



31st December 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas, Covid restrictions notwithstanding.

The whole country is obviously in a rapidly evolving situation and I am sure you are aware that more changes relating to schools have been announced within the last 24 hours. This letter therefore aims to provide some clarity regarding the next couple of weeks: please see the information below.

Many thanks, as always, for your patience during these unsettling times.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

Week commencing 4th January

- Monday 4th January remains an INSET day for staff, with children still being on holiday
- For the rest of the first week back (i.e. Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January) school will only be open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. For clarity, this means Year 11 and Year 13 students will not be able to come into school this week.
- All lessons for all year groups will be taught remotely between 5th-8th January. Please see separate section, below, for a reminder of key details relating to remote learning.
- For those Year 12 students who have exams in vocational subjects, the exams will go ahead as planned and you should come into school in plenty of time for them. Please contact our Exams Officer, Mrs Monks (jmonks@lymmhigh.org.uk) if you have any questions about the arrangements.
- If your child falls into one of the vulnerable categories and/or you are a critical worker and you intend to send your child into school next week, please email keyworkers@lymmhigh.org.uk to let us know to expect them. Please also bear in mind the following:
 - Students should access the school through the doors next to Student Services. There will be information and a sign in sheet indicating which computer room they should then go to. Staff will also be on hand to direct students.
 - The students will form their own bubble for the time they are in school during the next two weeks, returning to their year group bubble once everyone is back in school. Groups

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 ORB
01925 755458 info@lymmhigh.org.uk www.lymmhigh.org.uk



will be small and students will be reminded to practise social distancing and to follow all the usual guidance, including hand washing and sanitising.

- We ask that students bring their own headphones if they have any, so that they can access the online lessons.
- School uniform is not required, but please make sure students are dressed appropriately.
- There will be limited lunch options, so students may prefer to bring their own food.
- School buses will run as normal this week.

Week commencing 11th January

- From Monday 11th January, students in Year 11 and Year 13 are to return to school for face-to-face teaching.
- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers will also be able to continue coming into school during this week.
- All other year groups now need to remain at home and will be taught remotely.
- Buses will run as normal.

Week commencing 18th January

- From Monday 18th January, all students will be able to return to school.

Remote learning

Aside from the dates it applies to, the situation with remote learning remains the same as I explained in my letter on the last day of term. This means:

- Students at home should follow their normal timetable. They should login to Microsoft Teams and go to their class team at the time they would ordinarily have a lesson. Here they will find links to the live lessons.
- All lessons except **Key Stage 3** Food, DT, PE and IT as well as KS4 Core PE lessons, will be taught as live lessons. Form time will also be delivered as a live lesson. Work will be set via Teams for the KS3 practical lessons that are not being delivered live.
- Please note: we expect 100% attendance to the live lessons from all students. Teachers will be taking registers.
- We have a small number of laptops available that we can lend out for the next couple of weeks. If you really need one of these, please email Miss Dixon (ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk) and we will do our best to help.
- If you have any technical issues (e.g. password problems), please email ITHelpdesk@lymmhigh.org.uk
- We have had plenty of practice of all this as a school now and so we anticipate things should run smoothly for the most part, with students receiving good quality teaching. Please just bear with us if there are any technical or staffing issues and reassure your children that it is not the end of the world if the odd lesson does not quite go to plan.



Mass testing + call for volunteers

We are still eagerly awaiting clarification from government on some key questions on this matter before we can get started. As soon as we know more, I will be in touch.

In the meantime, if you, or anybody else you know, might be willing to volunteer to help with any mass testing, we would be most grateful. The kind of thing we are likely to need is people who can help to register students and to record results as well as possibly supervising students while they self-administer the tests. All training will be provided, with school staff overseeing the process, and we are told that the work is relatively straightforward.

Ideally, we would like people who are able to commit to a regular timeslot up until at least February half-term – e.g. certain days of the week or a few hours a day – but any offers of help will be gratefully received at this stage. If you might be able to help, please email Mrs Headon (hheadon@lymmhigh.org.uk) and we will be in touch as soon as we have a clearer idea of exactly what we need.

Free school meals vouchers

We will continue to issue vouchers, via Wonde, as originally planned, to cover the weeks where certain year groups are learning remotely from home. Please check the School Gateway app, your texts and emails to access your link if you are eligible. Students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will now be issued with a two week voucher and students in Y11 and 13 will be issued with a one week voucher. Please phone school on 01925 755458 if you have any problems.

KS3 assessments

We will need to change the dates of the [KS3 exams](#) in English, Maths and Science that were due to take place in the week commencing 11th January. For now, please assume that they will take place during the week commencing 25th January and we will be in touch as soon as possible with the exact days and times.

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