

## Headteacher's Update: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parent and carers

- If your child is in [Year 10](#) or [Year 12](#), please make sure you have read the letters about **provision from 15<sup>th</sup> June**. [There is also another follow-up letter for Year 10 parents today](#): please make sure you have read this too.
- The first full week of **online lessons** seemed to work very well and, dare I say it, there were even fewer teething problems than we might have anticipated. As everybody gets used to this way of learning over the next few weeks, things should get even better. Thank you again to all those teachers who have worked so hard to get to grips with all this so quickly, as well as to the students who have engaged brilliantly.

Please make sure you have read Mrs Brennan's original [letter](#) on online lessons and, in particular, the details on how students can find the right channel for their lessons.

Please also note that this programme of online lessons means that our expectations as regards home learning are now shifting considerably. Up until now, mindful of the pressure involved, our message has been that parents and students should be flexible and not necessarily worry too much about how much work is completed. **Now, we believe that all students should be taking part fully in all online lessons as a minimum, assuming they have access to a suitable device from which to access them.** If your child tries to tell you that the online lessons are optional, please tell them firmly that this is not the case!

We don't yet have the technology in place to easily track attendance in every lesson – and we also remain very conscious that not all children have a device that enables them to access the lessons. However, we are starting to monitor attendance more and will soon be contacting families where we can see students are not taking part in many online lessons.

- The **deadline for purchasing Chromebooks is Wednesday this week**; get your order in asap to ensure you have one before the summer holidays. [Click here](#) for full details, including the latest FAQs.

Please note, we are not saying that you *must* buy a Chromebook or that we will definitely be using them in lessons in school from now on. If your child already has a device that means they can already access all online lessons effectively, then we certainly do not expect you to buy a new Chromebook.

We do think computers are really important for home learning during lockdown and we must all consider the very real possibility that students will not be back in school full-time by September. Either way, computers will also be very useful for homework and revision once we are all back in school properly.

However, any decision as to whether we start using laptops / Chromebooks routinely in lessons will depend on how many children have a suitable device by September. We will be putting out a survey on this very soon to enable us to gather views and get a clear picture before making any decisions.

- Miss Jones is putting together an assembly for later this week on the **Black Lives Matter** protests and I have said a few words on the subject in my video message to students this morning. Please encourage your children to watch the assembly, which will be available via Teams.

As part of our aim to develop socially responsible young citizens, we always encourage students to be mindful of issues relating to prejudice and discrimination as well as being aware of what is going

on in the world more generally. This is obviously a hugely important subject and a key moment in the history of the civil rights movement and we hope all students take the opportunity to learn about what is going on and to consider what they might be able to do in response.

- The current economic circumstances mean that **local foodbanks** are in desperate need of more support right now. If you do not already do so, please consider donating to local foodbanks. They are a vital lifeline to so many families at the moment – including many from Lymm High School. Please visit the [Warrington Foodbank website](#) for more details of how you can donate food and their [Facebook page](#) for the details of the latest shortage items. Alternatively, you can make a small financial donation by clicking [here](#). The [Lymm Mutual Aid](#) is also doing some brilliant work and has been very well supported by the local community.

If you need any support yourself, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Dixon ([ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk)). We are already supporting a number of families with food parcels and in making links with other organisations. All contact will be in confidence, so please do not worry about asking.

- Please remind your children that the **school site is out of bounds** unless they are supposed to be in school. We have had one or two minor issues with children – and indeed parents and other adults – using the school grounds for exercise and would be grateful if you could support us in stopping this.
- If any student (or indeed any other family members) is struggling as a result of suffering a loss at this time, please do let us know if they need **bereavement support**. You can use the TellUs app or email your head of year.
- Finally, although it seems like another age now, you will remember that we ran a consultation on **mobile phone policy** shortly before lockdown began. We will be in touch in time for September about the details, but suffice to say for now that we *will* be changing the policy along the lines outlined in my [original letter](#). Something like 95% of the responses we received from parents and carers were supportive of the proposed change. Please note, for the small number of you who asked about children who need phones for medical reasons (e.g. apps to monitor diabetes) it will not be a problem to make exceptions in such cases.

Kind regards  
Gwyn Williams