

Whole School

Letter from Mr Williams

Dear parents and carers

I hope you have had a good week and that your children have been able to engage fully in their online lessons. Please do make sure you get in touch if they or you need anything.

Otherwise, a few messages for this week can be found below.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

Remote learning/lesson length

Some of you have raised concerns that younger students are finding it hard to concentrate for the whole of the 100-minute double lessons in the online format. Teachers are also finding the same issue in many cases.

We have therefore said to teachers that they should use their discretion, but that it will be perfectly acceptable to have a 10–15-minute break somewhere around the middle of these double lessons for Key Stage Three (KS3) students where appropriate. This, for example, could be in those lessons where students have had to look at their computer screens for long periods without having much independent work to get on with away from the screen. This may happen now and again for Key Stage 4 (KS4) students, but much more rarely.

Homework

Now that we are starting to settle into new routines, homework will still be set in broadly similar amounts to normal, although the type of tasks may vary slightly in view of the fact that marking and assessment is much more difficult to manage at the moment.

KS3 students will not have any homework for the next couple of weeks aside from revision for their January assessments – more details of which will be sent out next week.

Parents' Evenings

Year 9 Parents' Evening is scheduled for 4th February and Year 11 Parents' Evening for 11th February. We will be in touch separately about these at a later date, but they will still take place – virtually, of course!

Please note that, in order to prevent teachers having to stare at computer screens for too many hours on one day, there will be no live lessons on the afternoons of these days. Work will still be set via Teams.

Laptops

If your child does not have a suitable device to access remote lessons (n.b. a mobile phone isn't really suitable) or is having to share with other people in the household, please email Miss Dixon on ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk to see if we can help.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Ms Martin 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

Year 9 choices process

Year 9 parents should have already received a letter about the choices process for this year.

You should also have received one about the drop-in sessions on 21st January. Please note, these are entirely optional and just provide an opportunity to clarify anything that is not clear in the choices booklet.

All of the information that students and parents should need (e.g. the choices booklet, some FAQs, subjects presentations and a presentation from Mrs McGahey about the whole process) will be uploaded onto the Teams channel 'Year 9 Choices' on Monday next week.

COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey (Year 8 and 9)

If your Year 8 or Year 9 child did not take part in the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey when they visited before Christmas, it is not too late. There is still time to register and receive a Home Antibody test kit. Please [click here](#) to read a useful leaflet containing information about signing up. Antibody home test kits will be sent to all new participants or participants who missed previous rounds due to unavailability (e.g. absent from school). The deadline for new participants to sign up is 23rd January 2021.

Please note, for those children who took part in December's testing, the next round has been cancelled. Further information on future testing will be shared when known.

UPPER SCHOOL

BTEC Health & Social Care exams

These exams (originally scheduled for February) have now been cancelled. Teachers have already informed students in lessons, but please contact them if you have any questions. Otherwise, we will be in touch once we know more about the plans for awarding grades.

Year 11 and Year 13 revision

We do not expect Year 11 or Year 13 students to be revising for exams at the moment. Making sure they take a full part in lessons and complete all regular homework will be sufficient for the time being.

Once we have a clearer idea of what is happening with grading of exams this summer, we will re-visit this issue.

Year 11 mock exam results

These have been sent out earlier today via the Gateway app and/or parental email addresses. This includes a covering letter and guidance on what to do if you have any queries. Please contact Mrs Feast (efeast@lymmhigh.org.uk) if you have not received them.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 UCAS process / Form time next week

Next week we launch the UCAS process with our Year 12 students with a session delivered by Sheffield University. This will be the first of a number of sessions we have organised for students. Students have been informed that this will run on Friday 22nd Jan from 12.10–1pm.

This means that in order to accommodate our external speaker, we will, for next week only, run form on Monday and Friday for Year 12 students.