

WHOLE SCHOOL

Note from Mr Williams

Dear parents and carers

As we reach the end of the half-term, my primary emotion is of admiration for the way students have coped with the challenges of the last few weeks. I have spent quite a bit of time over the last few days holding interviews with Year 9 students about their option choices and took the opportunity to chat to many of them about how they are finding things. As we have consistently seen and heard from other students since Christmas, they were remarkably pragmatic and positive. I know that most children (and indeed families!) will have had some fewer positive moments but, overall, they deserve a lot of praise for their perseverance in the face of the situation they have found themselves in. Similarly, parents and carers of Lymm High students should be commended for your flexibility and patience in supporting your children; I know I have found the role of father a lot more difficult than that of being a headteacher in the last few weeks!

One of the most challenging things about the pandemic has been the uncertainty about what comes next. I had hoped to be in a position to provide more information on this by now but unfortunately we still don't know much about what next half-term will bring. What we do know is that schools will not be opening before 8th March at the earliest but that the Prime Minister will be making an announcement on 22nd February. We expect this announcement to include some reference to mass testing of staff and students before schools start and, whilst there's no point speculating now on what exactly will be required, we are confident that we will be able to manage all of that. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that I have everything crossed in hope that the national situation allows for schools to open up again as soon as possible.

Similarly, we are expecting some more news about the process for awarding exam grades this summer by around the end of February. In the meantime, our sympathies lie with the students who have to deal with all the uncertainty – as well as our congratulations for the way they have stuck at it this term.

Once again, thank you for all your support and I wish you all the best for a good half-term break.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

Guardian Schools Guide

We generally tend to take these things with a pinch of salt, but thought parents and carers would like to see that the [Guardian Schools Guide](#) has just rated Lymm High School exceptionally highly – saying, amongst other things, that student progress and attainment, the Sixth Form and student destinations are all 'Excellent'. Amidst all the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in at the moment, this at least provides a nice reminder of the progress we've made as a school in recent years.

Attitude to Learning reports

These are being sent home to parents today for Years 7–13 (some year groups were sent yesterday). They are being sent via email (please see message on the School Gateway app) as with all progress reports. If you haven't received your report today, please contact Ms Lunt on slunt@lymmhigh.org.uk

Connect Four success

We have been overwhelmed by the response to our Connect Four Challenge day last week. It's been lovely reading about all the tasks the students accomplished and their heart-warming acts of kindness. We've had so many entries to read through and we want to be thorough so will announce the winners after half term.

Keeping safe online

Please [click here](#) to read a student guide on how to keep safe whilst learning online. All students have received this document by email.

History magazine

In a real testament to how maturely and diligently our students are embracing their online learning, a group of Sixth Form students have published their second issue of '[Insight into History](#)', Lymm High School's new online History magazine and blog. They have also recruited some younger fellow historians. Their online blog contains recommendations of films and television series, as well as online articles and links to the magazine. Click here to view: [Our Recommendations – Insight into History \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Disclaimer: While we support our students unreservedly and admire their journalistic endeavours, please note that we accept no financial responsibility for any libel suits mounted by the Royal family as a result of the publication of this magazine!

Ms Yates, Head of History

Revised bus schedule – keyworker school only

Please [click here](#) to view a revised bus timetable that will operate from Monday 22nd February when students return after half term. If this revised schedule causes any major problems for students currently attending school, please let us know as soon as possible. Buses will be back to normal when school eventually re-opens to all students.

Free School Meals/Covid Winter Grant Scheme

Free School Meal vouchers to cover February half-term will be provided via the Covid Winter Grant. Please [click here](#) for a letter about the scheme and how to apply. Please [click here](#) for an additional FAQ document. It is not too late to apply and we would encourage all students eligible for FSM to apply – please apply through Warrington Borough Council regardless of which local authority you live in (Warrington Borough Council, 01925 443322, and quote 'COVID Winter Grant' or email covidwinterpaymentgrant@warrington.gov.uk).

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals but you've had your Covid Winter Grant application turned down, please could you email Miss Dixon with the details (ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk). It would be helpful to know which benefit you currently receive, making your child eligible for FSM so we can follow this up.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Mr Shuttleworth 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](#). If you want to find out how it works, please [click here](#). Tickets are only £1 each week. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

Fundraising made easy

While we're in lockdown, most of us are shopping online. [easyfundraising](#)® is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. 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!

LOWER SCHOOL

Choices interviews

Choices interviews for Year 9 will continue in the week commencing 22nd February. A link to the Choices online form and a 'How to guide' will be emailed to students after the half-term break.

UPPER SCHOOL

Careers calendar

A reminder to keep checking the [careers section](#) of the school website. The careers calendar is updated regularly and includes lots of online careers events that students can sign up to.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Parents' Evening

Please [click here](#) for a letter regarding our upcoming Parents' Evening on Thursday 25th February, 4:30–7:30pm.

What's on?

The [Life after Sixth Form](#) section of the website includes a [list of sessions](#) available for students to support their future applications to university and apprenticeships. These virtual sessions will take place during form time and will cover generic topics regarding applications, subject-specific webinars and seminars. We hope that despite the pandemic, these sessions will prove to be beneficial for students in enabling them to gain a greater insight into their future studies.