

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers

It's been a funny week for me because I have succumbed to Covid and have been at home since Monday afternoon. Although the virus itself certainly hasn't been very pleasant, far worse has been the frustration at being forced to miss out on so much that has been going on. I had been desperately looking forward to seeing the school production roll into action again and, from all the many accounts I've had, I wouldn't have been disappointed; everyone is telling me that *Grease* has been a fabulous show and that the students and staff have excelled themselves. Congratulations to everyone involved and best of luck for the last show tonight.

I have also managed to miss out on watching the Year 8 girls football team win the Cheshire Cup on Wednesday – another event that was firmly in my diary and promised to be a highlight even without knowing that we were going to win in such dramatic fashion. On top of all that, the Year 9 girls won their semi-final yesterday, which at least means I can look forward to watching their final soon after Easter. Very well done to all the girls in both teams, and indeed to Mrs Slater; it's fantastic to see girls football going from strength to strength. All in all, with these and all the other positive events going on in school this week (I do hope many of you took note of [World Down Syndrome Day](#) on Monday, for example) it feels like I couldn't have picked a worse week to be self-isolating!

You will all be aware that Covid rates are high again and we've certainly seen that in school over the past few weeks. It doesn't seem to have impacted students quite as much in terms of absence (at the time of writing, only 22 students out of over 1950 are off with the virus) but staff absence is still stubbornly high (we have 11 colleagues off with Covid today, for example). Of course, this means we still have significantly more lessons requiring cover than usual and the way these things work is that the impact is not even – so some students will inevitably have a lot more cover lessons than others at any one time. At the same time, teachers are more often than not able to 'Zoom in' from home to deliver the content which, although clearly not ideal, is a lot better than any other option and generally actually works remarkably well in practice. Equally, the five-day isolation period means that staff are usually not off for long now and the disruption to most classes is relatively brief. Either way, thank you once again for all your patience and understanding on this.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed items for our appeal to support Ukrainian refugees; we had an incredible response and will continue to do what we can to support those families, including any that find their way to our part of the world. Some of you may have seen that we've been flying the Ukrainian flag outside school this week to demonstrate our solidarity with them. It certainly puts into perspective the challenges we've faced as a school this year.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams

Careers Fair

Lymm High is holding a job and apprenticeship fair on **Wednesday 30th March** from 4–7pm for students and parents/carers. This event is open to all Year groups and will include a range of local job and apprenticeship providers. There will also be careers advisors on hand to answer any queries. The fair is taking place in the Lower Hex area of the Sixth Form.

Parking around school

Please can we ask parents to be considerate when dropping off or picking up their children at school. Parents should not park on private roads or block traffic. Please also drive carefully when approaching and leaving the school area. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Parent and Carers Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the recent Parent and Carers Survey. This has been very useful in giving us a clear picture of people's opinions and feelings about the school at present. Please [click here](#) to read a summary of the key messages that emerge from the survey.

Exams Invigilators

As we approach our busy exams period, we are looking to appoint a number of Casual Exams Invigilators. For full details, please [click here](#).

Extra-curricular sport

Extra-curricular sports clubs finish this week. Some staff may still be running the odd one next week, so students are advised to check with the member of staff who is running the club.

The final night of the Year 7 and 8 girls football tournament on Monday is still on.

Doughnut Day

Students will once again be able to buy Krispy Kreme doughnuts for £1 on the last day of term: **Friday 1st April**. The PTA will be selling these at breaktime in the Atrium and near the English Yard.

Summer bedding plants

We've sourced a new plant supplier and are able to offer a selection of bedding plants once again. The prices are slightly higher than in previous years due to the cost of compost having risen significantly over the last 12 months. However, the range of plants is much greater than we've been able to offer before. If you'd like to order any plants, please complete the [order form here](#), and return to school Reception by **Friday 22nd April** or email to info@lymmhigh.org.uk. Delivery will be in May before the Half Term.

Online school shop

Parents may not be aware that our school shop is now online. Uniform can be ordered on a 'click and collect' basis by [clicking here](#).

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.

You can [click here](#) to view the lunch menu, which changes each day. The price list can be [viewed here](#).

Amazon Smile

You can help us raise money for Lymm High's PTA while online shopping at no extra cost to yourselves. All you need to do is sign up for the Amazon Smile Account by clicking here: smile.amazon.co.uk: [You shop. Amazon gives.](#) Any of your Amazon purchases will then benefit our school by giving us a little cash each time. Thank you for your support.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Dr Howard 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 sign up this half-term you could win a £500 bike voucher.

If you want to find out how the school lottery works, please [click here](#). Tickets are only £1 each week and your support would be hugely appreciated.

LOWER SCHOOL

Year 9 vaccinations

Please [click here](#) to read a letter about Year 9 Td/IPV (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio) and MenACWY (Meningitis ACWY) vaccinations, which are being offered in school on **Wednesday 20th** and **Thursday 21st April**.

UPPER SCHOOL

GCSE Exams

As you are aware, due to the challenges faced by students over the last two years, the Government has put in place arrangements to support students beyond what would be in place for a usual exam year.

[This letter](#) sent to Year 11 and 13 parents this week highlights those main changes and indicates where students can find the relevant information.

The Summer exam timetable can be [found here](#).

Sixth Form admissions

Year 11 students who have applied for admission to Sixth Form in September 2022 will be sent letters offering them conditional places for their choices of subjects to study next year. Please look out for these in the mail; they will be sent out next week.

Year 11 T Levels Assembly

Next week, Priestley college will deliver an online assembly to Year 11 students about T Levels, which is a pathway some students may wish to consider after completing their GCSEs. To find out more about T levels, [click here](#).

A' Level Exams

As you are aware, due to the challenges faced by students over the last two years, the Government has put in place arrangements to support students beyond what would be in place for a usual exam year.

[This letter](#) sent to Year 11 and 13 parents this week highlights those main changes and indicates where students can find the relevant information.

The Summer exam timetable can be [found here](#). Please note that GCE = A' Level.

Year 13 Prom

The Year 13 Prom on **Wednesday 13th July** will include a 3-course meal and DJ, and will cost £45. Further details will be sent out after Easter.

Apprenticeship talks

On **Wednesday 30th March** Sixth Form students will be joined online by Amazing Apprenticeships who will talk students through how to create an apprenticeship CV, access the apprenticeship portal and search for opportunities. Log-in details will follow.

On **Thursday 21st April** Scott Austin, Head of Talent at Apprentify, will be joining students for a drop-in session about apprenticeships. Apprentify pride themselves on offering a unique approach to finding, recruiting and training the best digital and technical apprentices for roles such as Digital Marketing, Junior Content Producer, Data Analyst and Software Developer. They currently work with companies such as JD Sports, Pets at Home, Manchester Airport Group and Liverpool Football Club.