



15th September 2020

Welcome to Year 8

Dear Parent/Carer,

Although I know that this Summer has been difficult for all of us, I have been really impressed with how our Year 8 students have conducted themselves since returning to school and their positive attitude, work rate in lessons and determination to do well has been admirable. With so many new operational changes and challenges, it is important that this great start continues throughout the academic year. I trust that by now your child has settled back into life at school and is comfortable and confident with how the school operates, the expectations that are placed on them, and that they've coped well with a difficult and unusual transition from Year 7.

This year is an extremely important one as we start to build momentum towards GCSE options choices in Year 9. GCSE studies and Year 11 can seem a very long way off, and whilst 4 years is a substantial amount of time, it is crucial that your child makes the most of every opportunity in lessons to develop understanding and accelerate their progress. The knowledge and skills that they acquire at this stage underpin everything they will learn for their GCSEs; we must not forget that our key stage 3 classes are the real bread and butter of teaching. The knowledge, understanding and skills that we equip pupils with, from when they first come to us as 11-year-olds, prepares them for the challenges they will face at KS4.

Of course, it goes without saying that students need to be in school in order for them to make excellent progress. Sadly, for every 5% of absence, on average a child drops 1 GCSE grade per subject. At Lymm High School, we strive for every student to have attendance above 97%. Whilst we understand that illness is sometimes unavoidable, especially in the current circumstances, we urge parents to consider carefully whether their child can be sent into school and wherever possible schedule medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Often differing to the advice from primary schools, we are more than happy to have students in school if they are feeling slightly 'under the weather' and we can support them in Student Services if necessary. Sending them into school means they don't miss out on crucial lessons and do not fall behind their peers. If a student's attendance drops to 90% (termed a Persistent Absentee), they will have missed approximately 95 hours of lessons by the end of the year – a significant amount of learning, and we want to support our students as best as we can, so they can achieve every success in the future.

Whilst academic achievement and rigour is of utmost importance, we see our role as being more than that. It is for that reason that we place great value on ensuring our young people grow into socially responsible and well-rounded citizens. Wearing the correct uniform, coming to school well-equipped and behaving in an exemplary manner are expectations that we hold for all our young people and I make no apology in saying that the expectations we have are extremely high. I thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child meets and exceeds those expectations going forwards.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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I'm sure there will be some occasions when you need to contact the school. The table below will hopefully help to identify the best person to contact:

Subject specific query/concern	Head of Faculty for that subject
Student welfare query/concern	Student Services
General progress query/concern	Form tutor
More serious/complex concerns	Miss Crowder (Head of Year)

In addition, our Year 8 Parents' Evening is planned for 25th March 2021.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or wish to speak to me about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch or email me at hcrowder@lymmhigh.org.uk. Mrs C Lambert is our Pastoral Support Manager; please feel free to contact her also if you have any queries.

May I take this opportunity to wish your child a most successful and enjoyable school year.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Katy Crowder