



Dear parents and carers

As promised, I am writing to you with details of a scheme to enable you to buy laptops (Chromebooks, in fact) to support your child's learning at home and I urge you to give this serious consideration.

Let me start by saying that I am especially conscious of putting any pressure on families to spend money at a time when so many of you are facing uncertainty over jobs; I realise that, in many ways, this might be the worst time to be suggesting you should be buying a laptop for your child(ren). Please note, therefore, that we do have a hardship fund available and you must get in touch if you need support in order to be able to afford one. **It is really important to us that no child misses out on the chance to own a Chromebook for financial reasons.**

I am not privy to any more information than you about when social distancing measures might end such that schools can open again for all students, every day. However, we do now know that school will not re-open for years 7–9 before the summer and it seems sensible to start working on the assumption that it is unlikely schools will fully open in September (some kind of rota system where students are in school on a part-time basis seems most likely but, again, I have no official information to support this). With luck, this might not prove to be the case, but I am sure you can understand the need to be planning ahead for a situation where a significant amount of remote learning is still required. It is for this reason that I am writing to you about Chromebooks today; ordering them now (the deadline is **10th June**) means they should arrive before the summer holidays and in plenty of time for September.

As you know, we are trying very hard at the moment to significantly increase the number of online lessons available to students. We started this with KS3 students last week and are launching an even more comprehensive programme for KS4 and KS5 students next week. However, the plain fact is that without students having the right technology, these online lessons are not going to be very effective. Accessing them on mobile phones may seem ok for the first few lessons but the limitations of this will soon become apparent as students struggle to read information on smaller screens and do not, for example, have the ability to switch between different applications properly. Also, if teachers know that every child has a laptop/Chromebook to access their lessons, then they will have a lot more flexibility in terms of the kinds of activities they can provide.

We have therefore paired up with a company called Freedom Tech to provide Chromebooks at very favourable rates; you can buy them outright or from as little as £11 per month over three years - significantly less than you'd be able to buy a similar package for elsewhere. There is a choice of two Chromebooks – both very similar, but one is a touchscreen version (from £12.75 a month). **Please read [this leaflet](#) for further information, including frequently asked questions, details of how to place an order and who to contact for further information, including financial support.** We have consulted closely with other schools who have more experience than us of students using laptops and are confident that the Chromebooks we are recommending provide the right balance between affordability and performance; they certainly do more than enough for what any student needs for schoolwork. Please also note that they come with excellent 3-year, zero-excess warranties and accidental damage and theft policies – both essential where teenagers are concerned, we would suggest!

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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



If, as we expect, the vast majority of children do have a suitable device of their own by the time we are all back in school, then we will probably move to a model whereby they are used in many/most lessons and students are expected to bring them to school with them every day. This would open up some very exciting possibilities in terms of teaching and learning, but please note that we cannot guarantee anything at this stage because it won't be possible if too many students do not have a Chromebook or similar.

You obviously do not have to buy a Chromebook through our scheme but if your child does not already have a laptop, we do strongly recommend doing so. If we are able to use them in lessons when back in school, then the more students who have the same device, the easier it will be for school to manage the devices and better it will be for everybody. At the same time, one thing we would really like to avoid is a competition between children to own the newest/coolest/most expensive device.

On a different note, let me take the opportunity to say that new government guidance was issued on Monday and now this states that schools need to prepare for 'some face-to-face time' for Year 10 and 12 students from no earlier than **15th June** – with no more than a quarter of these year groups in school at any one time. It also makes clear that remote learning will need to remain the primary form of learning. As you know, we had been planning on the basis of starting this from 8th June so we have an additional week to finalise plans and will be in touch next week with more details. Otherwise, aside from the date, everything else I said on this in my [update last week](#) still stands. Thank you once again for your patience here.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams