



LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers of Year 10 students

Thank you for all your responses to the recent survey on the wider opening of school. At the time of writing, approximately 85% of you have completed it. Of these, 75% have said you will be sending your children into school on their allocated days and a further 14% have said you are undecided at the moment.

Based on the questions raised in the survey, I have collated some answers to frequently asked questions – they are attached below this letter.

Please bear with us while we finalise arrangements; but for safeguarding reasons we need to have a completely accurate picture of who we are expecting in school on each day. **The next step will therefore be that your child will receive an individual email to their school email account at some point in the next 24 hours. Please make sure that you read this email and respond as soon as possible – and by 4pm on Wednesday at the latest.** We will have to make phone calls to any family where we have not received a response and would really appreciate not having to make too many calls.

If you said in the survey that your child will be coming into school, the email will confirm which day this will be. If you said they will not be coming in, we will just be asking you to confirm this is still the case. If you said you were unsure, then we will need you to decide one way or the other for next week.

If you have changed your mind since completing the survey please email year10attendance@lymmhigh.org.uk as soon as possible today.

We will write again towards the end of this week with a few additional details, such as the entrance students in each group will be expected to use and what they will need to bring with them to school. The first part of every student's first morning back in school will then be spent going through all the rules and expectations necessary to keep everyone safe.

On another note, a few parents mentioned that wearing uniform might cause some issues because children have grown out of items and they'd rather not buy new ones at the moment. This seems perfectly reasonable and so we have decided that students do not now need to wear uniform. Please just make sure that they are dressed appropriately for a school environment.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: there were a few questions on issues other than the plans for re-opening for Year 10 students. I've not addressed these here, but we will be doing a wider parent survey in 2–3 weeks' time to capture these kinds of things. If it is especially important to you to know, please feel free to contact Mrs Feast.

1. *I haven't seen the original letter from Mr Williams on all this. Where is it?*

The letter is [here](#). All letters and updates can be found on the [school closure portal](#) under the 'Latest News' section. You should have received a text or Gateway message with the link.

2. *Are there any plans for more than one day a week before the summer? What about September?*

There are no plans for more than one day a week before the summer. We would need government guidance about only having 25% of Year 10 students in at any one time to change before we did anything different.

No plans have yet been made for September; we are reliant on guidance from the government on this too.

3. *Will the classes be organised in terms of sets or mixed ability? Will my child be with their friends?*

Students studying separate sciences will be in classes together. After that, classes will be organised loosely in terms of ability, primarily (but not entirely) based upon the sets they are in for Maths.

We will not be able to take account of friendship groups when putting groups together.

4. *My child has been attending full-time as a keyworker. Which pod will they be in?*

In order to avoid 'mixing' of groups of students, they will have to decide between coming in one morning per week with the other year 10s for lessons or continuing as they are currently, attending more regularly but accessing lessons online (with support from teachers and teaching assistants). If they choose the second option, they will remain in a pod with other keyworker students who are attending all/most days. These might not be the same students that they have been with hitherto (because other groups of Year 10 students will be in school more often from the 15th June).

5. *Will children and staff be expected to wear face masks?*

In line with government guidance, they will not be expected to wear them in school. However, we will not stop any student or member of staff who chooses to wear a mask. Please note that anyone using a bus will have to wear a mask while on the bus.

6. *How will social distancing measures work? Have adequate risk assessments been prepared?*

My [original letter](#) sets out the key points relating to social distancing. We will go through the finer details with students on their first morning.

Detailed risk assessments have been produced and quality assured by the health and safety team at Warrington Borough Council.

7. *Will staff be supervising the entrance and exit of pupils? I'm concerned that students may take that opportunity to congregate.*

Students will be supervised as they come onto the school site in the morning and while they are leaving at 12.15 (12.30 if taking a bus). We cannot realistically prevent students congregating outside of these times, though we will be reinforcing the correct messages around this very strongly.

8. *What happens if a child has Covid symptoms? Will the whole pod have to isolate?*

Government guidance is that anyone showing symptoms will be isolated within school and sent home as soon as possible. They will need to isolate for 7 days and seek a test via NHS.co.uk, with members of the household self-isolating for 14 days.

If the test is negative, the child can return to school. If the test is positive, then the rest of their class will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days (though other members of those households will not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms). We do not anticipate that the whole pod will need to automatically isolate in this situation, though we will take advice from Public Health England in such an event.

9. *Will children be having their temperatures checked in school?*

No. Government guidance to schools is that this is not necessary. We are relying on parents to keep a close eye on children and not to send anyone into school if there is any doubt about them having symptoms.

10. *Will there be a first aider in school?*

Yes, there will always be plenty of first aid cover.

11. *What provision will there be for the lessons a student would miss if they don't come into school?*

Online lessons will continue as they are now. The content covered in online lessons will match, as closely as possible, the work taking place in lessons in school so that students unable to come into school can still access these without missing out on learning.

12. *Will the lessons in school be 'proper lessons' or using laptops to access online lessons?*

They will be 'proper' lessons with specialist teachers, using exercise books and pens. The only difference will be that teachers are unable to circulate the room and/or sit with individual students in the way they might usually. No laptops will be used.

13. *How will bus passes / payment work given students are only attending one day a week?*

Students can buy a child day ticket on the bus for £3.00 or a cash single or return ticket (for which prices vary).

14. *I have two children in Year 10. Please can they attend on the same day?*

Yes, we will organise this.

15. *If my child comes in next week, do they have to come in every week? What about the other way round?*

No, but we would expect you to email year10attendance@lymmhigh.org.uk to let us know of any changes. If you tell us they will not be in for the first week but change your mind about future weeks, please make sure you email year10attendance@lymmhigh.org.uk three days beforehand. In these circumstances it may need to be on a different day than originally allocated.

16. *What is the main purpose of students coming into school for three lessons a week?*

Face-to-face lessons are generally more effective than online lessons in terms of learning. However, perhaps more significant in this context is the importance of students taking those first steps towards being back in school properly and getting some taste of 'normality' again. It should also be nice for them to be able to interact with their peers and staff in person and feel the warmth and energy that comes from being physically in school.

17. Does the school expect students to attend? Will there be any consequences if I don't send my child in?

The school is neutral on this – certainly for the rest of this half-term. Our aim is to provide you with as much information as possible to help you make a decision but we feel that, in the end, it is up to parents to weigh up the risks and rewards and for you to make your own decisions without pressure from us. There will certainly not be any consequences for those who choose not to come in.

We also want to recognise those families where children *cannot* come into school because either they or a member of their household are shielding. It must be an especially challenging time for those of you in this situation and we want you to know that you have not been forgotten! Please do get in touch if you need any support.

18. Have the school taken into account the recent news that the R number in the North West may have risen?

There are mixed messages on this. We have seen the recent reports about the R number in the North West, but central government has also said they believe the overall scientific view is that it has not risen above 1. We are also told that there are indications that the R number in Warrington is actually below 1.

Warrington Borough Council issued a [press release](#) last night saying that primary schools (who had been due to open for more students today, the 8th June) will now delay opening until next week. They will be reviewing the situation on Wednesday night and, as a general rule, we would follow the lead of the local authority on questions such as this.

It is important to stress that school leaders and governors are not medical experts and, in general terms, do not feel it is our place to interpret things like the R number. What we can do is everything possible to keep staff and students safe in school, which is what we are doing – and this includes following all the official expert advice. It may also be worth pointing out that we have never actually closed and have had students in school every day since the lockdown began.

Ultimately, as explained in the answer to question 17, we believe the decision to send you child into school is one for individual parents and carers. We will do our best to support you either way.