

## WHOLE SCHOOL

### Covid latest

We have seen quite a spike in cases over the last week, with over a hundred cases in the main school. On the whole, they are fairly evenly spread across year groups rather than being concentrated in particular groups, with the exception of Sixth Form where there are very few live cases at all at the moment (presumably at least in part due to the impact of the vaccines for this age group). We have been in touch with Public Health Warrington, who are not recommending we make any specific changes at this stage but we'll obviously continue to watch things closely. Please do remember to make sure children take lateral flow tests every Sunday and Wednesday and do not come into school if they are displaying any of the Covid symptoms.

As you know, the NHS team are visiting on Monday and Tuesday to provide vaccines for 12–15-year olds: please note it is too late to provide consent for this at this stage, but we hope there will be another opportunity later in the term.

### 'Window into Lessons' for students isolating at home

We would like to commend all students working at home for their hard work in engaging in live lessons via the 'Window into Lessons' on Teams.

A reminder that, if students are isolating at home and well enough to complete school work, they should ensure they are logged in, with Teams open, at the time of their normal lesson. At this point they will be invited into the lesson by the teacher, who will start a meeting for their 'Team'. The lesson slides will be shared directly, or a copy made available to students on their own device, so they can follow the content of the lesson.

The intention of 'Window into Lessons' is to ensure that students know what content the class have covered, and have therefore completed similar activities while working at home. We understand that many of our students are conscientious and keen to interact directly with the learning in the classroom, however it is extremely difficult for teachers to teach two types of lesson at once, and for lots of reasons it may not always work perfectly. As such, students must try not to worry too much – all they can do is try their best, and not panic if there are parts of lessons they struggle with.

### Early close and INSET Day

A reminder that school finishes at 12.15pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October so staff can prepare for the Open Evening. Friday 8th October is an INSET Day.

### Buses on the 7th October

Please [click here](#) to read an important letter about buses on Open Evening (7<sup>th</sup> October). You **must** complete the survey if you wish school to supervise your child(ren) until the buses depart at their usual time.

### Open Evening attendance

After last year's virtual event, we are pleased to be holding an in-person Open Evening again next week. If you are planning to attend with your Year 6 child, please note that we are implementing a few Covid safety measures to help us maintain a sensible balance between keeping everybody safe and allowing people a full opportunity to explore the school. Please [click here](#) to read the full letter.

## **European Week of Languages**

This week we have been celebrating 'European Week of Languages' with our students across school. As well as themed meal days in the canteen, there is a 'Mother Tongue, Other Tongue' poetry competition. The competition has two categories and is open to all students, not just those studying a language.

- 1) an original poem written in French, German or Spanish (pupils can choose any theme and may choose to illustrate their poem).
- 2) a poem in a language they speak at home or perhaps with grandparents / family. This could be a poem that they always heard when they were younger or a poem they really like. This should be accompanied by a short description / translation of the content and an explanation as to why they have chosen it. Again, students can illustrate this if they wish.

Entries should be handed to a member of staff in MFL by the deadline of Thursday 7th October. Winners will be announced w/c 11th October.

## **Recycling PE kits**

In a bid to reduce our carbon footprint, Lymm High's PE Department is looking to introduce an initiative whereby PE kit and other sports equipment are recycled and reused. As a first step, we are asking parents to please consider donating their child's old football boots back to school. We can then provide these to students who forget to bring theirs in, or who need new pairs and can't afford them. We will have a box in reception to collect any boots you no longer need and hope you will support this Green initiative.

## **Cashless Catering**

Please remember to top up your child's cashless catering account via Parent Pay to ensure your child is able to purchase food at break and during lunchtimes.

## **PTA**

Thank you to everyone who attended Lymm High's PTA AGM last week. We are still looking for new committee members and would welcome any volunteers to help fundraise and support at events. We usually meet on the second Monday of each half term at 7pm. The next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> November (by Zoom). There's no obligation to become a committee member or attend each meeting. If you are interested in joining the PTA, please email [pta@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:pta@lymmhigh.org.uk).

## **LHS Lottery**

Congratulations to Mr Nolan 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 your support would be hugely appreciated.

## **LOWER SCHOOL**

## **The Leadership Ladder**

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved Leadership Ladder to students in Key Stage Three. The Leadership Ladder reflects the aims of Lymm High School for all students: exercising social responsibility, developing leadership skills and providing cultural experiences to help broaden their horizons.

We expect all students to get involved with the Leadership Ladder and document evidence of things they are doing both inside and outside of school. They will gain recognition and rewards for achievements on the Leadership Ladder and we would ask that you encourage them in their efforts to do so.

You can access your child's Leadership Ladder via the internet by following the link below and entering their school log-on details:

<https://leadership.lymmhigh.org.uk/>

We look forward to seeing all of their achievements and celebrating them as a school.

## UPPER SCHOOL

### GCSE and A' Level exams in 2022

Some important announcements regarding exams next summer have been made this week.

Firstly, [Ofqual have announced](#) that the grade boundaries will be set so that GCSE and A' Level results next summer will be set at the midpoint between results in 2019 (i.e. before the pandemic) and those in 2021. This means that grades will be higher than in 2019 but lower than 2021. The aim of Ofqual is to recognise the disruption faced by the current Years 11 and 13 and to try to be fair to them, whilst also wanting to get back to the standards of 2019. The intention is for grades in 2023 to return to the levels of 2019. People will have different views on how Ofqual have gone about this but, on balance, we feel it is good news for our students. It should certainly ensure that, all else being equal, they get at least the same grades that they would have done had there never been a Covid pandemic. Please do note, however, that this will likely make it even more difficult for teachers to make accurate predictions during the year – so students should take nothing for granted and keep working as hard as they can!

Secondly, [Ofqual have confirmed](#) that changes will be made to exams to reflect potential lost learning during lockdowns. These changes are very much what we had been expecting and include, for example, greater choice in some subjects (like English Literature and History) and use of formulae sheet in others (such as Maths and Science). In addition, some information will be provided in February 2022 to give some indication of what will be in the exams – we are not sure exactly what this will look like yet, but the intention is to help students focus their revision. Again, from a Lymm High perspective, we are pleased with these changes and feel they will give all of our students the best chance of success. Teachers will be explaining the implications for individual subjects in lessons over the next couple of weeks.

Finally, a [consultation](#) has been launched on what 'Plan B' will look like if exams can't go ahead. Broadly speaking, it looks as if Ofqual are likely to end up recommending a system of teacher-assessed grades similar to this year. Our strong recommendation is that students don't worry about this at the moment. In light of the roll-out of vaccines for young people as well as adults, the government is clearly assuming exams are highly likely to go ahead. However, even if they don't, this would not change what we do in school over the next few weeks in terms of course coverage or assessments. As soon as the results of the consultation are known, we will let students and parents know exactly what it all means for them.

### Year 11 Revision Support

The recent Information and Guidance (IAG) evening signposted revision resources and support for Year 11 Maths, English and Science GCSEs. The link to the IAG can be found here: [Year 11 IAG – Lymm High School](#)

There is also a recommended revision guide list and lots of other resources to support your child's studying on our [Revision section](#) of the website.

## SIXTH FORM

### GCSE and A' Level exams in 2022

See item above under 'Upper School'.

### Lymm Radio show

*Teen Talks* is a monthly show created, produced and presented by a team of Lymm High Sixth Formers. It will air on the first Monday of every month at 7–8pm and will cover issues relevant to Sixth Form students. Regular segments will include current affairs, politics, *The Gossip Girls* and reviews of film/TV/Streaming services. The first show is this Monday. To find out how to tune in, please [click here](#).

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our first charity event of the year was held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Students bought cakes at break time and took part in quizzes and games throughout the morning. The Sixth Form Charities Team did an amazing job and raised £1021! If you would still like to donate to this important charity, please [click here](#).