



Lymm  
High School

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Santa Dash Pg. 10

Students wear Santa Hats to raise money for the school's Pitch In! Fundraising campaign.

Sunday Times Schools Guide Pg. 12

Lymm High School secures one of the top rankings in the North West

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 11TH 2017 · WWW.LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK



## LES MISERABLES

Lymm High School stages spectacular performance of Les Misérables

**M**esmerising and simply brilliant – Lymm High school students enthralled the audience of parents, friends and teachers with a stunning performance of Victor Hugo's epic tale.

Many tried, and failed, to hold back tears as the curtain fell on the school edition of the hit

musical. The final sold-out performance ended in a standing ovation for the impressive sixty-four strong cast of students aged twelve to eighteen.

Set in early 19th-century France, Les Misérables is the longest-running musical in the West End. Along with the

twists and turns of the French Revolution it tells a gripping story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption.

Performances from the cast were faultless; the key emotions of the story made all the more powerful by the sheer youth of the cast.

CONTINUES ON PG. 3



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Zac Green played the long suffering protagonist Jean Val Jean with intensity. Tom McFarland, in the role of young student Marius, was passionate, yet poised and convincing in his performance, playing superbly alongside his stage love, perfectly-pitched voice of Eve Shaw, in the role of Cosette.

Providing the emotional torment of unrequited love, Eponine, played by Ella Worsley and Suzie Underwood, both delivered heart rendering performances of 'On my own'. As did Fantine, played by Aphra Proudfoot and Tabitha Ashcroft whose emotional renditions of 'I dreamed a dream' brought the audience to tears. Sam Anderson's gripping performance of the ruthless policeman Javert created a

powerful and sinister air to the tragic tale. And rousing the troops with passion was student Reece Connell as Gavroche.

'...they're  
doing a really  
good job  
handling their  
characters'

Madame and Monsieur Thenardier, played by students Carla Samsa and Imogen Walsh, entered the stage evoking rapturous laughter with their larger than life

characters. The couple expertly embraced the roles with a bit of cheek, allowing the audience a moment of humour before returning to the bleaker yet poignant moments within the story.

The chorus was superb and sang with confidence and ease; from the rousing 'Do you hear the people sing?', and 'One day more', to the mood-changing and melancholic 'Drink with me'.

## LES MISERABLES

The orchestra was well led by Head of Music, Mr Dominic Starkey, whose interpretations of the familiar, haunting, often spine-tingling and stirring pieces merely enhanced the sheer drama of the show.

Mrs Richards said that the show was a hit with the audience, who spoke about how much they enjoyed it.

"It's been a hard slog and six months of intensive rehearsals but I couldn't be prouder of the cast, crew and musicians. The performances by our talented students have been outstanding and we have had lots of wonderful feedback from audience members who were extremely impressed."

Gwyn Williams, Headteacher, added: "I have been amazed by the talent in our school at taking on such a complex production. The staff and pupils, have produced a brilliant show that would be fit for the West End!"

This has been a great team effort, with over 100 pupils and staff involved, and will be a production to remember."

Following this success Lymm awaits announcements for the next show to, once again, showcase all the talent the school has to offer.











# REVIEWS

*"This is one of my favourite musicals and I've seen quite a few professional performances over the years since 1985. Given that this is the "Schools Edition", I was expecting some kind of cut down version. Not a bit of it - apart from a few very minor incidental cuts, this was the full musical that I've seen in the West End several times. I'm astonished that school children can produce such an affecting performance after only a couple of months of part time rehearsals. If I had tickets for tonight, I wouldn't hesitate to watch it again."*

*There were a few songs here that were virtually indistinguishable from a professional performance, and I especially liked the furious and powerful rendition of "At the end of the day" which really put a different light on the song for me, and somehow seemed pretty relevant to our world today."*

*Mr Patrick Warner*

*"A huge congratulations and massive thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to support the young people in putting together the production of 'Les Miserables'. It was amazing! Every part of it was so well done. The time and effort put in was obvious and really paid off."*

*Mr Roger Craven*

*'Everything about the production was excellent - singing, acting, music, set, costumes, sound and lighting - it was really polished and professional, and was absolutely excellent.'*

*Mrs Sarah Palomabella*

*'It was fantastic and a great display of performing talent'*

*Ms Lauren Thomason*



*'When I heard 'School's Edition' I was convinced it was going to be a watered down version and was surprised, as you say, by it only being slightly edited. It was rousing at the end and brought a tear to my eye and lump in my throat. I attended because I love the music and not because I had a child performing in it. What's on next year?'*

*Ms Carol Anne Brown*

*'I would like to congratulate the school on such a magnificent display of talent. I was genuinely blown away by how professional, how sensational, the whole production was.'*

*The young actors were outstanding. The musicians and their musical score were spellbinding. The set, lighting - all perfectly done.*

*I loved it so much I got the last ticket for this evenings finale, and am very excited to see it again.'*

*Ms Emma Neal*

*I love Les Mis and have seen it a couple of times in London, so I know a lot of the songs. The students did a fantastic job with it - there are some tricky songs in there so it was an ambitious project but they really pulled it off. The teachers have obviously put in a lot of time to make this work as well as it did. Credit to all involved!*

*All the people I spoke to on the night could not praise it highly enough and many had seen it more than once!*

*Ms Sally Bircham*

*'Well done to everyone involved in the production of Les Miserables. It was truly brilliant. Everyone seemed to really enjoy their role and be proud of what they were doing. From the stars on the stage, to the sound and lighting behind the scenes, to the musicians and of course the teaching staff.'*

*Ms Philippa Quark*





# NOTICES

## YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS

The DTP & Men ACWY immunisations for Year 9 take place on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th January 2018 in the school library. Consent forms have now been given to students. These forms need to be returned to student services before the Christmas break. Thank you for your cooperation.

## SPORTS FUNDRAISING DINNER

After the huge success of last year's dinner, please click [here](#) to read details of our upcoming Lymm High School Sportsman's Dinner, to be held in February 2018.

## YEAR 7 AFRITWIN DISCO

The Year 7 Afritwin disco will be taking place on Wednesday 20th December, 6-7pm. Tickets are available for students to purchase during form time at a cost of £2.50

## EARLY CLOSURE

We would like to remind parents of the early closure on Friday 22nd December 2017.

The school day will finish at 12:15pm and buses have been scheduled for this time. Please let us know if this presents you with significant difficulties in terms of childcare; we may well be able to help.

## CASHLESS CATERING

A polite reminder: Please top up your child's cashless catering account via Parent Pay to ensure they are able to purchase food during their lunch break.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas dinner will be offered to all students on Wednesday 13th December. To view a copy of our festive menu, please click [here](#).



The top of the poster is decorated with numerous white snowflakes of various sizes and intricate patterns, scattered across a dark blue background.

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

# CAROL SERVICE

ST PETER'S CHURCH, OUGHTRINGTON  
MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2017 | 7PM

*Please join us after the service for mince  
pies and refreshments at the church*



# SANTA DASH



Hundreds of students donned red and white at Lymm High School last Monday to raise money for the school's Pitch In! Fundraising campaign.

The LHS Santa Dash fundraising event was held in the school grounds on Monday, December 4. The whole school, including Sixth Form students and staff joined in the fun as runners ran, jogged or walked the 1 mile course around the school grounds.

Students were sponsored to wear Santa Hats and costumes for the dash.

Although there is not yet a confirmed fundraising total

due to sponsorship money still being collected, we are aiming to raise at least £5,000 through the event.

Assistant Headteacher and Santa Dash organiser Helen Ryles-Dean said: "Thank you so much to all the wonderful Santa's who took part on Monday.

"It was another fantastic fundraising event to raise funds towards our 3G Pitch bid and we were delighted to see the levels of support there

are for the campaign from students, parents and people of Lymm.

"We're hoping to raise at least £5,000 from the event and it's only possible because of the enthusiasm of the students who took part.

"The event could not take place without all the sponsors, volunteers and staff that make it happen."

Lymm High School would especially like to thank Lymm Rotary Club whose Santa



kindly arrived on his sleigh to add some extra festive magic to the event.

The student santa's were treated to a Winter Wonderland themed Christmas market after crossing the finish line and completing the 1 mile course. As well as a number of Christmas themed stalls, the market included a chocolate fountain, glitter face painting, a Santa 'selfie' booth and hot Vimto to enjoy.

The Pitch In! fundraising project was launched at Lymm High School last month to build a brand new 3G pitch

and floodlighting at Lymm High School, to be used by students and the wider community.

The school are hoping to make an application to the Premier League/Football Association fund next year and have embarked on an extensive fundraising campaign. We are relying on fundraising events such as the Santa Dash and donations to raise the balance of the funding – approximately £100,000

Lymm High School posted on their Facebook page: "Thank you so much to everyone who took part in the Pitch In! Santa

Dash on Monday - the school grounds became a sea of Santas.

"We are still collecting the money so can't reveal the grand total yet and please do send through any outstanding sponsorship money as soon as you can. Thank you so much for all your support."

For more information or to donate to the Pitch In! campaign visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/lymmhighschoolparentteacherassociation>





# THE SUNDAY TIMES SCHOOL'S GUIDE



Lymm High School ranked as the 6th highest performing comprehensive school in the whole of the North West!

**T**he Sunday Times has recently published its list of the highest achieving schools in the UK, with Lymm High School being ranked as the 6th highest performing comprehensive school in the whole of the North West, and the 24th highest even when selective grammar schools are included. The list takes account of the numbers of students

gaining the highest grades at both GCSE and A' level.

Mr Williams said:

"Whilst we are not driven by performance in league tables – and certainly not these particular ones – this news does further underline the fact that we have made massive progress over the last couple of years and are certainly now one

of the highest performing schools in the region.

In a week when I've witnessed incredible performances of our students in Les Miserables as well as watching the first XV winning the Cheshire Cup, I am feeling especially proud of all our students and staff."



# WIN A SIGNED WAYNE ROONEY SHIRT!

Silent Auction to take place for Everton Signed Football Shirt



Tutor group 9ML have persuaded England's all-time record goalscorer, Wayne Rooney, to donate a signed Everton shirt to the school for the Pitch In! campaign.

The students will be holding an auction in the run up to Christmas and we will give the shirt to the person who makes the highest bid by 12pm on Thursday 21st December. It could make a fantastic Christmas present for someone!

The auction will work on a 'sealed bid' basis. Please email your highest bid to [pitchin@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:pitchin@lymmhigh.org.uk) by the deadline and we will contact you if you have been successful. The amount people have bid will be kept private.

Mr Williams is a keen Everton fan and has started the bidding at £150, so we can reveal that you will need to bid more than that if you are to win this fabulous item!





# A SPANISH EXCHANGE



Sixteen students and two teachers embarked on an exchange programme with our partner school in Malaga, Instituto El Palo.

**W**e arrived in Malaga in the afternoon after an early flight from Manchester Airport, and anxiously awaited the arrival of our exchange partners at their school. All nerves were quickly forgotten when we first met them, as they were incredibly welcoming. I am sure I can speak for everybody else when I say that they went

out of their way to make us feel at home.

The following day we visited la Alhambra - the palace and fortress of the Moorish monarchs of Granada - with all our fellow exchangees and we were thoroughly educated about its historical significance and influence that it had during the time period. After spending the day in the city

centre of Malaga on Friday, our exchanges took us to see the famous switching on of the Christmas lights; people travel from all over Spain to watch this spectacular event, and we were incredibly lucky to be in Malaga at this certain time.

Over the weekend, we were able to bond further with our newly found friends, as we spent both days together



enjoying the Spanish culture and showing them a part of our culture through playing games on the beach.

Our day on Monday involved shadowing our partners around school and participating in their lessons. It was incredibly interesting to see the similarities and differences between the way that we learn and the way that they learn. On our final full day, we visited the picturesque town of Frigiliana which consists of white buildings and narrow roads arranged in a methodical pattern before visiting the caves in Nerja; a five kilometre stretch of caves that were discovered by pure coincidence.

In the evening, we returned to school and celebrated the past week by delivering individual presentations which proved to be very emotional for many.

After waking up ridiculously early on Wednesday morning, we went to their school for the final time and said our last goodbyes before returning home.

We would all like to say a huge thank you all our incredible host families and to Miss Moreno and Mr Chinaea for organising the trip, and we cannot wait for our exchanges to come to England in March.

*Written by Tom Ashton-Davies*





# NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON TRIP



Years 12 and 13 went on an amazing history trip to New York and Washington over October half term, which supported their studies of 'In Search of the American Dream: 1917-1996', which is a breadth study of American history including politics, the economy, culture and standard of living. The trip was busy, busy, busy with plenty of sightseeing in both New York and Washington.

On the first day students went up the Empire State Building, which is arguably the most iconic building in New York and showed students how important building projects were during the 1930s to help people get work during the Great Depression.

While in New York students also got to visit other iconic buildings and structures such as the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island (the centre of immigration to America), St Patrick's Cathedral, the New York Public Library and Rockefeller Centre.

We also took our time to appreciate the tragedy of 9/11 by reflecting at the memorial and pieced together what happened that fateful day in the museum, which humanised what happened with

personal stories of those in the Twin Towers and the Emergency staff who bravely headed inside the buildings to rescue people. After the museum we walked the highline, which is a disused railway line that has been turned into a series of gardens and exhibits artist's work.

Students also attended a Broadway show, 'Miss Saigon', which although had mixed reviews from our group was something that they could at least tick off their 'bucket list'.

After three days in New York, we took a change of pace and visited America's capital Washington D.C. This was picturesque and much quieter than many capitals students had visited before. We had a guided walking tour of Washington visiting The Library of Congress, the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington Cemetery. Students also had the opportunity of visiting a series of museums within the Smithsonian Institute including the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Air and Space and American History.



# LHS TENNIS

## 8TH IN THE COUNTRY

It was a fantastic achievement recently when our Y9 tennis team qualified for and competed in the regional finals of the Team Tennis competition. The competition started quite a while ago when they were crowned Area champions by beating Bolton School in an extremely tense Championship Tie-break (first to 10 points) to win the match 4-3 in rubbers.

The Regional Finals took place in November in Sunderland and we were the top seed when we arrived, thanks to Alice's fantastic British Tennis rating of 5.1. Our first match

was against 4th seeds The High School, Glasgow. Hattie and Alice both won their matches, putting us at 2-2; tense doubles matches followed, after which we were 3-3 so it was another shoot-out. A victory in the shoot-out 10-3 meant we had progressed to the final, where we were up against the 2nd seeds Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. They had real strength in depth, and despite some close matches and 2 wins during the match, we lost to them overall and just missed out on progressing to National Finals. Nevertheless a storming

performance to get to Regional Finals and get through to the final, and an accomplishment that has not been achieved for quite some years at Lymm High. A special mention must go to Alice Shields, who remains unbeaten in the entire competition – a truly fantastic achievement! The team consisted of Alice Shields, Hattie Cosgrove, Siobhan Grayson and Emilia McMonagle. Given that over 2000 schools enter the competition each year, it is a fabulous result to get to the last 8 in the country. Huge congratulations to all involved.







# STREET SKETCHING & GALLERY VISITS

**O**n the 31st October 48 Year 11 Photography and Art students ventured to Liverpool for a day of street sketching and gallery visits.

The day started at the docks, where we explored textures in the surrounding environment. Students drew, photographed and captured the reflections on the water, decaying rusty metals and the industrial

architecture that surrounded them. We then headed to Jamaica Street to collect further primary research. Again students photographed and sketched interesting areas of the urban environment.

The afternoon saw students have first-hand gallery experiences visiting the Walker Art gallery which housed a variety of old and new contemporary work and

the Open Eye gallery had some fantastic photography pieces on show. We then went to Liverpool Tate where we could take a look at the Roy Lichtenstein exhibition, which was still so fresh and current. Students gathered lots of inspirational research which will aid their current coursework projects. The day overall was a great success.



# ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The weekend of the 1st – 4th

December saw the annual St Mary's Christmas tree festival. The festival is a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate decorating Christmas trees with their own unique, usually handmade decorations.

The art department organised students to create decorations linking to this year's

theme 'Let me tell you a story'. Students decided that they would create decorations based upon their favourite memories and personal stories of Christmas time. Students wrote their accounts and then chose key parts to illustrate, using a variety of materials and techniques to create their decorations.

We hope everyone enjoyed reading their stories.





# BT BOOTCAMP

On Wednesday 22nd November, Mrs Worrall and Mr

Whittle took a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students to BT in Warrington to take part in a BT Skills for Work Bootcamp.

During the visit, students were given the opportunity to work with staff from BT on writing their CV's, learning skills for work and practising their interview skills. They even got the chance to have a one to one interview with some of the staff. All students took part even though some were a little apprehensive.

The feedback received from the BT member of staff who ran the course was

"I worked with some of your students at the BT skills for work boot camp on Wednesday, and I have to let you know how wonderful they were.

"It was fantastic to work alongside young people who were so excitable and interested in their future careers. They are a true credit to your school.

"Please also pass on my thanks to the brilliant teachers who came along too, it was clear they care very much about the students"

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

**Year 9 Parents Evening**  
Thursday 14th December

**Carol Service**  
Monday 18th December

**Christmas Break**  
Monday 23rd December –  
Thursday 4th January

**INSET DAY**  
Wednesday 3rd January

## PRIMARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Tuesday 5th December the Year 11 BTEC Health and Social Care students hosted a Christmas Party for 60 Year 3 pupils from Ravenbank Community Primary School. The party formed part of the Year 11 student's assignment on demonstrating care values such as dignity, respect, confidentiality and safeguarding.

The students all did an excellent job making the year 3 pupils feel welcome and organised a range of games and Christmas activities designed to be inclusive as well as fun. Somehow in less than 2 hours they managed to fit in party games, icing gingerbread, face painting, writing letters to Santa and making Christmas cards. All pupils left very happy, if somewhat sticky. It was a fantastic opportunity for our Health and Social Care students to get hands on experience supporting others as well as developing their organisational skills.



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