

Dear Sixth Form students, parents and carers

I sincerely hope this letter finds you all well.

Mrs Jennings and I remain hugely impressed at the mature attitude sixth form students have been showing throughout this quite challenging period. You really have been remarkable and I take my hat off to you all. I also want you to know that we are working really hard in school to make sure that we do everything we possibly can to support you over the next few months in, what we all know, are hardly ideal circumstances.

Online lessons (Year 12)

We will be making a drastic improvement in terms of the number of online lessons you will have access to after half-term. From Monday 1st June, most subjects will have live, online lessons four times a week for each subject – i.e. 100% of your normal timetable in school. For timetabling reasons, they might not all be with your usual teacher, but they will be with subject specialists. We are also looking at what more can be done to support those of you studying more practical subjects. Please bear with teachers if things don't always run smoothly – this is all very new to some of them! However, the experience of launching online lessons with KS3 students this week has shown that any problems tend to get ironed out really quickly.

Possible wider opening of schools

Many of you will be aware that the government has told schools to be prepared to open for “some face-to-face time” with students in Year 10 and 12 before the end of the year. I had hoped to be able to give you some more details by now but I am afraid that still isn't the case. We have been working exceptionally hard over the last two weeks to prepare for various scenarios depending upon what the detailed government advice turns out to be but, at the time of writing, this guidance hasn't arrived. In any case, we know that the government is going to be reviewing the latest science on 28th May before making a decision on whether or not its five tests have been met and schools can re-open to more students.

I am fighting my instincts to provide you with more detail about possible options for re-opening, but hope you will understand when I say that it would be silly to say much more at this stage; there are just too many unknowns. Realistically, I'm afraid that I will not be able to give you any more meaningful information until after 28th May.

What I can say (as I did in my video message last week) is that we will not be in a position to do much before 8th June because we are not confident we could do so safely by that point. This reflects the information contained in this [important letter](#) from Warrington Borough Council that I urge you to take a few moments to read. The kinds of measures referred to in the letter are exactly the kinds of things that we are considering in our own risk assessments if we do re-open.

Either way, please rest assured that we will not, under any circumstances, be pressuring anyone to come into school before the summer if you do not want to. We will also be sharing detailed plans with you in plenty of time for you to consider them before having to make any decision. Regardless, in the scheme of things I would suggest that the changes to online provision for Year 12 students and your attitude in engaging fully with this are going to be a lot more important for the next few weeks.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 info@lymmhigh.org.uk www.lymmhigh.org.uk



Paid employment

We are aware that many Year 12 students have taken up part time jobs, becoming key workers in supermarkets and elsewhere. Whilst we are delighted you are doing your bit, it is worth remembering that a student's first priority must be their studies. Any part time work should not be preventing you from attending online lessons (which we expect you to attend all of) and/or completing set work.

As a guide we usually say students shouldn't be working part time for more than 8 hours per week and this still holds true. Students are advised to spend a minimum of five hours a day studying, which may be made up of attending online lessons, completing work from SMHW and completing independent reading, all which will help you keep on track.

Applications for UCAS, apprenticeships and employment

There is a wealth of resources available to help students begin UCAS applications.

Parents and carers: please do ask students to show you the Year 12 2019 Microsoft Teams page, which includes an online video of how to complete UCAS applications as well as advice for completing CVs and applying for apprenticeships. We are only an email away if you or your child needs support; please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

To support students in choosing their futures we have held UCAS assemblies, attended a webinar delivered by Lancaster University on personal statements, and we have another webinar booked on 5th June on choosing courses. Please watch out for more of this kind of thing.

Please also make sure you are aware of what is on offer and have been completing some of the [progression tasks](#) from the school website. These will really help in making good choices at the age of 18.

For Year 13 students:

- Don't forget the [progression tasks](#) designed to help prepare you for university.
- In particular, [MOOCS](#) are a really good way to prepare for university and the breadth of courses are incredibly varied. You really should explore these.
- Don't forget you have all been enrolled on the Eton X Resilience Course and have been emailed details. These are also well worth doing.

Well done again to all of you who have been trying so hard to keep up with your studies. Make sure you get in touch if you need anything from us.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams