

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers

Happy New Year to you all. I do hope you all had a good Christmas.

It was a busy end to the term, with Year 11 mock exams taking place alongside lots of other Christmas activities (the less said about the quality of staff karaoke, the better – but at least we raised some more money for charity). Special mention must go to our incredibly talented musicians, who put on performances in all kinds of different places – ranging from school to our Christmas assemblies at St Peter's to Dickensian Day to elderly people's homes. Their stamina is almost as impressive as their musical ability.

This term has started equally well. As always, it took a couple of days for many students to get used to waking up early enough for school again after the holidays, but the sleepiness soon wore off and they are now fully back on form!

With best wishes for a happy and successful 2023.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams

Bullying and unkind behaviour

Mr Thompson gave assemblies last week, in which he reiterated some key messages around bullying and unkind behaviour. Please do take a moment to talk about these issues with your children if you can. The most important points Mr Thompson covered were as follows:

- 'Bullying' is defined as behaviour that is intended to hurt someone (either physically or emotionally) and is repeated over a period of time. This can often be aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. It can also be 'in person' or online, via social media. No unkind behaviour is ever acceptable, but it is important to use language properly and bear in mind that bullying only refers to behaviours that are deliberately repeated over time.
- We are fortunate that, compared to other schools, we have very few issues with this kind of thing. However, even one incident is one too many and the school takes a very firm, and very proactive approach in dealing with them.
- Students should be clear that it is never acceptable to be unkind towards others. Unkindness is the polar opposite of being the socially responsible citizens we expect at Lymm High School.
- Mr Thompson gave various examples of the kinds of behaviours we are talking about because it is vital that students are able to recognise inappropriate behaviours, even when they might not be a victim themselves. Students were encouraged, where they feel comfortable doing so, to be 'active bystanders' and to 'call out' certain behaviours amongst their peers when they happen.
- At the same time, it is very important that students report instances of unkindness or bullying to staff in school. The various different ways in which incidents can be reported were listed.
- Mr Thompson acknowledged that young people can, for various reasons, be reluctant to report incidents but that we cannot deal with issues if we don't know about them. He encouraged students to be brave in doing the right thing. He explained that students don't always realise that there are a whole range of different ways in which a report might be handled, but we always take reports very seriously. For example, a student may want their report of an incident

to be kept anonymous, which means we cannot necessarily take visible action, but it's still really important to report it because that information might feed into a bigger picture.

- Likewise, students often don't know the full extent to which reports have led to actions 'behind the scenes'. Very often, a lot more work goes on with the individual responsible for poor behaviour (and their family) than we are able to disclose. Whilst sanctions typically are part of the response to bullying or unkind behaviours, they are usually only part of the response to ensure things stop.

Students at Lymm High School are wonderful and are generally exceptionally polite and respectful towards one another. However, we all know that teenagers can sometime be mean to one another (or worse) and it's always important that we work hard to reinforce these kinds of messages and get as close to zero as we can in terms of the number of incidents of unkindness or bullying. Many thanks for your support.

E-Safety Information Evening

We are holding our annual E-Safety Information Evening for parents and carers on **Thursday 9th February**. This will be held online and a Teams link will be sent out nearer the date.

Chinese New Year

Lymm High is organising several events in school to mark the Chinese New Year, including Lantern making this week, Chinese Calligraphy (**Thursday 26th January**) and a Paper folding workshop (**Thursday 2nd February**). Interested students can get more information from Miss Simms or Mrs Tasker.

We will also be having a special [themed lunch menu](#) on **Wednesday 18th January**.

A free family event for the Chinese New Year is being organised at Warrington Youth Zone on **Saturday 14th January**. For further details, [click here](#).

Cross-country races

The third Lymm High cross-country race for Years 7–11, organised by Warrington Athletics Club, is taking place on **Saturday 21st January** at Walton Gardens. The timetable will be:

- 12.10 Year 7 (Minor), Year 8/9 (Junior), Year 10/11 (Inter) Girls
- 12.30 Year 7 (Minor), Year 8/9 (Junior), Year 10/11 (Inter) Boys
- 12.50 Presentations (Senior Schools)

Mr Scott is looking forward to seeing the participants there. For more information, [click here](#). Please note this event was postponed from **Saturday 10th December**.

PTA Quiz

We have nearly sold all tickets for our upcoming quiz and fish & chip supper at Lymm High on **Friday 27th January**. If you'd like to attend, please buy your tickets via Parent Pay. If you've already bought your tickets, and haven't already specified, please let us know who you would like to sit with by emailing PTA@lymmhigh.org.uk.

School shop

During term time, the shop will be closed every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 noon. However, parents can still order uniform online on a 'click and collect' basis by [clicking here](#). If you have ordered uniform, please collect this after you receive your email confirmation.

Cashless catering

Please remember to top up your child's cashless catering account via Parent Pay to ensure your child is able to purchase food at break and during lunchtimes. You can [click here](#) to view the lunch menu, which changes each day. The price list can be [viewed here](#).

Amazon Smile

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

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to this week's school lottery winner, Mrs Brear, who won £74.40! You could be a winner too! If you have not signed up for our lottery yet, please head to our dedicated lottery website [here](#). If you want to find out how the school lottery works, please [click here](#). Tickets are only £1 each week and your support would be hugely appreciated.

LOWER SCHOOL

Spring Term Knowledge Organisers for KS3 students

Upon return to school from the Christmas break, Key Stage 3 students (Years 7–9) have been issued with new Knowledge Organiser booklets, containing all the important curriculum information they will need over the next term.

These contain the essential 'bedrock' knowledge that students need for their individual subjects, and help parents better understand what is being studied in class so they can support too. Knowledge Organisers will be used regularly for revision at home, as well as supporting independent work in the classroom. Teachers will set revision homework, and students will be tested in class to make sure the learning is stored in their long-term memory over time.

Students should keep their Knowledge Organiser in their school bag and bring it to school each day in the same way as their other equipment.

Should parents wish to access these Knowledge Organisers directly, the digital versions of these documents can be found on our website [here](#).

KS3 exams

Please [click here](#) for the KS3 exam timetable indicating when your child's three exams will take place.

Please [click here](#) for the KS3 revision guide.

Any problems, please contact your child's Head of Year: Miss Beck – Head of Year 7 (nbeck@lymmhigh.org.uk), Mrs Wagstaff – Head of Year 8 (jwagstaff@lymmhigh.org.uk) or Mr Barnett – Head of Year 9 (wbarnett@lymmhigh.org.uk).

Year 9 Choices

Parents have been sent a letter about the Year 9 Choices process, which details all the key dates. [Click here](#) to read this letter.

Life Programme

On **Wednesday 25th January**, KS3 students will learn the following topics in Life Programme:

- Year 7 will look at how substances like alcohol and smoking/vaping may affect our health.
- Year 8 will focus on the subject of consent and how to avoid making assumptions about consent in friendships and romantic relationships. This will be taught in an age-appropriate manner.
- Year 9 will look at what it means for someone to have the capacity to consent. They will look at age-appropriate example scenarios discussing how someone may respond in consensual and respectful manners. Students will consider how the use of substances may impinge on freedom and capacity to consent.

UPPER SCHOOL

Year 11 mock exam results

On the afternoon of **Wednesday 18th January**, Year 11 students will be receiving their mock exam results. We will be replicating the official exam procedures and how they will collect their results in the summer to give them a flavour of what it is like. This will be accompanied by a brief assembly outlining some advice and guidance on next steps and how to use their results as a motivating tool to get their revision schedule underway again. We will have pastoral support available for students during this time.

Looking ahead, we have Year 11 Parents' Evening taking place on **Thursday 26th January** via School Cloud. This will be a great opportunity for students to receive helpful advice and targeted feedback from their teachers to support them in achieving their full potential in their courses. Please [click here](#) to read a letter about Parents' Evening.

Year 11 Sixth Form interviews

We will be in touch with those students who have applied to join us in the Sixth Form to arrange their interviews. Interview times will be sent to your child's school email address by the end of this month.

Mrs Jennings

Life Programme

On **Wednesday 25th January**, KS4 students will learn the following topics in Life Programme:

- Year 10 will study the subjects of managing relationship conflict and breakups. Students will discuss strategies to identify and manage appropriate and inappropriate conflict behaviours.
- Year 11 will have a talk from 'Just Like Us': a young person's charity giving talks about growing up LGBTQ+.

SIXTH FORM

Life Programme

On **Wednesday 25th January**, Sixth Form students will learn the following topics in Life Programme:

- Year 12 will be visited by the Warrington Youth Team who support students with their relationship to drugs. In particular, they will discuss the risks of inappropriate use of prescription drugs.
- Year 13 will have a final session on what it means to have an LGBTQIA+ education. This session intends to reflect on the progress the movement has made over the years and why it is important to continue to support progress as students become adults.