10 and 12**. I've said a little more about this in my [video message today](#), but I'm afraid there isn't much I can add to my brief [letter](#) from earlier this week at this stage. We are awaiting further guidance from the DfE and it seems pointless to speculate any further before we have received that and had the chance to consider it.

As ever, please get in touch if you need anything from us. Otherwise, have a good weekend.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams