

## WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers

The last couple of weeks have been fantastic. It really has been wonderful to see all the students back in school and to feel that things are returning to some kind of normal. We had every confidence that students would quickly re-adjust to routines and expectations, and they certainly haven't disappointed. For example, **face coverings** in lessons have caused very few issues, with everyone just getting on with it in a sensible and mature manner that has allowed us to focus on more important things.

Similarly, we have been hugely impressed by the resilience shown by Year 11 and 13 students in the face of all the issues relating to **examinations this summer**. Mrs Feast is putting together further information on this to be sent home very shortly; indeed, you may even have it by the time you read this.

The **testing** of students in school has also gone very smoothly. We have only had two positive tests so far and neither of these has led to many students at all having to isolate (which, as ever, we realise is of no consolation to the poor students who have had to). As you will know from Mr Johnson's letter, students are now expected to use the kits they have been issued with to test at home from now on – on Wednesdays and Sundays. We would really appreciate your support in making sure this happens.

On a very different note, a big topic of discussion in school this week has been the tragic murder of **Sarah Everard** and the various issues relating to sexism and misogyny for which this case seems to have become something of a touchstone. I recorded an assembly for KS4 and KS5 students on Tuesday and there has been a follow-up session in tutor time today. We are planning further materials for discussion with all year groups as part of our Life programme next week and thereafter. It has been an opportunity to re-visit some really important messages for young people, and we have been very encouraged by the way the vast majority of students have responded. At the same time, I have to admit that I have been deeply saddened by the response of some people (mainly men, it must be said, and mainly on social media) – which has, I am even sadder to say, filtered down to a few of the boys in school and led to some insensitive comments or silly attempts at jokes that have left some girls quite understandably upset.

For the most part, these comments are simply based on teenage ignorance and, when the full context has been explained, the boys have been able to see that they have just not understood certain things. It has been encouraging to see so many 'lightbulbs' going on in people's minds as the week has gone on. Nevertheless, this has all underlined the work that still needs to be done in ensuring that our female students can grow up in a world where they do not have to face so many of the fears that previous generations of women have had to. We would therefore appreciate it if parents and carers could try to find the opportunity to speak to children – especially boys – about some of the issues and urge them not only to not engage in sexist behaviour, but to take an active role in being anti-sexist. [Click here](#) for one of the presentations we have used to prompt discussion around the need for empathy, and which may help you at home.

To be absolutely clear (and this point cuts to the heart of so much of the ignorance around this), none of this is to demonise boys or men whatsoever. We are being extremely careful in school to make clear that it ought to be perfectly obvious that raising issues to do with, for example, harassment of women, does not mean anyone is suggesting all men or boys are bad; on the contrary. (One parallel we have used is that anti-drink drive campaigns don't suggest all drivers have a problem with alcohol). Similarly, it does not mean there aren't some real challenges associated with growing up as young men in this day and age – issues that we already, and will continue to, address at other times in school. However, as I have said to the boys this week, right now is a time when we should be listening to girls and women and trying to understand their perspectives; manufacturing outrage about it being unfair on boys and men to be spending a couple of weeks highlighting some of the challenges facing women seems to me to be wholly inappropriate and, indeed, to miss the point altogether.

Some of these issues are very complex and, of course, we won't solve them overnight. However, I have a huge amount of faith in the capacity of Lymm High students to act as socially responsible citizens and, with your support as parents, we can certainly do all we can to educate our young people and to encourage them to reflect on what actions they can take to make sure that we do make more progress as a society.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

### ONS Schools Infection Survey

Towards the end of last year, many of our Year 8 and 9 students took part in the ONS Schools Infection Survey. This national survey involves the students being tested once every half term for the presence of Covid-19 antibodies that might suggest they have had the virus previously.

Lymm High signed up to this study so we can better understand the rates and patterns of infection in the school. We also feel that it is our duty to help scientists track the virus properly, which would not be possible if no schools signed up. The second round of testing is due to take place this month on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

If any Year 8 and 9 students would like to sign up for this testing programme and haven't previously registered, details on how to enlist can be [found here](#). Students will need to be registered by 23<sup>rd</sup> March in order to take part.

Please note that this testing study is in addition to the lateral flow testing that all students now need to complete at home twice a week.

Further information for parents can be [found here](#). For all other queries, please contact [AMogey@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:AMogey@lymmhigh.org.uk).

### Extra-curricular sport

Extra-curricular sport started this week after school from 3.15–4.30pm. For a full list of clubs, please [click here](#).

### Headphones for IT lessons

Students need to bring in the headphones they were given in school to their IT lessons. If students do not bring them in they will be given a BFL Grade 3 for no equipment. If they are lost, new pairs can be bought from the school shop for £1.50. A 3.5mm-headphone socket is required. Apple headphones and wireless/Bluetooth headphones will not work.

### Cashless Catering

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, the order form needs to be returned with payment by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Please [click here](#) for an order form. Orders will be delivered before the Spring half-term break.

### LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Ms Maskall 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 will now take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Further details will be sent to parents in the next couple of weeks.

### **Year 11 Assessment Guide**

This has been sent home to parents today. Students will receive a printed copy next week and it is available now on the Year 11 Team.

## SIXTH FORM

### **Year 12 Assessment Week**

Year 12 Assessment Week will commence on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March.