

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers

I sincerely hope – and expect – this to be the last bulletin I write during a lockdown. If things were a bit less hectic, I would probably be trying to find some special way of marking the occasion! As it is, I am typing this full of energy, knowing that it will only be a couple of days before students are back in school and making the place as lively, joyful, noisy and smelly as a building designed for housing 2000 teenagers ought to be.

Please do read the following messages carefully – and please note in particular the message about boys PE from Monday. Please also note the message about the short presentation I have put together for Year 11 and 13 students on the process we will be following for the awarding of grades this summer.

For the last time (I hope!) thank you all once again for your incredible support for the school during this lockdown. It has certainly been challenging, but there have also been so many positive stories (please see the latest [newsletter](#) that will be published any minute now for evidence of some of this) and a heart-warming degree of empathy for the various different challenges we have all been facing. As you know, we talk a lot about the importance of social responsibility at Lymm High School... and that has been on display by the bucketload again over the last couple of months.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

Face Coverings

The government has made it clear that there is an expectation that all staff and students wear face coverings in lessons for the next few weeks, in addition to indoor communal areas. Please make sure your child brings a face covering into school. We would also be grateful if you could reinforce the message of social responsibility with them: i.e. wearing a face covering is at least as much about showing respect for, and protecting, the people around them as it is about protecting themselves. We will provide a card for students who have a medical reason for being exempt – please contact the relevant Head of Year if this is the case. Students will not need to wear face coverings outside the school building.

We know this isn't ideal but, as I've said before, it seems a small price to pay to help get all students back into school as soon as possible – and we don't anticipate it being for long.

Covid Testing

Thank you for all your support with Covid testing over the last few days. The systems worked really well and everything went very smoothly, with very little waiting time for students. The turnout was incredible – well over 95% of students came in, along with nearly all staff, and we have administered over 2000 tests. This level of support and engagement reflects extremely well on you as parents and carers; thank you.

Remarkably, not one of these tests has come back positive and I think we can all take some comfort from that. However, at the same time, it is essential to stress that this does not mean we can relax in following other guidance. Lateral flow tests are not 100% accurate and, in any case, testing negative one day does not mean someone cannot contract the virus the next day. As ever, the best advice is that we all behave as if we might have the virus ourselves.

As mentioned in the guidance that went to parents on Tuesday, we will only get in touch with you directly if there has been a positive result and that would take place within just over 30 minutes of the test. Due to the

time taken to log all of the results onto the government website, there will be a delay before you get the text message. It may now be early next week by the time you get this. However, we can assure you that we will have notified you very quickly if there was a positive result so please do not worry if you haven't yet had a text message.

Year 10 and 11 students will have their second test in school on Monday. Students should just go to their lessons as normal on arrival and we will explain the arrangements for testing to them then. Other year groups will follow on Tuesday and Wednesday – again, instructions will be given to students in school.

Plans for next week's re-opening

All students have received a guide to school re-opening on Monday. These are the key reminders from Mr Thompson:

- All students need to bring their own face covering and hand sanitiser to school each day. Face coverings should be worn at all times when inside the building, including during lessons. Students should sanitise their hands every time they change location.
- The school one-way and door entrance system is still in operation. Students need to enter/exit the school building via the exterior door closest to their classroom. Traveling through school along corridors is not permitted, and all no entry signs need to be observed. All movement should be via the outside of the school building.
- When students arrive at school they need to make their way directly to the entrance location for their period one lesson (noting that this will potentially be a different location each day). They should wait outside in this area, maintaining 1m distance from other students until 8.15am when they are allowed to enter the school building and make their way directly to their classroom.
- All students should carry their equipment in an appropriate school bag. The minimum expectation is that all students come to school properly equipped each day; the amount of equipment we can lend out will be limited.
- Year group bubbles at break and lunch time are still in place. Students should remain in their designated areas at these times.
- Mobile phones and smart watches must remain switched off during school hours and should be kept in bags from the moment students arrive on site in the morning until they leave the school buildings at the end of the day.
- All students should return in full school uniform.

PE kit requirements

These are the arrangements for PE lessons until the Easter holidays.

- Girls Year 7–11 will require PE kit and trainers for netball
- Boys Year 7–10 will require PE kit and football boots (suitable for the 3G pitch) for tag rugby
- Boys Year 11 will require PE kit, shin pads and football boots (suitable for the 3G pitch) for football

Boys

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the boys had been using the sports hall as a changing room. However, because of the Covid testing taking place this is not available from Monday 8th March until Tuesday 16th March.

Therefore, **next week boys are expected to come into school in their PE kit along with suitable footwear**, such as trainers, for the days when they have their lessons. Their football boots should be packed in their bag. 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 the same system that we used prior to Christmas when the Year 11 students were taking their mock exams in the sports hall. Unfortunately, if the weather is extremely wet, lessons may have to be adapted with groups going in classrooms for part of the lesson. This will prevent students being in wet clothes for the remainder of the day.

Girls

Girls will continue using the changing facilities during this time and will be required to arrive in their normal school uniform.

Extra-curricular sport

Extra-curricular sport will restart the week commencing 15th March, on the same days prior to lockdown. Further details regarding activities will be provided next week.

Cashless Catering

As we're back in school next week, please remember to top up your child's cashless catering accounts via Parent Pay to ensure your child is able to purchase food during their lunchtimes.

Bedding Plants

A reminder that if you'd like to order any bedding plants, hanging baskets, patio pots or vegetables, please [click here](#) for an order form. This needs to be returned with payment by Friday 26th March. Orders will be delivered before the Spring half-term break.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Mrs Scott 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.

UPPER SCHOOL

Year 10 Parents' Evening

This was calendared for 11th March but we have decided to postpone it so that teachers can spend some time with students back in school and therefore be in a better position to hold meaningful conversations when the time comes.

Exams for Year 11

I have put together a short presentation for Year 11 and 13 students explaining the outline of our plans for awarding grades this summer and I would encourage parents to watch this with your children. The presentation is saved in the files section of both the Year 11 and Year 13 Teams. An email has been sent to both year groups with these details. As I have said in the presentation, I am feeling very confident that we have come up with a system that is fair to students and will allow them a proper opportunity to show what they can do and to receive grades that reflect their ability. Further details (especially on topics that students will need to revise) will follow together with an updated FAQs document in due course.

SIXTH FORM

Exams for Year 13

I have put together a short presentation for Year 11 and 13 students explaining the outline of our plans for awarding grades this summer and I would encourage parents to watch this with your children. The presentation is saved in the files section of both the Year 11 and Year 13 Teams. An email has been sent to both year groups with these details. As I have said in the presentation, I am feeling very confident that we have come up with a system that is fair to students and will allow them a proper opportunity to show what

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