



GCSE Success p.6

Nearly half of all the grades awarded to Lymm High students this summer were 9–7 grades.

Beauty and the Beast Pg. 16

Rehearsals are in full swing for next month's production.

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: OCTOBER 2022 · WWW LYMMHIGH ORG LIK



# Over 500 students enjoyed a 3-day outdoor activity trip to Colomendy in Wales.

t last we got to take Year 8 and 9 students away on a residential trip following a long break due to Covid.

After much trepidation and anticipation – for both staff and students – we were off!

No phones allowed, good

weather booked, activities planned, dorms sorted and bags packed – we were finally there!

It was an absolute delight to see students engage in activities that clearly pushed them out of their comfort zone and see the delight on their faces having achieved reaching new heights, new friends, trust and a true sense of 'I can do' attitude. The students were a credit to the school and it is certainly a place we would go back to.



The Year 8 students in particular loved the den building activity, writes Mrs Wagstaff. They gave Kevin McCloud a run for his money to be fair! Students claimed not to like water but then got stuck into raft building, then they were up for the challenges from the instructors, which included standing on the raft and singing a song!

Jacob's Ladder was a huge hit! This was a particularly challenging activity that got harder the higher you went up: it not only needed strength, agility and stamina but courage to tackle the height! For all those who reached the top, they had to shout 'this is not Jacob's Ladder it is my ladder!'

The number of activities that the students got to do was great and the teamwork they showed was fantastic. One student challenged Mr Powell to race to the top of the climbing wall – sorry Mr Powell but I think Archie won!













Year 9 students followed on to Colomendy as Year 8 left for home.

We all enjoyed a lovely couple of days in the Welsh countryside, writes Mr Thompson. The days absolutely flew by with students involved in a variety of activities from early morning until late in the evening. Even the weather was kind with some lovely spells of sunshine.

The students were an absolute credit to the school and really engaged with the Colomendy activity leaders and the suite of activities they had planned. We all could have done with a little more sleep but who doesn't get excited on the first day of a trip away!

A huge well done to all of the students who went and a massive thank you to the staff as well.

# SPANISH EXCHANGE

Sixth Form students also enjoyed a trip away in October. Year 12 Leah Hadfield describes the experience.



his trip was a fantastic opportunity open to the students of Lymm High School and the students of Malaga, which I highly recommend. To sum up this week, it is a 'once in a lifetime' experience. It has opened my eyes to new cultures, food, and a new way of living, which I believe everyone should gain knowledge about.

I met my exchange partner on the day I arrived and stayed with her over the weekend. The students of Malaga are infinitely kind, to say the least. I began to explore the city by meeting new people at parties, restaurants and around the city centre. This helped me further improve my language, and visualise and enjoy the culture even more. Additionally, this free time over the weekend can boost your confidence on what you are capable of when away from home. Being away in a different country, in a different house, with different people, speaking a different language, may sound scary, but this opportunity will encourage you to live your life to the fullest.

Throughout the week, we visited many different cities. Our visit to the Alhambra taught us all about the history of Spanish provinces, the Reconquista of Spain, and we saw the beauty of the city of Granada.

Our visit to Malaga centre taught us about the art of Picasso and the 'traditional or cruel' bull fighting.

Our visit to the caves visualised the natural processes that occurred over millions of years in the beautiful city of Nejra.

The knowledge that Lymm High School students have gained on this trip is not only the language, but the history of the culture, and how this has helped shape Spain into the beautiful and historical country that it is today.











Just before half-term, the Department for Education released some data on GCSE school performance. As expected, this confirmed how well students at Lymm High School did this summer.

The most important figure as far as the government and most people in education are concerned is 'Progress 8'. This takes into account the starting points of pupils (using their KS2 scores) and calculates the progress they make across a wide range of subjects during their time at secondary school. We are delighted to be able to say that Lymm High's score of 0.54 is well

above average, the best in Warrington and in the top ten comprehensive schools in the whole of the North West (comprising 23 local authorities and around 400 secondary schools).

In total, over 49% of <u>all</u> the grades awarded to LHS students this summer were at 9–7 (i.e. the old A\*-A grades). 38% of students gained 9–7 grades in both English and Maths, 69% got

grade 5s or above (considered a 'strong pass') in both these key subjects and 86% got grade 4s or above (i.e. the old C grade or better).

We are very mindful that the last couple of years have been very disruptive and the impact of this has not been the same across all schools. Exam grading was also different this summer to prepandemic years. It's therefore

important not to draw too many conclusions from comparisons with previous years or with other schools and we certainly won't be sending out press releases or trying to score points over other schools who may have had a more difficult time of it during the pandemic.

At the same time, however, we think there is every reason to celebrate these outcomes with our own students, staff, parents and carers. The results we have achieved really are excellent; and, importantly, they are very much in line with results from before the Covid pandemic, which just shows how well-established the culture of high achievement in the school now is.

One of the things that is so pleasing about results over the past few years is the consistency of performance. Virtually all subjects have delivered progress that is significantly above the expected levels: for example, a few other headlines from larger subjects (i.e. all those with more than 50 entries) this summer are shown in the Table.

Likewise, we are incredibly proud that results are so strong across the board in

Subject	9-7 grades (old A*/A)	9-4 grades (old A*-C)
English Language	39%	89%
English Literature	46%	90%
Maths	48%	88%
Science	39% (in at least two Science GCSEs)	85% (in at least two Science GCSEs)
Business Studies	37%	84%
French	61%	96%
Geography	44%	84%
History	39%	82%
PE	68%	98%
Psychology	64%	96%
Spanish	50%	94%

terms of different groups of students. Whether it be boys; girls; students who came to us with lower, middle or higher KS2 scores; and/or those with SEND, students have consistently performed much better than would be expected compared to their starting points. This is reflective of our philosophy that great comprehensive schools ensure that all kinds of young people can reach their potential.

Equally important, we have achieved these results ethically, always putting students' needs at the very centre of all decision making. There are plenty of things we could do that would improve our position in league tables even further, but that we will always refuse to do so. For example, we would never enter a child for an 'easier' qualification

that might gain more points for the school but would limit that child's options at the end of the course. This gives us even more cause to be proud of, and to celebrate, the outcomes students have achieved.

As ever, of course, it is worth pointing out that results like these come about as a result of successful partnerships between students, parents/ carers and school. Achieving such impressive outcomes is not easy and a lot of blood, sweat and tears were shed by most people involved! Many congratulations once again to all concerned.

The link to the official DfE data is here.

# **KEY STAGE FORE!**

Golf-chipping challenge was the latest Inter-Hall event to take place this month.

S taff and students both took part in the lunchtime event, which spanned two days. The aim was to chip a golf ball into an upturned bin, which was made all the more challenging in the windy conditions. Even Mr Williams had a go!

Congratulations go to the Key Stage 4 winner: Matthew Griffiths from 10WH. The Key Stage 3 winner was Ben Keeley from 9DL. Well played boys!









We understand that money is tight.
Please continue to support
us if you can.

Please support our lottery



# Wellbeing champions



Our Year 8 Wellbeing Champions were presented with their new badges in their year group assembly by Mrs Wagstaff and Miss Newton.

All of our Wellbeing Champions in lower and upper school will be completing a training day delivered by Warrington Public Health in November. They will also soon start working on their next school mental health campaign.

## **MATHS SUCCESS**

The UKMT senior challenge is a 90-minute multiple choice challenge aimed at students in Years 11–13. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

We are delighted with Lymm High's amazing set of results with 25 bronze, 10 silver and five gold certificates.

Huge congratulations must go to Thea Benson and Eve Kayll who received a distinction in the girls' Maths Olympiad and to Lucy Quayle and Olivia Wood who received a merit.

This is very impressive!



## YEAR 12 SCOOPS ZOOLOGICAL AWARD

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL)'s Scientific Awards Committee has awarded a Certificate of Commendation to Year 12 Rhea Sanderson for her project submitted to the Prince Philip Award and Marsh Prize. Rhea's project focused on encouraging pollination activity by bees in domestic gardens in an attempt to reverse their declining numbers.

Called Buzzed Off: A Study into Methods of Mitigating the Effects of The Declining Bee Populations, Rhea's research suggested that the number of pollinating insects attracted to a plant can be increased by spraying it with a solution of honey. In this way, the impact of a declining bee population on pollination could be reduced. Amazing work Rhea! Well done.

# LIFE PROGRAMME

We've started our new Life Programme this year with lessons now running every two weeks compared to the 2021–2022 school year.

This highlights the importance of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education in students' everyday curriculum, and we hope this change will allow students more time to address key questions about relationships, health and wellbeing, and living in the wider world.

Year 7

Year 7 began with a reflection on what it means to transition to secondary school and how to overcome barriers they face with resilience. They explored their personal strengths and values in relation to taking on new scenarios. In October they looked at travel safety and safety around roads, water and railways. They finished the term by looking at puberty and will consider the physical and emotional changes that may affect them as they go through puberty. This is a personal topic and we encourage anyone wishing to know more to reach out to us and/or read more online using the Brooks Sexual and Personal Health website. Click <u>here</u> for more information.

Year 8

Year 8 started the course looking at strategies to help them manage emotions to encourage daily wellbeing. The focus of this

session was in particular on developing digital resilience. As a school we are aware of the impact of the internet and social media and our aim is to develop socially responsible online citizens who have the tools necessary to manage the influence of online pressures effectively. In October they moved onto two sessions focused on relationships. They looked at what values we hold in relation to relationships (both romantic and relationships with family and friends) and we looked at how to evaluate relationships that aren't matching our values. We looked at factors that influence our relationship expectations and talked about expectations with regards to sending nudes. Receiving and sending nudes is a





situation that, whilst will likely not affect all students, may affect some; therefore, it is important and recommended that students receive education around this from Year 8 onwards. To know more about this topic we recommend this <u>Childline website</u>.

For anyone worried about a picture that

may be online we recommend using the Childline Report Remove website to help to see if it is possible to get it taken down. Click here for more information.

"Life Programme is an important part of a student's education and we aim to reflect this in their learning at Lymm High School."

unsure of the long-term health risks. Health risks include unsafe use of chemicals, addiction, worsening asthma, raised blood rate pressure and raised heart rate. Year 9 finished the term by working on careers sessions. They have had an introduction to apprenticeships and completed a CV

masterclass. We are also preparing them for their 'Take my child to work placement day' on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, which aims to expose students to the variety of careers available to them.

#### Year 9

Year 9 started the year with a session about the health risks related to vaping. There is an upwards trend of students across the UK vaping and, whilst reports seem to confirm it is less hazardous than smoking, we are

#### Year 10

Year 10 have been looking at relationships this half term. They looked at the role of intimacy and pleasure (not quite what it sounds!) and considered ways they can express intimacy and enjoyment without

being sexual. We discussed enthusiastic consent and worked through numerous scenarios about consent that aimed to help students evaluate the communication skills necessary to embark on physically romantic relationships. For help and guidance in relationship to this topic we recommend <a href="Childline's advice here">Childline's advice here</a> as well as <a href="Brook's website here">Brook's</a> website here</a> which talks about sexual relationships for students aged 13–15.

#### Year 11

Year 11 are looking at families and routes to parenthood this term. They began with a session on coping with family conflict and moved on to looking at long-term commitments and what this might mean to others. Students were encouraged to evaluate marriage and civil partnership and consider the reasons why some may choose to do this and others not. Students considered what commitment is and the ways we can express it. Students also looked at fertility and routes to parenthood. LGBTQIA+ relationship routes to parenthood are included as an important part of this module. For help with family relationships, click here.





Life Programme is an important part of a student's education and we aim to reflect this in their learning at Lymm High School. From this year we will report on a student's effort in Life Programme lessons so that you can see how they are engaging with these topics.

For anyone wishing to know more about the arrival of new statutory government content in relation to Relationships,

Sex and Health education,

please <u>click here</u>.

For anyone wishing to know more about our Policy in relation to Sex and Relationship Education, please <u>click here</u>.

# MEET THE NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

# Head of Student Leadership

#### **Atticus Burnett**

"I am thrilled to represent Lymm as Head Student.

Over the course of the year, I aim to produce a year-book for the Sixth Form community and to develop the strength of university applications from the school. I hope to do this by increasing super curricular involvement through subject-specific events and societies, and through providing mentorship for Year 10 and 11 students. I endeavour to create more accessible Student Voice and to assist members of my team to work towards their own leadership goals. Most significantly, I would like to strengthen the Lymm community and ensure that all students are proud of their education and feel supported in deciding their next step."



# Deputy Head Students

#### Ella McCarthy

"Throughout the year I hope to explore my passion for human rights by inspiring and modernising the

school's outlook on diversity and inclusion. I will strive to achieve this by raising money for the Anthony Walker Foundation and reforming the way we teach Life Programme." (See p.20)



#### **Louisa James**

"I aim to reinforce our school's values of social responsibility by integrating the school into the

wider Lymm community where I hope to build a bigger and better social network of a range of ages. I want to recognise those that go above and beyond the expectation as well as addressing current social issues."







"I don't think I could've spoken to someone face-to-face."



Chat to our friendly counsellors



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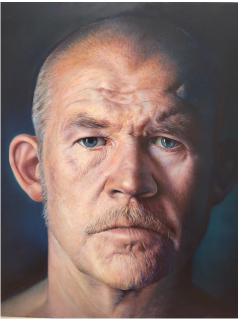


# LIVERPOOL PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

n Wednesday
5th October, Year 11
students that study Art or
Photography at GCSE
travelled to Liverpool for the
day to explore the city's
architecture and galleries. As
part of their course students
are encouraged to gather
primary research within the
urban environment and
experience new and existing
work by artists and
photographers in gallery
settings.

The trip gave students the opportunity to photograph the city, complete observational drawings as well as experience the work of new and popular artists. They visited The Walker Art Gallery and museum first, exploring both its amazing architecture and the wide range of artwork on display. Students then travelled through the city down to the Albert Dock area, completing quick observational sketches and taking lots of photographs en route. The trip ended with a visit to the Tate Gallery for students studying Art, seeing the Tate's current displays 'Journeys through the Tate' and 'Democracies'.















# REHEARSALS IN FULL SWING

Beauty and The Beast looks set to be quite a spectacle with over 100 students involved.

ast, crew and musicians have been working non-stop on the exciting, but very tricky score. The students are currently enjoying the challenge of mastering dancing, singing and acting to the wonderful music played live by our talented band expertly led by Mr Starkey.

Miss Finnigan and Elizabeth Nelson in Year 11 have worked tirelessly on choreographing the dances, which is no easy feat with a full cast dressed as forks, spoons, napkins and plates. The movement is complex and requires a great deal of concentration from our committed cast. On Saturday morning our school hall was transformed into the Beast's castle as Belle was presented with her dinner in 'Be Our Guest'. Our tech team were also on hand to provide some

'magical' lighting whilst our amazing string players accompanied by Mrs Leighton -Jones provided the music.

Annie Axon-Hazell in Year 11 said, "The rehearsals are going really well. It's hard work but it is like being in one big family, and is something we all look forward to if we've had a tough day."

Taylor Boyd (Year 9) said, "It's a lot of fun. This is the first show I have been involved in and I wanted to get involved in Performing Arts after watching *Grease* last year."

Ollie Rickers who plays LaFou said, "It's going so fast and I already think it's looking better than Grease did – which was amazing!".

Billy Clarke (Year 9) who is playing Lumiere, said "I'm loving playing a crazy candlestick and there is a great atmosphere amongst the cast".

Eliza Cripps in Year 13 is in her sixth show and said, "I

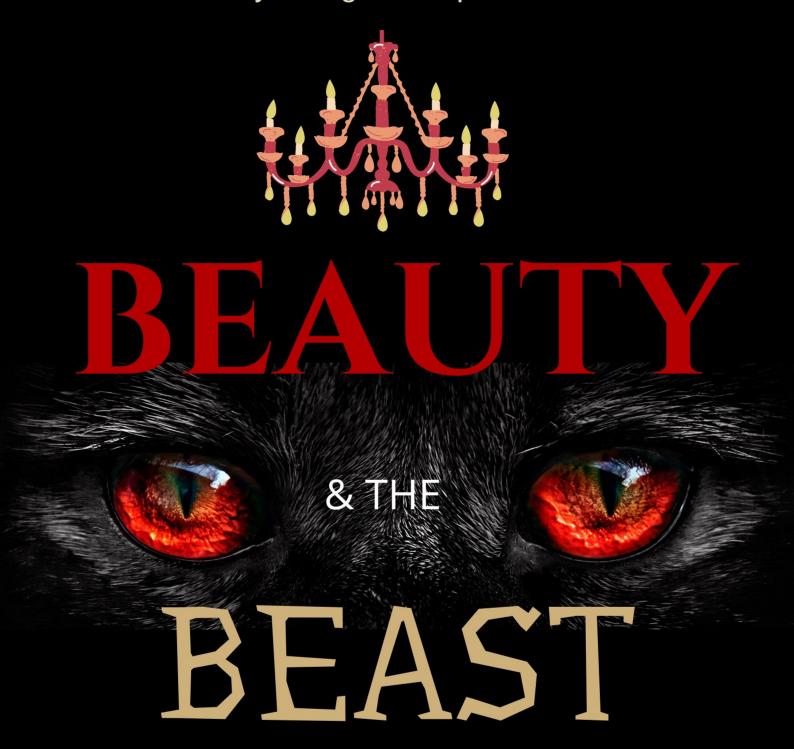


would've done 7 if it hadn't been for Covid. I'm a bit scared to actually have lines but feel very sad that it's my last one. I will be definitely be back to see next year's."

With just over 2 weeks until opening night, the rehearsals are coming along thick and fast, often with several running at the same time. Leads are working closely with Dr McCombs on their singing technique; and the tech team, under the guidance of Mr Gornall have a constant presence designing the lighting and visual effects for each scene. Mrs Richards and Miss Packman are lending their expertise to the dramatic moments, but the cast are largely improvising and bring their own comedy and energy to the show. Tickets are on sale now from the school shop.



Lymm High School presents



# Tuesday 22nd - Friday 25th November 7pm

£8 for adults and £5 for children/concessions.

# SAHARA TREK

n November, as well as overseeing this year's school production (see p.16), Mrs Richards is taking on a gruelling 3-day trek through the Moroccan desert. Along with the rest of her team, called 'The Three Camels', Mrs Richards will trek up to 50km, ending with a 2-day community project in Marrakech to raise funds for the East Cheshire Hospice.



"This is a charity very close to my heart as my big brother Tim spent the last weeks of his life there after being diagnosed with a brain tumour", says Mrs Richards. "I had never been inside a hospice prior to this and I was overwhelmed by how wonderful the staff were in providing such kindness and support in the bleakest of times. It made what was a truly horrendous experience manageable; they even organised for Tim and his girlfriend to get married in the hospice. The hospice massively relies on fundraising to keep it open."

If you'd like to donate to the East Cheshire Hospice, please <u>click here</u>.

# **MANCHESTER STREET ANGELS SHOEBOX APPEAL**



We are again supporting the Manchester Street Angels Shoebox Appeal to support those who are homeless and struggling in Manchester. Students have been informed about this during Form Time.

If you'd like to contribute to this collection, items to include in the Christmas wrapped shoebox, and the different groups to support, can be found on <a href="these-attached slides">these attached slides</a>.

#### Steps involved

- 1. Students can decide whether to donate a box individually, as a group, or as a Form.
- 2. Decide which group you want to fill a box for (young adult, the elderly, children or dogs).
- 3. Wrap a shoebox in Christmas paper wrap the lid and box separately so you can fill it and take the lid on and off.
- 4. Start filling your box with the required and accepted items.
- 5. Bring your box labelled (sticky note) with the intended recipient and £1 into school before **Wednesday 23rd November**.

Students can speak to Miss Sykes for more details or if they have any questions.

Information for Parents and Carers

# WELLBEING EVENING



JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR OUR STUDENTS, BOTH WITHIN SCHOOL AND LOCALLY.

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 6-7PM

- INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH TEAM
- STRATEGIES & SIGNPOSTING
- ADVICE FROM KOOTH.COM
- SCHOOL NURSE SUPPORT



# Find out

- What are the key mental health issues faced by young people?
- What strategies can help?
- What services are available within school?
- What local services can offer support?

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our new Deputy Head of Student Leadership, Ella McCarthy, tells us why it is important for Lymm High to continue to recognise, reflect and act on this yearly event.

ithin Black History Month, we often look at inspirational figures and the impact they have had on society. Although during this month I have briefly talked about Malcom X and his contributions, my own passion about racial injustice originated through my personal experiences of racism within my family. Specifically: with my dad.

My dad was harassed during high school in the 1980s due to being darker skinned and a minority. His family was one of the only families of colour in his town. However, after his resilience and hard work he was the first sibling in his family to achieve a university education.

He also became a Global Lean Director and the Head of Six Sigma at a Multinational company.

It was made clear to me from a young age that my race is not an excuse for me to be treated differently. Alongside the achievements I have seen my father make during his career, I have also heard about the obstacles that have been



thrown at him within his earlier years because of his skin colour. Although this is not something he often openly talks about, it is something that has fuelled his success and has made him so inspiring to me and other young minority students within the university that he lectures at.

The systematic racism that has sat at the

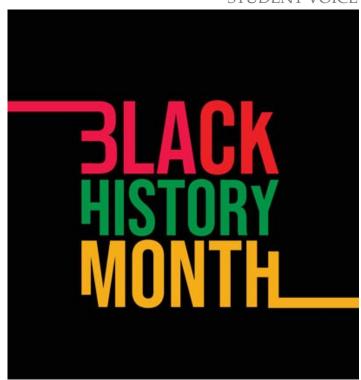
Black History Month:
a month of reflection
or a time to think
ahead and see what,
as a society, we can be
doing to impact a
positive change?

foundation of our society for centuries has made it impossible for Black people to be recognised in a media that would rather minimise their success. That is why I think it is important that this month, as a school and as a wider community, we reflect, by looking

around at those close to us that have made an impact and have success stories that others may not yet know about.

The injustice I have witnessed sparked a passion within me to teach myself about the history of racism and the ways in which we can educate ourselves to be better. Through discussions within my own family I have discovered that our perspective on Black History has been outdated; within the 21st century came a new wave of history that has been completely overlooked.

In the past, Black History Month has always been an awkward time for me. I always felt that there could be more for me to do; yet also the idea of a dedicated month didn't sit right with me as I believed that anti-racism should be a year-round message. However, coming into Year 13 I thought it was imperative to create a strong message. By asking the question 'Is it history?' I sparked the debate on whether Black History Month is a month of reflection or a time to think ahead and see what, as a society, we can be doing to impact a positive change.



This year we have decided to donate to the Anthony Walker foundation, which has a strong focus on the importance of not tolerating racism, specifically within the UK.

The approach we have taken to Black History Month this year embarked on modernising our outlook on racism, and making it more relatable for our students.

# **BHM CAKE SALE**

On Tuesday 18th October, Sixth Form students organised a cake stall to raise funds for the Anthony Walker Foundation.

This Foundation was established in 2006 after the racially motivated murder of Anthony in Huyton, just outside of Liverpool. Anthony's family and friends did not want his murder to be another statistic



and wanted his name to live on with a positive, lasting legacy.

If you'd like to donate to the Anthony Walker Foundation, please click here for our JustGiving page.

For further information on the Foundation, please click here.

# **CHARITY FUNDRAISING**

Lymm High School students have taken part in a number of events to raise money for charity during the past few months.

Since we started the new school year, students have supported some very worthwhile charities including Wear it Pink, Macmillan, Hello Yellow and the Anthony Walker Foundation.

In addition, the Hall Charities are a very important focus for the whole school community. Over the past few years, we've raised over £5000 each year for these important charities. This is a real team effort with all staff, students and parents getting involved. It is great to see what we can achieve by coming together.

The Sixth Form is now gearing up for Children in Need next month: definitely a highlight of the school calendar. Look out for the 'sights' on your way to work on Friday 18th November!



#### **Hall Charities**

Last term's Colour Run was enjoyed by all staff and students! The charity money that we collected via our JustGiving pages for this event alone was:

- Arley: Meningitis Trust = £1167.01
- Dunham: Help For Heroes = £881.06
- Moreton: The Christie Charity = £1049.06
- Tatton: Claire House = £886.35
- Walton: St Rocco's = £1104.14



#### Macmillan

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September raised £480.40! This event is organised and run by our Sixth Form Charity Reps. We were blown away by the fantastic contributions from students with a whole range of delicious baked goods on offer — well done to all involved!



### **Black History Month**

An initiative from one of our new Deputy Heads of Student Leadership (see p.13) was to fundraise for the Anthony Walker Foundation. Staff and students enjoyed the cakes at breaktime on 18th October.

## **Hello Yellow**

This was the first year that Lymm High supported Young Minds' Hello Yellow event to mark World Mental Health Day. Staff and students came into school wearing an item of yellow and were invited to donate if they wanted to. We managed to raise £400 for the Young Minds charity to help create a brighter future for young people's mental health.





#### Wear it Pink!

Wear it Pink! is another Sixth Form initiative. Year 12 and 13 students wore pink to school on Friday 21st October for the 'Breast Cancer Now' charity. A total of £304.15 was raised thanks to a cake sale, bingo, and a boys vs. girls netball game.



# CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS!

ymm High School students wiped the board at the first of three cross country races for Years 7–11, organised by Warrington Athletics Club. The Lymm High teams came first in all of the categories at the event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Lymm had a full squad representing every category, which is the biggest turnout we have seen for a long time. "It was great to see so many Lymm students on the start line for both the boys and girls' races", said Mr Scott. "It would be great to have even more at the next race!"

The next cross country events will be held on Saturday 19th November and Saturday 10th

December. For more information, click here.





Birchwood High School



Austin, Dan, Joe and Archie.

# PLAYING FOR WARRINGTON

huge well done to these Lymm High students who represented, and made their debuts for, the U12 Warrington District Schoolboys team on Saturday 8th October. They came away with an impressive 6-4 win.

They have all worked extremely hard to make it into this football team from well over 100 applicants across all Warrington-based primary schools and across two trials during May and June this year.

# UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 8th November
PTA meeting, 7pm
(Zoom)

Thursday 10th November Sixth Form Open Evening 5–8pm

Wednesday 16th November
Wellbeing evening
(see p. 19)

Thursday 17th November Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)

Thursday 8th December Year 7 Parents' Evening (online)

Friday 9th December Year 9 Work Day Placement

Thursday 15th December Rewards Trip

**Friday 16th December** Early finish at 12.15pm

