

WHOLE SCHOOL

Letter from Mr Williams

Dear parents and carers

Well, this has certainly been the strangest autumn term of my career! I will also confess to it being one of the most tiring and to looking forward to a break a little more than usual. However, it has also been one of the most inspiring terms in so many ways.

This started with welcoming everyone back in September after far too long out of school – a moment that was really quite emotional for many of us. It was a welcome reminder, if we ever needed it, of the value of face-to-face lessons compared to any kind of remote learning, but also of the social and emotional benefits of school for young people. Since then, all of us – students, parents and staff – have had to adjust to a constantly changing landscape, dealing with the anxiousness that comes with uncertainty and having to be flexible and pragmatic in finding ways of making things work. I feel strongly that our community has pulled together extraordinarily well in dealing with these challenges and I have been inspired by the spirit shown. Well done, everyone!

There is still a long way to go, but there are also clear signs of light at the end of the tunnel. As well as the development of Covid vaccines, the government has just announced plans for a mass testing regime from January. The aim of this is that students who are identified as close contacts of a positive case will no longer automatically have to self-isolate; rather, they will have the option of being tested daily for seven days and being allowed to remain in school if these tests are all negative. Staff will also be eligible for weekly tests. We have a lot of questions about the practicalities of this, as well as some major doubts about the likelihood that everything will be ready to go in early January. However, it certainly sounds very positive – anything that reduces the numbers of students having to miss school has to be good news – and we hope that we get the support we need to put in place the necessary systems quickly. We will let you know more as soon as we can. **Please also see my [separate letter](#) about the staggered start in January, with most students undertaking remote learning for the first week of term.**

In the meantime, we respectfully ask that you do follow the government rules regarding Covid restrictions over the holidays and make sure that your children do the same. There are legitimate concerns that we could see a significant spike early in the new year as a result of socialising over Christmas and, quite apart from the danger to health, we'd really like to avoid more disruption to schooling than is absolutely necessary.

Thank you once again for your support this term. I've said many times that I am proud of the staff and students for the way they have handled the last few months, but the support and understanding from parents has been invaluable in helping us to manage.

I wish you all the very best for a lovely Christmas.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams

Covid tracking during holidays

If your child tests positive during the first week of the holiday and was in school during the infectious period (i.e. any time 48 hours prior to developing symptoms) then please let us know via covidtrack@lymmhigh.org.uk. As requested by government, we will then apply our usual 'track and trace' systems to identify close contacts who will need to self-isolate for ten days from the last contact.

BAME questionnaire

Many thanks to those parents and carers who completed the questionnaire about the experience of BAME students at Lymm High School. Your responses were really informative and we will be in touch in the new year with some more information.

School uniform

Please note that all students need to be in school shoes not trainers. These need to be plain black polished shoes with no logos. Please also ensure that all Christmas nails, eye lashes and other jewellery items are removed before the new school term starts. Thank you for your support on this.

PE & Sport

The PE and Sport staff have been extremely impressed with the students this term. They have demonstrated fantastic levels of commitment and resilience in their 100-minute PE lessons. Students have adopted a mature approach to learning and have followed the systems in place to ensure PE lessons remain as safe as possible.

We have continued to be extremely lucky with the weather, which has meant that PE lessons have been able to continue as planned. Most students have dressed appropriately for lessons by wearing some of the optional PE kit items (LHS tracksuit tops/bottoms) or base layers underneath their PE kit to keep warm.

In January, most PE lessons will continue to take place outside. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. The boys (Years 7–10) will be taking part in fitness and rugby on the 3G pitch. As with all activities, we will be following the Covid guidance provided by the relevant parties. Blue PE kit and football boots are required. Year 11 boys will be taking part in invasion games and will require football boots (3G appropriate) and shin pads.

The girls (Years 7–10) will be taking part in netball (outside) and table tennis. Year 11 girls will be rotating around Lacrosse, Netball and Table Tennis. All girls will need to ensure that they have the same kit each week – warm PE kit and trainers.

Please note that if your child is excused from PE lessons, they still need to bring in a suitable PE kit as they will be involved in lessons in some capacity and will need to get changed. If they have a long-term injury, please contact their PE teacher.

We have had excellent participation rates at extra-curricular sports clubs. However, it would be fantastic to see even more new faces in the new year. Clubs will restart on the first day back and there have been some slight changes to the rota. Please [click here](#) for details and note that the first week back will be Week A.

Have a lovely Christmas.

Mr Hampton and the PE & Sport Team

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 next week, 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 Mrs Williams 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. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

LOWER SCHOOL

Operation Bletchley Christmas Challenge

Every year (when COVID-19 isn't around) as a school we take around 50 students to Bletchley Park to look at the coding that happened in WW2. As we can't do that this year, we want to share a completely optional challenge for students to do with their family. Click here to find out full details and register:

<https://events.soldierscharity.org/event/operation-bletchley>

The main aim of the challenge is that over the 12 days after Christmas you:

- Walk for 24 miles
- Crack 12 codes
- Raise money towards the Veterans charity that is supported by Bletchley Park

If students do take part, please encourage them to take screenshots so we can put it towards their Leadership Ladder when we come back after Christmas.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas!

Miss Heeks

Decorate our Christmas tree competition

Congratulations to our three winners: Reuben Roberts (7ML), Faraday Reynolds (7AL) and Beth Donovan (7AH). It was a difficult decision! Mrs Worrall thanks all the students who entered and wishes all of Year 7 a wonderful Christmas break.

UPPER SCHOOL

Year 11 Mock Exams

A huge 'well done' do our Year 11 students who have been working incredibly hard over the last two weeks completing their mock examinations, particularly to those who have had to complete these virtually. Their positive attitudes and maturity have certainly not gone unnoticed; we are really proud of them! We wish them all a very well-deserved rest over the Christmas break.

Mrs Feast