



VALUES & ETHOS IN ACTION

As set out in our [Values and Ethos Statement](#), we focus on three simple priorities. These are:

1. An uncompromising focus on high academic standards and excellent teaching and learning
2. Encouraging participation in a wide-ranging programme of extra-curricular activities and opportunities to develop leadership skills
3. Promoting the importance of being decent, socially responsible members of the community

These priorities are not abstract; they really do drive what we do every day.

This document demonstrates our values and ethos 'in action' by setting out some of the many things we do in each of these areas.

PRIORITY 1: AN UNCOMPROMISING FOCUS ON HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EXCELLENT TEACHING AND LEARNING

FOR STUDENTS:

- A rigorous, well-balanced curriculum that is driven by the needs of students rather than performance tables; there are no 'soft' options.
- Most recent OFSTED Report (2018) praised the school for its combination of "inclusivity and scholastic ambition".
- *Sunday Times Schools Guide* recently ranked LHS amongst the top ten highest performing comprehensive schools in the whole of the North West, and the top 30 even when selective grammar schools are included.
- DFE Performance data for GCSE results puts the school in the top few percent for all schools, both for attainment (i.e. raw scores) and progress (i.e. taking into account students' starting points.) E.g. Progress 8 score in 2019 was 0.54 and 90% students gained 9–4 grades in English and Maths.
- Approx. half of all GCSE grades in 2022 were at 9–7 (i.e. the old A*/A grades)
- Latest Ofsted report stated that: "On A' level courses, students made some of the strongest rates of progress in the whole country".
- Consistently excellent performance in the core academic 'Ebacc' subjects.
- Scholars and Gateway programmes provide enrichment for top 10% of each year group.
- Sixth Form students take part in the Cambridge University HE+ programme each year.
- In 2022, almost 30% of Sixth Form students went onto the prestigious Russell Group universities.
- Headteacher letters home to recognise excellent performance in exams.
- Achievement assemblies and Awards Evening specifically celebrate academic achievement.
- Students in all year groups sit exams at least once per year, with results for KS3 reported alongside median and top 10% scores for year group.
- Headteacher's Award (monthly faculty nominations for top performers meet with Headteacher).
- BfL grades and Hall points system offer rewards for excellent performance in lessons.
- Spelling Bee competitions.
- Three Sixth Form students have won awards in the Pembroke College, Oxford, essay competition in recent years.
- Regular student winners in other university competitions (e.g. recent winners in Lancaster University's Modern Languages Competition; Silver award in Cambridge Chemistry Competition).
- Year 12 and 13 students won prestigious Arkwright Scholarships in 2021.
- Regular success in prestigious UK Maths Trust (UKMT) Challenge (Eight students received gold certificates, 24 silver and 41 bronze in 2020).
- Essay and poetry competitions in school and the community (e.g. Lymm Festival).

- '40-hour week' philosophy in Sixth Form, including use of silent study periods.
- Participation in various Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) events.
- Oxford Roadshow.
- Access to OxNet.
- Learning to Learn programme (Sixth Form).
- Very high expectations of behaviour in lessons and around school.

FOR STAFF

- A culture of 'high expectations and rigour, underpinned by common sense and humanity'.
- Robust appraisal (performance management) system that expects excellent/outstanding performance but is focused on providing support and development.
- Bespoke CPD programme for teachers at different stages of careers, based around our vision of what constitutes excellent teaching (our 'Expert Teaching Principles').
- Leadership development programmes for colleagues with leadership aspirations at all levels.
- Coaching programme for middle leaders
- Geography teacher won Oxford University Inspirational Teacher award in January 2019

PRIORITY 2: ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN A WIDE-RANGING PROGRAMME OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Attained World Class Schools Quality Mark accreditation in Summer 2021.
- Leadership Ladder tracked carefully by Heads of Year, including targeting of key groups. Over 80% KS3 students on ladder already and over 90% KS3 student participating in extra-curricular activities
- Tremendous success with music groups – e.g. 1st and 2nd place at the Accent Schools Music competition and String Quartet made the final round of National Music for Youth competition. Year 11 student gained a seat in the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in summer 2019 after a successful audition to play violin.
- Young Musician of the Year competition.
- Annual Spring, Summer and Carol Concerts.
- Consistent success at national level in a wide range of sports. E.g. quarter finalists of NatWest rugby cup; top 10 finish in the country at National Tennis Finals (Aberdare & Glanvill Cups); regional Netball finalists
- Also, plenty of local sporting success. E.g. U18 rugby team won Cheshire Schools U18 Cup in November 2019. Both Year 8 and Year 9 girls football teams won 2022 Cheshire Cups. Boys Football team County Champions in 2019. U15 Girls' Handball Team became Cheshire County champions in March 2019. Silver at Cheshire Cross Country in January 2019. Bronze medal for Lymm student Rowers at the National Schools Regatta at Eton (2018).
- Long track record of regional and international sportsmen and women. In 2021–2022, 5 students represented England, Wales and/or Great Britain.
- Young Women in Sport awards
- Student-led assemblies.
- L3 BTEC students and sports leaders running primary school competitive sport programme.
- School colours awarded to anyone playing at regional or national level and all county players are celebrated on our Honours Boards in the Atrium.
- Huge number of [enrichment activities](#) with lunchtime and after-school clubs available.
- Ryman National Enterprise Challenge entered every year. One team reached the national final in 2019.
- Drama students won prestigious national competition and went to perform 'Snow Dragons' at the National Theatre.
- Over 70 trips offered annually, including use of the school's own residential centre in Anglesey, Ty'n-y-Felin and visits as far afield as Morocco, New York, China and South Africa.
- Annual exchange trips with French, German and Spanish schools.
- School awarded Artsmark in 2015/6 and achieved Gold in 2018, recognising commitment to, and success in, the Visual and Performing Arts.
- Student selected to exhibit her artwork at the Royal Academy of Art's Young Artists' Summer Show in 2022.
- Annual Performing Arts production (and many other drama, dance and music performances every year, including opportunities for solo performances).
- Annual MasterChef competition (including our version for primary students, which led to one group progressing to the national finals recently).
- VEX Robotics competition.
- School council; Halls council; Form captains; Sports Captains = all leadership opportunities.
- Our [Connect 4 Challenge Day](#) in February 2021 was devoted to a series of challenges, which required thought, energy, skill, creativity and compassion.
- Student ambassadors.
- Around 300 students doing Duke of Edinburgh awards at all levels, including typically around 25 students doing Gold every year.
- Sixth Form peer mentors (e.g. reading ambassadors and Maths mentors).
- Debates (e.g. debating club; mock general election; EU referendum debates; attendance at European Youth Parliament UK).
- Student-run school restaurant (Chapters).
- Sixth Form senior leadership team + Hall captains.
- Year 7 helpers at Parents' Evening and Open Evenings.
- Afritwin programme – biennial visits to partner school in South Africa and lots of fundraising and awareness raising in between.
- Sixth Form students helping Year 7 students on Ty'n-y-Felin trips.
- Sports Day.
- Rotary club speaking competition.
- Gardening club enters Arley Hall competition and has exhibited at RHS Tatton Park flower show.
- Annual Visual Arts and Technology exhibition.
- Annual Fashion show to celebrate the work of fashion students.
- Sixth Formers running various different clubs for lower school students at lunch or after-school (e.g. STEM club for girls).
- Lymm High selected as an Art World Records Ambassador in May 2020 and contributed to breaking the world record for the largest online art lesson.
- Three students won a multilingual poetry competition in May 2020 that celebrates cultural diversity.
- Annual apprenticeship evenings and careers fairs.

PRIORITY 3: PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING DECENT, SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

- Regular, explicit reinforcement of the importance of being socially responsible via assemblies, social media and displays around school.
- Strong culture of raising money for good causes (e.g. over £15,000 typically raised for charity every year; each Hall has its own nominated charity; Afritwin = link with school in South Africa for last 15 years).
- Halls system promotes ethos of in-school community, with family links etc.
- Musicians regularly play at events in the community (e.g. Rotary Club dinner, Lymm Ladies lunch and Christmas at care homes).
- Foodbank collections for Warrington Food Bank and Ukraine (well over 800kg of food collected in each year in recent years).
- Lots of students help out in local community events (e.g. Dickensian Day and May Queen).
- Links with Keats House (care home). E.g. musicians play there regularly; Sixth Formers go to help residents develop ICT skills.
- Diana Award given to school for our anti-bullying campaign.
- Rainbow Award from the Proud Trust given to school for our work on LGBTQ rights.
- Take part in the St. Marys' annual Christmas Tree Festival each year.
- Prefects system encourages social responsibility (e.g. prefects carry out break/lunch duties).
- Students regularly returning to primary schools to help out at various events and to provide mentoring.
- Community Hero Awards initiated in 2021 by Sixth Form students.
- Founders' Day = sponsored walk + stalls to raise money for local charity, combined with lots of activities where students go into the community to help support local causes (e.g. visit old people's home; treasure hunt organised for nursery children; litter pick; visits to primary schools).
- CPR programme for Sixth Form.
- Our June 2021 INSET Day was devoted to social responsibility.
- Street Angels Christmas shoebox collection is very well supported each year.
- Student litter-picking team keeps school grounds tidy and goes into community at least once a week.
- Sports Leaders work with primary students regularly (e.g. cricket coaching and primary competitive sport programme).
- Each form has a Wellbeing Rep who represents their form on the whole school Wellbeing Team, led by our Mental Health Lead.
- Remembrance Day always celebrated in full (e.g. whole school stops to listen to the Last Post).
- Annual Children in Need, Comic Relief, Hello Yellow and Movember fundraising activities and student-led Macmillan Coffee Mornings.
- Enrichment fair for all students, every year.
- School received National Citizen Service (NCS) Silver Champion School status in 2019.
- Students achieving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award invited to St. James' Palace in London to collect their awards.
- Heads of Ethos have detailed action plans to develop the opportunities to demonstrate social responsibility.
- Pride month actively supported with various events to raise awareness of, and demonstrate support for, LGBTQ issues.
- Various awards to recognise students demonstrating social responsibility (e.g. the Woodyatt Cup at Awards Evening).
- Social responsibility 'Thought For The Week' reinforced through daily bulletins and on displays around school.
- Duke of Edinburgh participants during April 2020 and April 2021 racked up 2028 hours of volunteering in their communities, which have a Social Impact value of £9227.40.
- Lymm High students encouraged to sign up for the National Citizen Service (NCS) Summer Programme aimed at helping Warrington get back to business.
- Year 11 student elected to the Warrington Youth Cabinet in Spring 2021.
- Staff from the DT Department and students produced PPE for the local authority during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Eco wellbeing Committee set up in 2019. Eco Council joined local group Low Carbon Lymm for school's tree planting project. Helped St. Mary's makeover project.
- Student elected as a member of the Manchester Nature Consortium Youth Council (MNC) in January 2020.