

## WHOLE SCHOOL

**Letter from Mr Williams**

Dear parents and carers

I do hope you are all well and not finding the latest lockdown too testing. I just wanted to write to give you an update on the latest regarding Covid cases in the school.

I had drafted this message last night and was going to say that we have had a very quiet four weeks in school since half-term **Covid-wise**. Up until yesterday, there had only been four positive cases amongst students in that time and only two of these involved the students being in school during the infectious period. Two members of staff also tested positive last week but, similarly, there was no wider impact in terms of staff or students having to be sent home. We have really enjoyed the relative calm and the opportunity to focus on one or two other things. For example, it was especially nice to be able to see the Sixth Form in fancy dress for Children In Need last week and bringing smiles to so many faces – a really welcome reminder of ‘normal’ times.

I had then written: “doubtless I have jinxed things by writing all this”... and, unfortunately, it would seem that I was right! In the last 24 hours, we have had three more positive cases – one in year 11 and two in year 13, leading to us having to ask a total of 48 students to self-isolate as close contacts. There is no reason to suppose the cases are connected and so we are not especially concerned at the moment, but it is a reminder of how quickly things can change and we will of course be monitoring the situation very carefully over the weekend. As ever, thank you for your support in making sure children follow the **rules around Covid restrictions**. Please continue to make sure you do not send your child into school if they or anyone else in the household has Covid symptoms (i.e. a high temperature, continuous cough or loss of smell/taste) and that you keep school informed. Please also remember that students who are self-isolating should not be leaving the house and certainly not mixing with other people.

We are extremely conscious that there are a number **Year 11 students** self-isolating as a result of the most recent case and that many of those will be very worried about the forthcoming mock exams. Mrs Feast will be in touch early next week with full details, but we do have a plan for managing the situation and want to make clear that students do not need to worry. The most important thing is that they revise as much as they can and remember that mock exams are far from the only information we use to assess progress; teachers will certainly be taking the current circumstances into account too.

Meanwhile, we have developed our **remote learning provision** such that all students who are self-isolating will be able to access a ‘livestream’ of most of their lessons in school. This will remain far from perfect (it is especially problematic when staff are absent at short notice – and we still have much higher rates of absence than usual) but very few schools are doing this kind of thing on the scale we are managing and I am incredibly proud of the efforts staff are making to support students in this way.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

**ONS Schools Infection Survey**

Years 8 and 9 have been invited to take part in the ONS Schools Infection Survey. This national survey involves the students being tested five or six times between now and the end of the year for the Covid-19 virus, as well as the presence of any antibodies that might suggest they have had the virus previously.

As a school, we felt it important to sign up for this study for two reasons. Firstly, it will help keep everyone safe by allowing us to better understand rates and patterns of infection in the school and, secondly, because

we want to exercise our social responsibility to help scientists track the virus properly, which would not be possible if no schools signed up. We hope that many of our Year 8 and 9 students will sign up for this testing programme.

### Arrangements for PE lessons during Year 11 mock exams

Due to Covid-19, boys have been utilising the Sports Hall as a changing room. However, this will not be available from Friday 4th December until the end of term because of the Year 11 mock exams.

Therefore, boys are expected to come into school in their PE kit for the days when they have their lessons. PE kit must be in line with [school PE kit regulations](#).

As we are unable to use the changing rooms, students are expected to leave their bags in the school gym. This will be part of the PE routine and will be communicated to students.

It is advisable that students bring a spare pair of shoes and socks to school. It is likely, even if it is not raining, that the astro-turf may be wet, and a spare pair of footwear means they are not in wet footwear for the remainder of the day. Unfortunately, if the weather is extremely wet, lessons may have to be adapted with groups going in classrooms for part of the lesson.

Please note that Year 11s will continue with PE lessons during the mock exam period.

### Warrington Foodbank

Lymm High is organising a large collection for our local community and Warrington Foodbank. The Foodbank is most in need of tinned rice pudding, tinned potatoes, cream crackers, tinned meats (hot), corned beef, Angel delight, custard, potato smash, tinned fruit, fish/meat paste, jelly and cat food. As the festive season is approaching, it would be lovely if any Christmas types of food could be donated, such as mince pies, Christmas cake, advent calendars and chocolate. Students can hand any donations in at the staff room before the collection date of 4<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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.

### Fundraising made easy

easyfundraising® is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. With Christmas around the corner, 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!

### LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Ms Meredew 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 Nintendo Switch Mega Bundle. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

## LOWER SCHOOL

### Year 7 Parents' Evening

The Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on 3rd December. All Year 7 parents should have received a [letter](#) from Mrs Worrall with information about this evening. The booking system is now open and parents are required to register and book appointments by logging into <https://lymmhigh.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. If you need any support, please contact [Thelpdesk@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:Thelpdesk@lymmhigh.org.uk).

### Decorate our Christmas tree

Mrs Worrall is calling on Year 7 to help her decorate her Christmas tree. The decorations need to be homemade but can be made from anything. Students that send in decorations will receive Hall points and the winners will get festive treats.

### Christmas craft activities

The ILC is holding weekly Christmas craft activities for Year 7 during all break times. From Monday, week 1 will be Christmas gift tags, week 2 will be Christmas tree decorations, and week 3 will be paper garlands. Places are limited and can be pre-booked by calling into the ILC.

## UPPER SCHOOL

### Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 Mock Exams will begin on the 4<sup>th</sup> December. All Year 11 parents should have received a [letter](#) from Mrs Feast with information about these. The Mock Timetable can be seen [here](#). There are lots of resources and advice on the [Revision](#) section of the website.