

WHOLE SCHOOL

Letter from Mr Williams

Dear parents and carers

I promised I would provide you with general updates on the situation with positive Covid tests from time to time. As things stand, we have had a total of 10 positive cases (8 students and 2 members of staff) since the start of term. We can look at this in a number of different ways, but my own view is that this is very reassuring; an average of two per week in a school community of well over 2000 staff and students should certainly be no cause for alarm and probably represents a lower rate than that in the wider community. From Monday, we'll only have one 'live' case (i.e. everybody will have completed the requisite isolation periods from all the other cases). So far, we have seen no evidence of any transmission taking place within school – as far as we have been able to establish, none of the cases have been linked. With the exception of the 41 bus case, where a whole range of factors made it more difficult to do, we have generally been successful in being able to keep the numbers of students asked to self-isolate fairly low. Our systems for managing this are also getting slicker and more robust. Of course, all of this could change in very quick time but, for now, the bigger picture is pretty positive in terms of the number of cases.

We are also very conscious that this bigger picture is of no consolation to those children (and their families) who have had to self-isolate – and especially the handful who have been unlucky enough to have been 'hit' more than once. Unfortunately, this is bound to continue and in a manner that is entirely unpredictable. We are working hard to refine the quality of work and processes for remote learning in these situations and, for KS4 and 5 at least, self-isolating students will start to see more and more opportunities to join lessons taking place in school virtually. This isn't as straightforward to manage as it may sound in many cases (albeit fairly easy to do in others) but we are working hard behind the scenes in this area. As ever, we need your support in appreciating that, whatever we are able to provide, it will never be anywhere near perfect. For example, students at home will just have to accept that there will be significant periods in many lessons where they still need to work independently and be patient if they need something from the teacher. Never has it been more obvious why schools normally run in a way that has young people sitting in the same room as their teachers for every lesson!

Many thanks, as always, for your support. I should also say that, in school, students continue to handle everything with admirable resilience and they are a huge credit to you as parents and carers.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams

ILC availability

Throughout October we are celebrating International School Libraries Month and National Libraries Week (5–10th) by highlighting the availability of our well-stocked school library and professional library staff who are available every day in the ILC (Independent Learning Centre) to answer student and staff enquiries.

In keeping with social distancing, access to the ILC for students from each year group is staggered, as follows:

- Year 7 – Monday break and Friday lunch
- Year 8 – Tuesday break and Thursday lunch
- Year 9 – Wednesday break and Wednesday lunch
- Year 10 – Thursday break and Tuesday lunch
- Year 11 – Friday break and Monday lunch

We are already seeing some students use the area every day now, but with 40 study spaces available for each session we would love to see more. During their session students can get help from ILC staff, access computers and the colour printer for their school work, or request books to borrow from the school collection. We would also encourage anyone with a school library book at home to return it as soon as possible so that we can make as many titles as possible available for this academic year.

Free reading app

Lymm High students can access Ebooks and Audiobooks through a free student reading app called Sora.

Sora currently holds over 1600 titles that be accessed on a computer, tablet or smartphone either through soraapp.com, or by downloading the Sora app. When logging onto the site for the first time you will be asked to put in your 'setup code' at the bottom of the screen. The setup code is 'uksecondary', and 'Lymm High School' should then be available from the drop-down list. Type in your usual school email and password to get started with your individual account.

Chromebook programme – 3rd ordering window

If your child does not have an up-to-date laptop/desktop PC of their own, for use at home, please [click here](#) for information about our Chromebook programme. The deadline for all orders is **11th October 2020**.

Computer Survey

Earlier this week, you will have received a link to complete a computer survey. Thank you so much to those who have already completed this, your feedback is much appreciated.

We need all parents to complete this survey so we have an up-to-date picture of computer* access at home and can develop our online provision accordingly. In particular, we need to know who does/doesn't have access to a suitable device in the event of needing to self-isolate.

*Please note: access to a computer means access to a laptop, computer, Chromebook or tablet with a full-size screen. Mobile phones or small tablets do not count because students need to be able to read things like online textbooks and this cannot be done properly on small screens.

If you have not yet had chance, please [click here](#) to complete one form for each child who attends Lymm High by **12th October 2020**.

Canteen open at break

From Monday, the canteen will be offering a reduced service at break time for year groups on the following days:

- Year 7 – Monday
- Year 8 – Tuesday
- Year 9 – Wednesday
- Year 10 – Thursday
- Year 11 – Friday

Fundraising made easy

easyfundraising® is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. As more and more of us are shopping online these days, you can help us raise much needed funds for our PTA by simply clicking on this [link](#) before

you make your online purchases. It is simple to use and won't cost you a penny. Simply search for Lymm High School PTA, start your shopping and raise funds whenever you shop. Thank you!

Cashless Catering

We politely remind all parents/carers to top up your child's cashless catering accounts via Parent Pay each week to ensure your child is able to purchase food during their lunchtimes.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to **Mr Baldwin** who was this week's school lottery winner! You could be a winner too!

If you have not signed up for our lottery yet, please head to our dedicated lottery website [here](#). Tickets are only £1 each week. If you sign up this half term, you could win a family ticket for four to the Harry Potter Studio Tour. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

UPPER SCHOOL

Virtual fair

The UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair is coming up on Wednesday 11th November from 12–6pm. The fair has been designed to feel exactly like a Careers Fair, just on your laptop. You'll be able to visit a virtual Exhibition Hall full of over 90 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers and scroll through their colourful and informative stands and chat directly to representatives. There will also be a virtual Auditorium where webinars will be taking place throughout the day.

The event is completely free of charge, and open to students in Year 11, 12 and 13. Russell Group, red brick, modern and specialist universities will be attending, including Newcastle, Edinburgh, Cumbria, Lancaster, Aberdeen, Birmingham, UCLAN and Teesside. You can read more information [here](#).

Live webinars will be led by university representatives and apprenticeship providers and packed with advice. You can view the full timetable [here](#).

SIXTH FORM

Calling all Oxbridge graduates

We are looking for volunteers! Would any Oxford or Cambridge graduates be willing to help support our Year 13 students with Oxbridge interview preparation? This would likely involve mock interviews via Zoom in November to test their subject knowledge. We are particularly keen for specialists in mathematics, computer science, physics, languages, architecture or biology. You do not need experience of conducting this type of interview and we can help find appropriate questions for you to use. Anyone who is willing to help, please contact Dr Dodds (fdodds@lymmhigh.org.uk).

Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form 'Virtual' Open Evening will take place on Thursday 12th November. More details will be announced soon.

Year 13 Parents' Evening

Year 13 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 5th November.