

## WHOLE SCHOOL

### Message from Mr Williams

Dear parents and carers

Starting with a huge positive this week, I mentioned in the last bulletin that Lymm High School has been accredited as a 'world class school', something we are very proud of. The story was featured in the [Warrington Guardian](#) and is well worth a read. The award really underlines what incredible young people we have here and what a great position the school is in at the moment. It provides a lovely end to a challenging year and sets us up very nicely for next year and beyond. Many thanks again to everyone involved in the bid, especially the students.

It has to be said that there have been some rather tired faces around school this week, but we are really looking forward to Sports Day and Founders' Day next week – both should be great events, especially given the sunshine that is forecast.

### Covid Latest

I cannot, of course, write anything without mentioning Covid! Having come this far and weathered the storm very well, I have to say that this week has probably been the worst week we have had so far in terms of the number of cases. Year 10 and 12 have been especially affected and we have significant numbers of students (around a third) now isolating in each of these two year groups, despite our best efforts not to send students home unless absolutely necessary. Nearly all of the positive cases have been closely connected to social events outside of school and it is obvious to us that the latest variant is transmitting itself much more easily than previous ones. I would, therefore, recommend that you urge children to be sensible and relatively cautious if you do not want holidays to be too disrupted.

Looking further ahead, I'm sure that many of you will already be familiar with the latest set of rules from the government and what this means for **schools from September** but I thought it would be helpful to clarify the following key points (assuming nothing changes between now and then of course!). So, from September:

- Schools will be expected to have plans in place for any potential outbreak, which could mean the reinstatement of some measures. Otherwise...
- Bubbles will no longer be necessary. This means that we can return to our normal timetable, with a five-period day and tutor time at the start of the day. School will finish for all students at 3.10pm again
- Assemblies and other similar events will run as normal
- Face coverings will not be needed
- School will no longer have to undertake contact tracing in the event of a positive Covid case, with the NHS Track & Trace team now picking up this responsibility. (N.b. This officially starts from Monday, though we expect to continue helping the Track & Trace team for the final week of term.)
- We will be continuing to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as good ventilation where possible. Enhanced cleaning regimes will also be in place.
- Finally, and perhaps most significantly, students (i.e. anyone under 18) will no longer have to self-isolate if they are deemed to be a close contact. Instead, they will need to get a PCR test but will still be allowed to attend school unless the test comes back positive. To be clear, this does not come into operation until 16<sup>th</sup> August – any identified close contacts for the rest of this term will still need to self-isolate for ten days.

As ever, I am conscious that people have different opinions on all this and so will just say that we are all very excited about the prospect of being back to normal and especially pleased that we ought not to be seeing significant numbers of students having to miss so much school any longer.

In the meantime, it is important that we all remember to follow the current rules. The most important of these is that **if anyone in your household shows any symptoms of Covid, they need to get a PCR test and self-isolate until they have the result** (n.b. lateral flow tests are not sufficient if you are showing Covid symptoms – it must be a PCR test).

### **Mass testing and start to new school year**

Schools are expected to undertake mass testing of all students in school before the start of term (much as we did back in January). We will be sending a letter out in the next few days with the details and times for this, but we can say now that the following will apply:

- Term will start on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** for **Years 7 and 12 only**
- All other year groups will start on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**
- Students in **Years 7, 8 and 11** will need to come into school at some point on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** for a lateral flow test
- Students in **Years 9, 10, 12 and 13** will need to come into school on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** for a lateral flow test

As I say, further details of this – especially times – will be provided next week. In the meantime, please do not panic if you have a holiday booked for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We will make some, limited, provision available outside of these two days.

Apologies again to all those families affected by the need to self-isolate over the last couple of weeks, and best wishes to everyone.

Kind regards  
Gwyn Williams

### **Sports Day**

This year's Sports Day will spread over both Monday and Tuesday next week. The forecast for the start of the week is very hot. Please ensure your child has sun cream, a hat and plenty of water. There will be areas of shade around the running track that we will encourage students to use.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July:

- Year 7 to come to school in their PE kit.
- Students must still bring their materials for their lessons for the day.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July:

- Years 7–10 to come to school in their PE kit
- Students must still bring their materials for their lessons for the day.

### **Founders' Day**

A reminder that our Founders' Day celebration will take place on Wednesday with the theme 'A Lasting Legacy'. Students are invited to attend school in non-uniform for a suggested donation of £1 (on ParentPay), which will go towards their Hall Charity. During the day, all students will be involved in a 5K sponsored walk, a year group assembly and a fun carnival in the school grounds.

For full details, please [click here](#) to read the original letter from Mrs McGahey.

### Uniform expectations

Lymm High takes great pride in its uniform and the appearance of all students. Our high standards and expectations require all pupils to wear their full uniform correctly at all times. Having the support of parents, as always, goes a long way to reducing the number of conversations we have to have about uniform and appearance and supports the smooth running of the school. We therefore ask for your support in ensuring that all students are in the correct school uniform from September. This includes:

- Shoes – no trainers/trainer-style footwear/no logos
- Coats should be dark in colour
- No hoodies
- No jewellery
- No piercings
- Discreet natural make-up: no false nails, no false eyelashes, clear nail varnish only, eyebrows should be natural
- Hair should be neat and conventional with no extreme styles. No haircuts shorter than a grade 2. Hair colour should be natural.

To read Mr Thompson's full letter on uniform expectations, please [click here](#).

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

A reminder that school finishes at 12.10pm next Friday when we break up for the summer holidays. Buses will be on hand in line with the early finish.

### Chromebook programme

In response to the coronavirus pandemic and a need by our students to access remote learning from home, we launched our Chromebook programme and now have over 500 students signed up to the scheme. We very much hope that we will not need to return to a period of school closures and learning from home, but if we do, we know that our students are more prepared than ever as a result of having access to affordable and suitable devices which support their studies wherever they take place. This programme is now being offered to any students and parents who wish to sign up this summer term. The deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> August.

For full details, please [click here](#).

### 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.

### LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Mr Sharma 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 and if you sign up this term you could win a year's supply of fruit and veg boxes delivered to your home. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

## LOWER SCHOOL

### Pupil Premium

We have an unusually low number of students eligible for Pupil Premium this year in Year 7, especially those eligible for Free School Meals. In light of Covid, this is a little surprising and is out of sync with numbers in other year groups which have been increasing. If your child falls into any of these categories that we do not already know about, please can you get in touch with Mrs R Morris [rmorris@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:rmorris@lymmhigh.org.uk) so we can ensure your child receives the additional support available to them.

The categories are:

- eligible for Free School Meals (or have been in the last 6 years)
- currently in Local Authority Care
- adopted from care
- under a 'Special Guardianship Order' (SGO)
- under a 'Child Arrangement Order'
- or has a parent serving in the UK Armed Forces (or who has done in the last 6 years).

Please [click here](#) to check your child's eligibility for Free School Meals which entitles them to £2.30 daily credit in the school canteen as well as support from Pupil Premium.

## UPPER SCHOOL

### Year 11 Prom

This is still planned for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Miss Taylor has sent a [letter](#) to all Year 11 parents informing them about the need for students to undertake Covid tests at school prior to the event, and for face masks to be worn during the evening.

### Exams (for Year 10 and Sixth Form)

The DfE and Ofqual have launched a consultation process for exams in 2022. The consultation doesn't close until the middle of August and so it will be well into September before we get any final decisions, but it does offer some strong hints as to what they are currently thinking. The main points are that it looks as if:

- Exams will go ahead this year, though with adaptations to reflect the impact of the pandemic on candidates' learning.
- Some topics will become optional in GCSE English literature, history and ancient history, with a choice of content in GCSE geography.
- There will be advanced notice of content on the exams in the spring term for most other GCSEs, AS and A' Levels
- Some changes will be made to practical assessment in science subjects and art and design
- Exam aides / support materials (e.g. formula sheets) will be provided for exams in maths, physics and combined science exams.

Again, this is all very provisional at the moment and we will let you know as soon as anything is confirmed. However, we think it is very good news – the bottom line is that these changes ought to make life easier for teachers and students and should make a big difference in mitigating the effects of any learning lost this year.

### Year 11 National Careers Service webinars

The National Careers Service is delivering a series of webinars for parents and carers whose children are receiving results this August.

It has been a challenging year for students and the National Careers Service want to equip parents and carers with advice to support their children on the day. Click the links below to sign up to one of the webinars and get:

- tips on how your child can prepare for results day
- advice about their options
- advice about leaving education and exploring careers

- signposting to useful sources
- an opportunity for Q&A

Choose one of the dates below and click the 'book your place' link to sign up.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 12pm – [book your place](#)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 4pm – [book your place](#)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 12pm – [book your place](#)

## SIXTH FORM

### **Fashion Show**

The Year 13 Fashion Show is taking place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 6–8pm. All parents are welcome to attend. Please contact [ksimms@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:ksimms@lymmhigh.org.uk) for information.

### **Year 13 National Careers Service webinars**

See above, under 'Upper School'.