

Dear Year 6 parents and carers,

Re: Lymm High School Chromebook Programme

At such a strange time to be starting a new phase of education, I am sure your child is facing the prospect of starting secondary school with excitement and perhaps a little extra trepidation. Whatever September looks like, we are very excited to meet our new Year 7 students and help them settle in at Lymm High School.

I am writing to you today with details of a scheme to enable you to buy a laptop (or, rather, a Chromebook) for your child. However, let me start by saying that we are especially conscious of putting any pressure on families to spend money at a time when there is so much uncertainty, and as Year 6 parents with new items of uniform and equipment to purchase this applies even more. In many ways, this might be the worst time to be launching a programme to purchase laptops, but given the current reliance on remote learning, it also seems somewhat of a necessity to do so. We do have a hardship fund available (especially if your child is eligible for Free School Meals) and we urge you to get in touch if your child does not have regular access to a suitable device at home and you need support in order to be able to afford one. It is really important to us that no child misses out on the opportunity to own a Chromebook for financial reasons.

It is unclear at the current time when social distancing measures might end such that schools can reopen again for all students on a full-time basis; the messages on this seem to be changing every day at the moment. However, we believe it is sensible to ‘hope for the best and prepare for the worst’ and plan on the assumption that schools may still not be fully open in September. 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 we have launched the Chromebook programme; ordering now (**the deadline is 12th July**) means they will arrive in time for the start of September, ready for the new academic year. We recently launched the Chromebook programme to our existing students with over 400 of them now having signed up.

It is important to say we are by no means suggesting that this is a compulsory item for your child. You do not have to buy one and we would not recommend buying one if you have a working laptop or desktop computer at home that your child can use whenever they need already. However, if your child doesn’t have access to their own device, we do believe that in the current climate having one will support their learning at home and we do encourage you to give this consideration. Even if they are not needed for online lessons in September, it will still be very helpful to have a suitable device to help with homework over the next few years.

We have paired up with a company called Freedom Tech to provide Chromebooks at favourable rates; you can buy them outright or from £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,

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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 their schoolwork. Please also note that they come with excellent 3-year, £0 excess warranties and accidental damage/theft policies – both very important where teenagers are concerned, we would suggest!

Once again, please don't feel you have to buy a Chromebook if you do not need or want one – and please get in touch if you would like one but will need some financial assistance. Finally, please do let me know if you cannot find answers to any of your questions in the leaflet; my email address is ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Natalie Dixon

Assistant Headteacher