

## **Diverse Communities, Diverse Opportunities Drop-Down Day**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am writing to inform you about our upcoming drop-down day 'Diverse Communities, Diverse Opportunities' which will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The day will involve a collapsed timetable and will comprise a series of PSHE themed sessions linked to the topics of diversity and healthy lifestyles.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) education is a compulsory element of the school curriculum, and one that we consider to be exceptionally important at Lymm High School. Whilst our weekly Life Programme sessions cover a large quantity of the content required, the drop-down day will allow us to further extend and develop some of the key issues that we feel are important to us as a school and a community. The day has been planned to allow students the chance to look at some of these areas and have the opportunity to pose important questions, hold meaningful discussions and reflect with purpose on some of the recent issues that impact our society as a whole.

Please see below our plan for each year group.

### **Overview of drop-down day 2021 sessions**

| Period | Year 7                                    | Year 8                               |                 | Year 9                                 |                 | Year 10                            |                 |
|--------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1      | We are Lymm – tolerance and equality      | It Happens                           | Beyond Equality | It Happens                             | Beyond Equality | How does bias impact on diversity? |                 |
| 2      |   |                                      |                 |  |                 |                                    |                 |
| 3      | Careers                                   | Careers                              |                 | Careers                                |                 | Careers                            |                 |
| 4      |   |                                      |                 |  |                 |                                    |                 |
| 5      | Taskmaster – team building and enterprise | We are Lymm – tolerance and equality |                 | Sexual health – contraception and STIs |                 | It Happens                         | Beyond Equality |
| 6      |   |                                      |                 |  |                 |                                    |                 |

### **Beyond Equality / It Happens**

Beyond Equality is a UK-based charity who have been engaging students in conversations around masculinity and gender equality for around 8 years. They work in schools, universities, workplaces and pro sports. Their aim is to show students how they can all work towards preventing things like suicide, gender-based violence and discrimination by promoting positive masculinities. To complement this, the 'It Happens' organisation are a team of professionals providing educational talks, workshops and training sessions for students, teachers and parents. They work with a range of ages and stages across the whole UK on issues that students are worried about. Their sessions are straight-talking, open and honest. They take the awkwardness out of these sensitive topics so that young people are able to ask the many questions they have – in a safe space. They work closely with our school curriculum and

pastoral teams to support and extend the RSE (Relationship & Sex Education) and PSHE work that is already delivered through Life Programme.

### **Careers**

During the drop-down day, students will be given the opportunity for some really important interactions with employers. All of our guest speakers are female who work in typically male dominated industries. Students will be able to hear how they were able to succeed in their careers, the educational paths they took to get there and will receive some key advice on how to progress in their industries. Students will also be given the opportunity to ask our guest speakers questions about their career.

### **Taskmaster – diversity at Lymm**

Year 7 will be set a task by Lymm's own Taskmaster to produce a piece of work in their forms that celebrates, highlights or develops diversity at Lymm High School.

### **We are Lymm – tolerance and equality**

Year 7 and 8 will have a session to dive into Gareth Southgate's 'Dear England' statement considering themes of race, equality and what it means to be British. They will then use these values to create a 'Dear Lymm' statement on how they can embody what Southgate calls for in school and in the community.

### **Sexual health – contraception and STIs**

This session is part of the student's statutory relationship and sexual education programme. We will explore the range of contraception available and how they work to prevent conception and/or protect against STIs. We will discuss when, where and how to access contraception in an age-appropriate way. We will apply knowledge of contraception to assess the best contraceptive options in a range of scenarios.

### **How does bias impact on diversity?**

This session will look at bias in the media and how it impacts on our perceptions of race and gender. We will also explore ideas around unconscious bias so we are aware of how society and culture may have influenced our own thoughts and feelings. We will then use that as a springboard for how we can engage with topics that we may find uncomfortable or threatening in a more empathetic and socially responsible way.

We will update our website and social media sites with further information leading up to the day, and will share resources that may help deal with questions around sensitive and difficult topics at home.

Yours faithfully,

Miss T. Taylor

Assistant Headteacher – Raising Standards