



Lymm
High School

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2018 Enrichment Fair
Pg. 17

Students find out
what opportunities
are available to them
whilst at Lymm High
School

Afritwin Soup Kitchen
Pg. 9

Afritwin-funded soup
kitchen has been
successfully
completed!

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: OCTOBER 2018 · WWW.LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK



BONJOUR BORDEAUX

Students develop their language skills during the 2018 French Exchange!

Earlier this month, Lymm High School French students travelled to Bordeaux, which is located along the Garonne River in the south-west of France, for the annual French Exchange. During the exchange, the

weather did not let them down and the French students were able to enjoy a number of excursions including a visit to the beach in Arcachon and a race to the top of Dune du Pilat, the tallest sand dune in Europe.

Students also had the opportunity to spend a day exploring Saint Émilion's fascinating Romanesque churches and ruins stretching all along steep and narrow streets.

CONTINUES ON PG. 3

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2018

The real benefit for the students, however, was the time spent with host families. For the duration of the exchange visit, students had the unique opportunity to use their language skills and learn more about French life and culture from their new companions. We are indebted to them for their hospitality, their care of the exchange students and the efforts they made to ensure the students had a memorable and enjoyable stay.

Overall, our students had a brilliant week and improved their language skills in leaps and bounds! They were a credit to the school and many friendships were established between the students and their families.

Au revoir aux correspondants bordelaise!



SPANISH EXCHANGE 2018



Lymm High Spanish Exchange students return home from Malaga after week-long visit.

Last month marked the start of new friendships, discoveries and experiences for students who study Spanish and were involved in our recent exchange trip. Our cohort travelled to stay with host students and their families from our exchange partners, the IES el Palo School, which is located in the El Palo neighbourhood of Malaga.

The Spanish students and families did a fantastic job of providing such a warm welcome to our group and they were extremely grateful for the experience it provided to improve their language skills.

The week was jam packed full of activities and trips to ensure the students were able to see the best of the Spanish region. The visits included; the palace

and fortress Alhambra, in Granada; Frigiliana, the white village of La Axarquía; and the Alcazaba. If that was not enough, students even had time to snap a selfie with the legendary painter Pablo Picasso!

The exchange project is an extremely valuable part of learning Modern Foreign Languages at Lymm High School. It is during these ...

SCHOOL NEWS

...times that students get the opportunity to experience the language and culture in a real life setting; something which is difficult to replicate in a classroom environment.

Students experienced an amazing week and our Lymm High School and IES el Palo students have shed plenty of tears as they said goodbye to their newfound friends. Hasta marzo!



LYMM HIGH SCHOOL PTA & LYMM TWIN TOWN SOCIETY

Beaujolais *Evening*



Saturday 17th November

7.30-10.30pm | The Hexagon | Lymm High School

Two course French menu

Beaujolais 2018 tasting & wine speaker

Plus: Prize Draw Cheese & Wine Bar

Tickets: LHS ParentPay

Lymm Twin Town Society

LHS / LTTS Facebook pages



PERFORMANCE DATA PUBLISHED BY THE DFE



The Department for Education recently published some provisional data on 2018 GCSE results, which has confirmed what we said in the summer about there being plenty of reason to be delighted with our own performance.

The headline measure these days is 'Progress 8' – a measure of the progress made by students in 8 GCSE subjects using their performance in KS2 SATs as a baseline. Our score of 0.25 means that Lymm High students made significantly more progress than average, even compared to schools that have similarly able cohorts. To put this into context, this score places us in the top ten schools across the whole of Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire

West & Chester (a total of 97 schools) for the progress made by our students from their KS2 starting points.

In terms of attainment, our 'Attainment 8 score' of 54.8 means we are in the top five of the ninety seven schools across Cheshire and Warrington and in the top 12% of schools in the whole country. This pattern is virtually identical for more traditional measures such as the numbers of students gaining 9-4 grades (equivalent to the old A*-C) or grades 9-5 in English and Maths.

One of the things we are especially proud of is that we have achieved such a strong Progress 8 score whilst maintaining an entirely ethical approach to our curriculum

and entry policies. There are a number of 'games' that can be played in order to maximise performance in league tables, but we refuse to play them.

For example, we could improve our Progress 8 score further by entering students for certain 'soft options' that might generate more points for the league tables but would be of no discernible benefit to the individual students concerned.

Conversations with parents thus far suggest that you support us in such an approach, and we are grateful for your support and understanding.

Once again, huge well done to last year's GCSE students and all the parents and staff who supported them!



OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2018 | 5PM-8PM

5.00pm - 5.30pm

Informal 'meet & greet' in the lower hexagon

5.30PM

Headteachers address


6.00PM

Individual subject taster sessions

01925 755458

WWW.LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK/SIXTH-FORM
OUGHTRINGTON LANE, LYMM, CHESHIRE, WA13 0RB

 WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LYMMHIGHSCHOOL

 @LYMMHIGHSCHOOL

WHY LYMM SIXTH FORM?

WE ARE RANKED IN THE
TOP 15% FOR A LEVEL PROGRESS
NATIONALLY

“ ON A LEVEL COURSES
STUDENTS MADE SOME OF THE
STRONGEST
RATES OF PROGRESS ACROSS THE
WHOLE COUNTRY ”
OFSTED 2018

PERFECT
BALANCE BETWEEN
INDEPENDENCE
& **SUPPORT**

SPECIALIST
ASSISTANCE FROM
EXPERIENCED STAFF
WITH UNIVERSITY
& JOB APPLICATIONS

EXTENSIVE
ENRICHMENT
TRIPS &
LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

DISCOVER WHAT QUALITY SCHOOL SIXTH FORM EDUCATION CAN OFFER

PARENTS FORUM

YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

Context

Our most recent Parents' Forum meeting was held in the Library on Tuesday 16th October. Around 15 parents attended, including the vice chair of the governing body. The evening began with a short presentation from Mr Williams on the general position of the school – what is going well in terms of 'bigger picture' issues and what we are focusing on for improvement. Mr Johnson (Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for assessment, data and reporting) then gave a presentation outlining some proposed changes to the way we issue student targets.

Parents then went off into groups to discuss; making notes on things they think are going well, as well as ways in which we could make things better.

The notes below summarise the main points to emerge from the evening, along with a quick response to each of the main areas where you said we could improve.

Many thanks again to all those who attended; you put your views across in an exceptionally positive and constructive manner and we will certainly be able to use the feedback from this evening to improve the school.

Feedback on proposed changes to targets

In simple terms, the changes proposed by Mr Johnson would mean that students will no longer receive individual target grades for every single subject. Instead, they will receive a slightly more general indication of where we think they should be aiming (e.g. "based on KS2 data and our high expectations as a school, Student X should be aiming to achieve grades 6 and 7 in most subjects"). Mr Johnson outlined the various reasons for this, most of which centre around the impossibility of providing accurate targets in every case given that they have to be based on attainment data from the end of Year 6.

The overwhelming sense from parents present was that they had no issues with the change, and most felt it was a positive move. This was in line with more informal feedback we had taken, as well as detailed discussions with staff and parent governors.

More explanation on all this will be provided to all parents with the first set of progress reports you receive this year.

General feedback on school: positives

- Usually excellent responses from the school when parents do get in touch with issues. A lot of praise and gratitude for teachers who go to such efforts to respond to parents (often even in the evenings and weekends*). Likewise, parents felt that the school had responded very well when they had had cause to contact us because of an incident of some kind
- Quality of teaching is very good – a lot of praise for the enthusiasm, commitment and skill of teachers
- Knowledge organisers have been really useful to help parents help their children, as well as for consolidating basic knowledge
- Lots of praise for Student Services team – very approachable; fabulous support for students when they need it; and very quick to respond to parents who have queries about anything
- School Gateway app generally working very well and providing really useful information
- Show My Homework is really useful
- Lots of appreciation for extra revision classes, Step Up, homework clubs etc that staff are putting on
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Sense that the school has “high standards”
- Year 7 transition was very good – students have settled in remarkably well/quickly
- Music provision is “fantastic”

**Please note, we encourage staff not to respond to messages outside of work hours for the benefit of their own well-being. Some still choose to do so because they find it easier to manage their own workload that way, but please understand that this should never be the expectation.*

General feedback on school: areas for improvement

N.b. The table below does not cover every single point raised; rather, it focuses on the issues that came up most frequently.

Point raised by parents	School Response
Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity over communication channels sometimes (<i>e.g. do I look on Twitter, the website, Facebook, SMHW or the Gateway app?</i>) 	<p>We certainly accept that we do not always get communication right. It is very difficult to do so consistently in such a big school, but we can clearly do certain things better.</p> <p>Any important school notices should always come via the School Gateway app (or text message for those without the app) and via the parent communication pages on the LHS website. They may appear via other channels as well, but should never come via other channels instead of the app or website. We have changed the system so that you should now almost always receive a link in a text/app message direct to the relevant website page where appropriate.</p> <p>Please note this does not apply for different types of communication – e.g. adverts for school events – that might only be advertised via our social media channels. This is because of feedback from parents that you do not like being bombarded with too many messages.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication from form tutors is variable so some students miss out on messages 	<p>We have reiterated to form tutors the importance of consistently reading out our daily bulletin and will continue to do so. Heads of Year will be monitoring this more carefully. Those present at the meeting did seem to appreciate that there are good reasons why students might miss such messages, but we will certainly try harder to minimise these instances.</p>

CONTINUED...

...General feedback on school: areas for improvement (*cont.*)

N.b. The table below does not cover every single point raised; rather, it focuses on the issues that came up most frequently.

Point raised by parents	School Response
Communication (<i>cont.</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about sports fixtures and/or practices not always communicated efficiently, especially when there are last-minute changes Relying on students to bring messages home is not realistic! 	<p>For sport, we ask that you remind students that they need to take responsibility for checking the PE noticeboards regularly for basic information regarding fixtures – and for passing on relevant messages to parents such as estimated finish times. Additionally, fixtures are added to the website on a weekly basis under ‘Enrichment’ – but please bear in mind that some fixtures necessarily have to be arranged at quite short notice. We also try to communicate other information via the Lymm High School PE Twitter account and recommend that you follow this. For ease, the live twitter feed is also now available on the school website homepage.</p> <p>Following feedback at the parents forum event, we are going to trial a system of sending text/Gateway messages regarding last minute cancellations of training/fixtures to parents of the relevant year group. We hope this doesn’t result in too many messages being sent to parents that are not directly relevant to them and will seek feedback on this in due course.</p>
Toilets <p>Some concerns that the toilets are not always in good condition, which discourages some from using them at all.</p>	<p>We have worked extremely hard since September at improving the state of the toilets and are confident that they are much cleaner and safer than ever before. Actions have included removing the external doors (to allow easier monitoring of behaviour and to discourage groups of students from congregating) and having cleaners posted outside toilets throughout busy periods. CCTV in the corridors outside the toilets also makes it easier to catch any students who might have behaved inappropriately and acts as a deterrent to poor behaviour.</p> <p>We intend to gather student feedback more formally in due course, but the anecdotal feedback we have had has been very positive. In the meantime, we encourage those who have been reluctant to use the toilets during the day to try them again now.</p>
Sport <p>Some parents expressed their view that girls sport is not given the same profile as it is for boys and that there are not as many opportunities for girls to get involved in extra-curricular sport. Should be equal access to different sports for both girls and boys.</p> <p>Others said that some sports – in particular rugby, but also football – tend to have a higher profile than other sports.</p>	<p>The profile and perception of girls sport is a widely acknowledged national issue and provision for girls at Lymm High is actually far better than the vast majority of schools, but we would certainly like to do more. Indeed, we had already recognised that this is an issue and it is something we have been doing quite a lot of work on over the past few months. Some of actions we are taking include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out a major questionnaire with girls in PE lessons just before the summer to get more detailed feedback Refurbishment of the changing rooms (something that the girls have asked about much more often than the boys) More flexibility for KS4 schemes of work, allowing girls more input into sports/activities undertaken More newsletter articles and more items on the TV screens around school on girls sport Ensure girls sport gets at least as much profile in assemblies, including achievement assemblies Plans to run more girls sport clubs at lunchtimes, including badminton and dodgeball (in response to the survey results). A new KS3 girls football club has already been set up after-school on Fridays. We are also hoping to start a girls rugby club soon. Creation of exclusive girls PE & Sport Notice board in PE.

Exam Timetables (KS3) A request for these to be made available earlier this year so that students/families can plan when revision will take place.	We will certainly make this happen! Information about the January KS3 exams will be out very soon if it is not already available by the time you read this.
Lost PE kit It was suggested that just having one location for lost kit would be easier.	We actually only have two locations. PE kit that is left in changing rooms and has a name on it will be taken to Student Services. If it does not have a name on it, we keep it in PE – and if it is not collected within a few days, we might use this kit as spares for students who have forgotten their own. Any other items that are lost and found around school are taken to Student Services.
Strategies for revision Some students – especially younger ones – don't really know how to revise (e.g. when they are using knowledge organisers for homework to revise for class tests)	This is also something we had identified ourselves when we did some student voice last summer, and we have already planned some special sessions in the next few weeks to help. The plan was to introduce knowledge organisers from September and for students to get familiar with these before focusing in more detail on revision strategies. We will also be sharing information on revision strategies with parents so you can help your children with this kind of homework.
Knowledge organisers A concern that some students seem to think these contain all they need to know about a topic.	They certainly do not! Students should be aware that the knowledge organisers focus on the 'bedrock knowledge' for a given topic. They do not, for example, tend to focus on higher level skills like analysis or evaluation. It is certainly true that students cannot be too secure in the basics, but please help us disabuse them of the notion that knowledge organisers contain everything they need to know!
Behaviour and Achievement points Some inconsistencies in the way different teachers apply these.	It is always a challenge for teachers to remember to log these points at the end of lessons when often they are also trying to get ready for the next class about to appear at their door. Nevertheless, we have reminded teachers of the importance of doing this consistently and Heads of Year will monitor more carefully to ensure tutors are logging the things they need to. We are also looking at some more technical issues to see if we can make the process easier for staff to input the data.
Planners Inconsistencies in the way these are being used – i.e. some tutors checking and signing them regularly, but others not doing so. Are they necessary at all – aren't there better methods of communication available?	Similar to the point above, we do accept that consistency is an issue here and will do more to remind staff of the need to check planners properly. We can also see the argument that planners are less important than they used to be – because they were used to record homework before we introduced Show My Homework – and we will review the system in time for next year.
Parent Pay Some concerns that certain deductions have been made inaccurately.	It is difficult to comment on this without more details of specific instances, but we do encourage parents to contact us if you have any particular queries. The best person to contact is usually Mrs Ralph (aralph@lymmhigh.org.uk)
Canteen Prices not always obvious to students.	This is a fair comment and we are looking at making the pricing clearer. New menus and signs are already in the process of being written.
Music One or two new Year 7 students who don't have their own instruments were put off a little at the start of the year and didn't realise that they can still get involved if they want.	This is a real shame and we are not quite clear why some students got this message. We will certainly try to make it clearer next year but, for now, would like to reiterate that there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in music even if they don't have their own instruments.

Many thanks again for all those who attended; your feedback and support is much appreciated!

CONSIDER YOURSELF ONE OF THE FAMILY!

Rehearsals are now well underway for Lymm High School's musical production *Oliver!* which will play to audiences on Tuesday 13th - Friday 16th November.

Working with local partner primary schools, two of the four performances will take place at the historic Parr Hall and will feature over 400 primary school students.

Hailed the world over as one of the best-loved family musicals of all time, Lionel Bart's Tony Award-winning musical *Oliver!* is based on the Charles Dickens' classic novel, *Oliver Twist*.

Auditions took place in the early Autumn with students from Lymm High School selected for roles which we know will excite our audiences this month.

In preparation for the upcoming production, we recently welcomed all of our local primary school cast members to the school for a full group rehearsal.

Throughout the morning, the show's classic songs such as

Food Glorious Food, *I'd Do Anything* and *Consider Yourself* could be heard coming from the school main hall.

The LHS performing arts department

in collaboration with primary staff members have been working hard to help our young guest performers

produce some glorious vocals and even choreographed actions to the musical's larger numbers.

Head of Expressive Arts Rachel Richards said: "It is always logistically challenging with large scale productions such as this, especially when it includes so many cast members, the majority of which are so young. However, we've been so impressed with the talent before us! Students from our local primaries have behaved impeccably throughout rehearsals and

with such enthusiasm – it's a pleasure to see!"

Tuesday and Wednesday performances will take place at the Parr Hall, with the remaining Thursday and

Friday shows taking place, solely with our High school cast in the school main hall.

Tickets are on sale now at a price of £8 for adults/£5 for pupils and are

bookable via The Parr Hall box office for Tuesday and Wednesday evening or via ParentPay for Thursday and Friday performances at the school.

"This is set to be a great musical," said Ms Richards. "*Oliver!* is full of memorable songs and I am sure there will be plenty of toe-tapping in the Parr Hall come Opening Night."

"We ask you continue to support us, following the success of our other shows. *Oliver* will amaze you!"

"We ask you continue to support us, following the success of our other shows. *Oliver* will amaze you!"



November 13 - 14

7pm | Parr Hall

Special performance featuring
local Community Primary Schools.
For ticket information, please
contact the Parr Hall Box office
T: 01925 442345

November 15-16

7pm | Lymm School Hall

Adults £8
Children & Concessions £5
Tickets available to purchase from
the Lymm High School Shop.
T: 01925 755458



LYMM
HIGH SCHOOL

November 13 | Little Bollington CofE Primary School, Cherry Tree Primary School, Oughtrington Community Primary School, St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School. **November 14** | Ravenbank Community Primary School, High Legh Primary School, Thelwall Community Junior School, Bradshaw Primary School, Statham Community Primary School

ENRICHMENT FAIR 2018

The Enrichment Fair was held on the 29th October 2018 with great success! Giving our students the fantastic opportunity to develop skills and an awareness of how they can become socially responsible citizens.

At Lymm High school one of our key aims is help develop well-rounded individuals who actively seek out opportunities, in the hope that once they leave education they will continue to do so, making a positive impact on society.

There was a real buzz and a flurry of activity as students navigated the stalls that were laden with props, posters and music playing. Sixth-form volunteers drew in the crowds creating a real Fresher's Week atmosphere!

Thanks to the positive vibe and energy of the Enrichment Fair, some students are looking at possible clubs they could start themselves.

Our Sixth-form students have proven themselves invaluable as ever, by volunteering at the Enrichment Fair and in some cases organising clubs for KS3 and KS4 to enjoy. Due to this the Enrichment list will be updated on a regular basis to include new clubs on offer so watch this space!

Rachel Morris

Head of Ethos KS3&4





WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

To raise awareness for 'World Mental Health Day' on Wednesday 10th October, the online student support service 'Kooth.com' and our Year 9 Youth Health Champions delivered assemblies across year groups encouraging students to look after their emotional health and wellbeing!

'Kooth.com' spoke to Year 11 and Year 10 students about managing emotions around exams, providing strategies to support with balancing revision and relaxation. The Youth Health Champions then launched their new school campaign to encourage messages such as physical activity improving mental health and overall wellbeing.

The Youth Health Champions will be busy around school over the coming weeks, visiting form rooms and creating notice boards to continue to raise awareness for positive mental health in the school community.



WEAR IT PINK!

Sixth Form students wear pink to raise awareness of breast cancer

Lymm Sixth Form students recently raised an impressive £760 for 'Wear it Pink Day.' Students and staff members alike came in to school wearing something pink to raise awareness and money for the charity Breast Cancer Care. Items of pink clothing included t-shirts, trousers, ties and socks, replacing usual items of uniform for a £1 donation.

During lunchtime for an extra contribution, students and staff also came together to take part in a game of bingo and a

quiz. A lot of fun was had by staff and students but more importantly awareness and funds were raised for this great cause.

Many thanks to all students for their efforts in another successful fundraising day at the school and all who

**breast
cancer
care**



RESTART A HEART DAY 2018

On the 16th October, Sixth Form students took part in the national 'Re-start a Heart' day, a designated yearly day of action with the aim to teach vital life-saving CPR skills to as many people as possible.

The day resulted in over 355 of our sixth formers receiving training in basic CPR!

Students loved taking part and they were grateful to learn this very valuable life skill. Well done to all who participated!



AFRITWIN

THE SOUP KITCHEN

Afritwin had a successful trip to South Africa in August. As part of the project and the fundraising that was done in the two years prior to the trip they have helped to fund a toilet block at Chintsa East Soup kitchen.

The soup kitchen has been running for about 5 years now by a local township woman called Temie. She set the kitchen up to feed the local children of the township at weekends and during school holidays. Children are fed during the week within school time, but when the school is closed, they tend not to get a

decent meal due to the deprivation the families face. Over the years, donations from families and organisations around the world has funded a jungle gym, a vegetable patch, electricity and water supplies, and tourists to the area fund the food on a weekly basis.

When Afritwin contacted Temie in early 2018, she expressed that the next item on her wishlist was to have a toilet block for the children to use whilst on site. During the summer, her wish was granted with building work starting in early July. By the time the Afritwin group arrived in the

township in mid-August, the toilet block was near completion.

Whilst visiting the Soup kitchen the students prepared and cooked the food for the children and spent a good few hours playing with them too. All had lots of fun!

The Afritwin project will continue to support Temie and her efforts to improve the lives of the children living in this small township in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming fundraising events, the first of which is a Bags2Schools.





ROWING IN THE USA

Lymm High School student travels to Massachusetts to take part in the Head of the Charles regatta.

Lymm High School student and Warrington Rowing Club's Ella Stanhope made her mark on a prestigious event in the United States recently.

Along with her friend and fellow rower Libby Myers – who is also part of the junior section at the Howley Lane club – Ella travelled to Massachusetts to take part in the Head of the Charles regatta.

The event attracts athletes

from all over the world and is widely regarded as one of the stand-outs on the rowing calendar.

We're pleased to say that Ella competed in the women's youth doubles event in a field of 43 crews and performed superbly, finishing in the top 10.

The duo completed the three-mile course along the River Charles in Boston in 21mins 59.786secs, which was good enough to see them finish in

eightth place.

Ella was also able to experience quality practice time with one of the stars of the sport – New Zealand's two-time Olympic gold medallist Mahe Drysdale – in preparation for the event.

After a triumphant trip to the states, Ella enjoyed success again on her home turf, taking part in a Great Britain Rowing camp where she finished in a respectable 8th position overall. Well done Ella!

It's all About STEM

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE OPEN DAYS

Sidney Sussex College is the Cambridge link college for the North West including Warrington Borough. They are running subject specific open days in March and April 2019 for Year 12 students for the following academic areas:

Physics and Engineering

Saturday 23rd March 2019

Maths and Computer Science

Saturday 30th March 2019

Geography, HSPS and Architecture

Saturday 6th April 2019

Arts (Music, MML, AMES and HoA)

Saturday 13th April 2019

Each taster day will run from 10am until 4pm and include a free lunch. The taster days are free to attend (excluding travel). Students will attend two different taster sessions in their chosen subject throughout the day, as well as hear from our Admissions Director on how to submit a competitive application. Current undergraduate students will be on hand to give tours of the college, as well as answer any questions in a Q&A towards the end.

Students interested in attending one of the taster days can find more information and book a place at the following link: <https://www.sid.cam.ac.uk/admiss/ugrad/visit>

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CAMBRIDGE OUTREACH STEM TALK

Earlier in October we welcomed Katie Vickers, Schools Liaison Officer for Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge to Lymm to speak to some of our students. Katie, who has an academic background in astrophysics, presented to a group of Year 10/11 female STEM scholars and Year 12 Maths students about opportunities and career paths within STEM industries.

Students were given advice about next steps and how best to prepare themselves for studying STEM related degrees. They were also given an insight into how the Cambridge Collegiate system works and what studying at Cambridge would be like.

As potential Oxbridge scholars, one of the key pieces of advice that the students were given was to show a passion for their chosen subjects by making use of the many resources to read or find out more about their subject.

We thank Katie for giving up her time to come and visit us at Lymm – sharing both her own experiences studying sciences and her expertise about university applications – particularly in relation to Cambridge admissions.

STEM CLUB

This year STEM Club is changing and students will undertake formal project work in order to gain their Bronze CREST award. The CREST awards were created to allow young people to think and work like Scientists, Engineers and Mathematicians. CREST awards are nationally recognised and are backed by the British Science Association. To qualify for the Bronze CREST award, students will work in small groups, planning and designing a project addressing a real world STEM problem completing their brief within 10 hours. Students who successfully complete their Bronze award will then have the opportunity to start working towards their Silver.

STEM club will be launched to interested students in Year 7-9 at lunchtime on Thursday 15th November in Room E305. More details will be given in the student bulletin.

BLETCHLEY PARK VISIT

On October 16th, the maths department led a trip of Year 8 and 9 students to Bletchley Park, home of the World War II codebreakers. Following an early start from school, the students arrived ready to face the codes and cipher challenges presented to them and to find out more about what life was like for the codebreakers at this formerly top secret location.

During the visit each student took part in a workshop, where they learnt the difference between codes and ciphers, discovered more about the Enigma code used by the German army and were able to get hands on with a real life enigma machine. The students discovered that one of the codebreakers was in fact a spy and by solving a number of different codes and ciphers they were able to discover his identity.

The trip also included a guided tour where the students learnt about what life was like for the thousands of people who were posted to Bletchley Park. The students were surprised to find out that most of the work was done by young girls billeted in local homes – some not much older than they are themselves – rather than the more well-known

mathematicians who were based there. Everyone who worked at Bletchley was sworn to utmost secrecy and were prevented from speaking to anyone about what their jobs entail – even to the people working next to them. The full extent of what happened at Bletchley was not made public until the 1970's and some of those working there never fully realised the crucial role they played in the war effort.

Visiting the exhibits allowed the students to discover more about the life of Alan Turing and the role that he played in developing the technology that helped to crack the enigma code. They saw a reconstructed model of the Turing Bombe – the first machine that was designed to crack the German codes – and were able to discover how it worked. Developments such as the Turing Bombe and the more general work of the Bletchley Park codebreakers have been credited with cutting short the 2nd World War by 2 years. The visit to Bletchley Park was both enjoyable and educational and gave the students an opportunity to not only discover a very real application of mathematics but to bring their history lessons to life.

DESIGN A "STEM AT LYMM" LOGO

STEM is becoming part of the language at Lymm High School and to commemorate this, this year we are running a design a logo competition. The logo should reflect all aspects of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – and include the school name. The competition is open to all students in Years 7-13.

Entries should be presented on A4 paper with the students' name and form. All entries should be handed into Mrs Dowdall in the maths Faculty Base by Friday 16th November.





UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 8th Nov
Sixth Form Open Evening

Tues 13th - Fri 16th Nov
Oliver!

Sat 17th Nov
Beaujolais Evening

Friday 22nd Nov
Y11 Parent's Evening



Lymm High school would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Tom Wyss, who recently donated £400 to the school music department. With the funds donated, the school has been able to purchase three new Tenor Trombones and his generosity will make an immediate difference in the lives of our music students. We thank you greatly for your support and kindness.

Follow us on
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