



4th September 2020

Dear parents and carers

Barring anything unforeseen, this will be the last communication you receive from us before we start welcoming students back next week. Apologies if you feel we have been sending too many letters, but we know that a lot of you are feeling somewhat anxious and have appreciated the regular updates. The aim of this letter is just to give some final reminders about key points.

For our part, we cannot wait to see the students next week; they have been out of school for far too long now, and it will be great to get back to some sort of normality and feel the wonderful energy and joy that comes from working with them. We are very much ready to go, and confident that the systems we have in place will enable us to manage the risks sensibly whilst still providing a first-class education. There are bound to be some teething problems, but there is no doubt we will be able to identify these and iron them out quickly.

For your part, if you are a little worried, then please know that you are not alone. We have spoken to lots of parents over the past few weeks and it is perfectly natural to have a few butterflies at the prospect of your child returning to school after so long. However, rest assured that all the staff at school are ready to make sure everyone gets a warm welcome and plenty of support in settling back into routines. We expect most students to find their feet very quickly, but additional support will be available for anyone who does find it a bit more challenging.

Mr Thompson has updated the [student & parent guide](#), with new sections on face coverings, personalised learning support (in particular, working with learning mentors / teaching assistants) and the school shop. Please also note that there was a typo in the original version that suggested breaktime finishes at 10.25am. In fact, breaktime will run from 10.05 to 10.30.

Please also bear in mind these other key points in preparation for next week:

- **Start dates** for different year groups are as follows:
 - Years 7 and 12 = Monday 7th September
 - Years 9, 11 and 13 = Tuesday 8th September
 - Years 8 and 10 = Wednesday 9th September
- The start of the school day will be different, with lesson one (rather than tutor time) starting at 8.25am. It is therefore more important than ever that students arrive in plenty of time for school, and by **8.20am** at the latest. On arrival at school, students should make their way directly to the entrance location for their period one lesson and maintain social distancing as far as possible. It is really important that they do not loiter at the front of school or mix with students from other year groups.

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- Mr Thompson will shortly be emailing students and putting a message on Show My Homework that lists the **entrance/room students need to go to on their first day back** (n.b. the first lesson for all students will be with tutors).
- We anticipate fewer people using school buses, in line with government advice to avoid using public transport if possible. This means there will probably be more cars on the road, and certainly around school. **Please, therefore, leave plenty of time for your journey if you are dropping your child off** – especially in the light of the point above about lesson one starting at 8.25. We would also be grateful if you could try to drop your child off a few hundred yards from school if you can do so safely, so that they walk the rest of the way and help us avoid congestion at the front of school.
- Please **do not send your child into school if they are displaying any Covid symptoms** or if you are still **quarantining** after holidays to designated countries over the summer.
- Alongside the usual equipment, please make sure your child brings to school with them every day: **a face covering, a sealable plastic bag in which to store the face covering and a bottle of hand sanitiser**. Full details of equipment needed are in the [student & parent guide](#).
- Mrs Worrall asks all **new Year 7 students** to check Microsoft Teams for all the latest information and videos and to contact her if you have any problems accessing these. Otherwise, all that new students need on the first day is a bag and a fully stocked pencil case: we will take care of everything from there!
- Please remind your child of the new rules about **mobile phones**. The details are contained in the [student & parent guide](#), but the only thing students really need to know is that phones should be off and kept in bags from the moment they arrive at school until the end of the school day.
- Finally, just to confirm heads of year for 2020/21:
 - Year 7 = Mrs Worrall (cworrall@lymmhigh.org.uk)
 - Year 8 = Miss Crowder (hcrowder@lymmhigh.org.uk)
 - Year 9 = Mr Scott (tscott@lymmhigh.org.uk)
 - Year 10 = Mrs Wagstaff (jwagstaff@lymmhigh.org.uk)
 - Year 11 = Miss Taylor (ttaylor@lymmhigh.org.uk)
 - Sixth Form = Mrs Jennings (hjennings@lymmhigh.org.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and best wishes for a lovely weekend before we finally get to see everyone again.

Kind regards



Gwyn Williams