

23rd June 2020



# LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, traditionally students in Year 10 would be sitting mock exams at this time in the summer term and of course, would be receiving their progress report. As with many other aspects of school, these are having to take a different format during this period of school closure. It would be inappropriate to put pressure on students to sit full mock exams in the current climate but, at the same time, we do think it is important to 'round off' the year with some form of assessment.

We are therefore going to continue to have some form of end-of-year assessment for all pupils in Years 7–10. The exact method of each assessment is yet to be finalised and will in part be dictated by circumstances in each subject. However, your child will receive an assessment timetable during the week commencing 29th June 2020, and we will provide more detailed instructions regarding the nature of each assessment at this time. **Please note: we do not want students to worry about these assessments, the main aim is for teachers to see what they do/do not know and also an opportunity for students to use their knowledge organisers to consolidate their knowledge and understanding from this year.** We won't be using the assessments to determine sets for next year or anything like that and we know that students are likely to struggle with questions on some of the material they have been studying since lockdown.

The assessments are planned to take place the week commencing 13th July and the majority will be completed during the online lesson times. The nature of each assessment will vary from subject to subject; some will focus on skills and be 'open book' in nature, but most will probably be made up of multiple-choice questions based on knowledge organisers. If an assessment is 'open book', this will be clearly communicated to your child, along with the supporting resources they are permitted to use. Otherwise, any textbooks, notes or access to the other resources should not be used. Over the coming week, staff will be putting lists of topics and which Knowledge Organisers students should focus on, to support their revision/preparation. This will be published via Show My Homework and we will ensure students are informed via text/email when these are uploaded and available.

We recognise that there will be considerable temptation for students to glance at notes or to communicate with peers during an assessment, but your child will obviously gain most benefit if they complete their assessments independently, under normal 'exam conditions'. Please could we ask for your support in this by talking to your child about honesty prior to their assessments. They may prefer to give you their mobile phone and work under supervision in your presence during the assessments if this is possible.

**HEADTEACHER: MR GWYN WILLIAMS**

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As I am sure you understand, it is important that this process is appropriate, yet manageable for everyone involved. We hope that students will find the assessments useful, but also understand that they are not to worry or panic about them. They should look at them as an opportunity to check their knowledge and look at what gaps we need to work on, in preparation for moving forward in their subjects. **We fully expect students to have gaps in their knowledge – that is inevitable with all the school missed – so please reassure them about this.** The most important purpose of the assessments is for us to know where the gaps are so that we can address them next year.

If you should have any queries about the assessments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support, we hope you are keeping safe and well.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Ryles-Dean".

Helen Ryles-Dean  
Deputy Headteacher