

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers

I hope this finds you well, and that you are more prepared for Christmas than we currently are in my own household.

There may be an abundance of winter bugs flying around at the moment and many students (and maybe even some staff!) are doubtless feeling quite tired as we come towards the end of a long term, but I must say that the atmosphere remains extremely positive and there has been so much going on over the last few weeks that typify what a great place Lymm High School is.

A real highlight for me recently has been the annual school production. This year it was *High School Musical* and I'm sure everyone who had the pleasure of watching it would agree when I say it was a fantastic performance, with so much talent and energy on display. A huge amount of hard work went into the production and it certainly paid off; the cast absolutely excelled themselves. Congratulations, to all involved!

'Children In Need' day was another memorable day from this half-term, especially for the quite brilliant array of imaginative fancy dress outfits the Sixth Form managed to come up with. Less pleasant for me personally was having to endure countless 'custard pies' being thrown at me on the English yard (some thrown with a lot more feeling behind them than others, it must be said!). A lot of fun was had and, more importantly, we raised a good sum for a great cause.

We have also had a lot of success in different sports this half-term, as well as a whole range of other trips and activities, details of which are in the [latest newsletter](#). If you haven't already seen the most recent newsletter, do spend a few minutes having a read; it will be well worth your time.

Perhaps more down to earth, but nonetheless very important, Year 11 students have been doing mock exams this week and it has to be said that they have conducted themselves impeccably. We really could not be more impressed with the way they have gone about things and this will hold them in really good stead for the real thing next summer.

The Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter's Church on Wednesday evening was, as always, a lovely evening and has put us all in a festive mood, ready for next week and what is one of my very favourite school traditions: our Christmas assemblies at the church.

As I say, it's always a rather frenetic time of year but there have been so many reminders of how incredible Lymm High School students are. Indeed, we had some senior leaders from another high-performing school visiting us this week and they were blown away by what they saw from students in lessons and at social times; they couldn't stop talking about the positive attitudes to learning they saw across the school and the responses of students to the high expectations we have of them. For me at least, it was a welcome reminder that we should never take any of this for granted. Many thanks, as always, for your support for the school and for the job you are doing in bringing up such wonderful young people.

I wish you all the very best for a Merry Christmas and a positive start to 2024.

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams

Early finish – Thursday 21st December

A reminder that we break up for the Christmas holidays on Thursday at 12.15pm. As is usual on an early finish, buses will not be running. **Thursday 4th January** is an INSET Day. Students return to school on **Friday 5th January**.

Reporting student absence

A reminder that parents and carers can only report student absences via Class Charts. School Comms and the attendance voicemail are no longer in operation.

Students taken unwell in school

Please could we make a plea to all parents and carers about collecting your child from school if they are feeling unwell. We are having an increasing number of students bypassing our systems of support if they are unwell in school (and sometimes not unwell) by failing to visit our First Aid Officer in Student Services and phoning parents/grandparents/older siblings to come and collect them from school. Often the first we are aware of this is someone signing them out at reception, or even just picking them up without any contact with school, and/or not signing them out at all. For obvious safeguarding reasons, please can we ask for your support with this – we will always contact you directly ourselves if your child is too unwell to continue their day in school. They might feel a bit under the weather at this time of year, but in most cases students are well enough to be in school (please [click here](#) for NHS guidance). If they do feel unwell in school and need to go home, we will phone you, using the priority order of contacts you provided us with. If they ring you (or any other family members that may or may not be listed on the school system), please can you phone Student Services before coming to pick them up, asking for Mrs Shawcross. We can then clarify the situation and hopefully prevent wasted trips for parents and/or an avoidable loss of learning time. We really appreciate your support with this.

Wear something Christmassy

On **Tuesday 19th December**, students can wear an item that is Christmassy along with their school uniform. This could be a Christmas jumper, a Santa hat or just a piece of tinsel. We are asking for a donation that will go towards Save the Children. Students can pass this to their Form Tutor.

Staff Karaoke and Christmas Singalong party

Staff will be taking to the microphone in the Main Hall on **Monday 18th December** for the annual staff karaoke show. Students will get their chance to sing some festive tunes on **Tuesday 19th December**. Students can buy tickets for both of these events for £1 from the school shop. All proceeds will go to Save the Children.

Pre-loved uniform and PE kit

Recycled uniform is available, free of charge, from the school shop. Donations of good quality, clean uniform and PE kit can also be donated to the school shop.

Child safety online

Please [click here](#) for a practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media.

Warrington Foodbank Christmas Appeal

It's a sad fact that many children, including teenagers, will not receive any gifts this Christmas, as families battle the cost of living. Warrington Foodbank is part of a group of organisations who believe that no child

should go without presents this Christmas. If you are able to donate just one new gift, either a toy, a book or something you know that a child or teenager will like, we would be grateful for your support. Donations can be dropped off to a range of locations, including the Foodbank or Golden Square Customer Services. For more information, please [click here](#). There is also a [Crowdfunder page here](#).

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](#).

Easy Fundraising

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 go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and select Lymm High School as your cause, school will then receive a percentage donation. Last year, we raised over £900 just by shopping! As always, thank you for your support.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to this week's school lottery winner, Mx Barnes, who won £75!

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

KS3 exams – January 2024

Please [click here](#) to read about the KS3 January exams in English, Maths and Science. This letter includes links to the KS3 Revision Guide, the exam timetable, and a blank revision timetable template for students to use.

Life Programme

This week we hosted the final of our Life Programme for the term. The next session will commence on **Wednesday 10th January** (8.25–9.10am). Many year groups continued with sex and relationship education.

- **Year 7** discussed healthy living, thinking about how to maintain a balanced diet whilst not being restrictive over foods.
- **Year 8** did a very brief overview of contraception introducing them to the idea that contraception is there to keep intimate relationships safe from disease and to reduce the risk of pregnancy. Students handled these topics maturely.
- **Year 9** also learnt about contraception in more detail, including discussing hormonal contraception and barrier contraception.

Coasts and Castle trip to North Yorkshire – 1–3 May 2024

Please [click here](#) to read about a proposed Geography and History 'Coasts and Castles' trip to North Yorkshire.

Ski trip – February 2025

We are running a ski trip to Piancavallo, Italy, for current Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students (who will be Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 when the trip takes place) from **16–23 February 2025**.

Please [click here](#) to read the letter.

UPPER SCHOOL

Life Programme

This week we hosted the final of our Life Programme for the term. The next session will commence on **Wednesday 10th January** (8.25–9.10am).

- **Year 10** worked on how to address power imbalances in relationships and how to get support if abuse exists in relationship situations.
- **Year 11** had their mock exams.

Year 11 Prom – Thursday 27th June 2024

Please [click here](#) to read the letter sent home about Year 11's Prom, which is taking place at Walton Hall (Riding School) on **Thursday 27th June 2024**.

Applications to join the Sixth Form – September 2024

The deadline for submitting applications to join our Sixth Form is **Friday 15th December** at 5pm. If your child wishes to make an application and has not met this deadline, please encourage them to do so before we break up for Christmas, to ensure they are interviewed in the New Year.

SIXTH FORM

Life Programme

This week we hosted the final of our Life Programme for the term. The next session will commence on **Wednesday 10th January** (8.25–9.10am).

- **Year 12** had an assembly from the Head of Sixth Form on sexual harassment and how they might call this out should they encounter this inside or outside of school.
- **Year 13** learnt about drug awareness. This was made even more memorable after the Sixth Form's recent trip to Warrington Magistrates Court where they encountered many defendants being tried for drink and drug driving. One case found a man guilty of drug driving after having taken cocaine three days earlier. It shocked the students to learn how long drugs stay in the system.

Personal Development Update

Our social responsibility theme for this half term is **Kindness**.

Students have had the opportunity over the last week to write a thank you postcard to a member of staff that they feel has really helped and supported them this term. Equally, staff have awarded 'Kindness' recognition postcards to those students who they feel have really embraced our social responsibility theme of kindness this half term. Some examples have included students supporting their tutors with resources during Form time without being asked, and escorting a rather lost cover supervisor to the area of school they needed to be in, again without being asked! A wonderful display of kindness.

Here's what's going on over the next four days. What will your child get involved in?

WEEK A: 18–21st December

Assembly themes: Church celebration assemblies in St. Peters

[Click here](#) for the extra-curricular activities timetable.

Please note that there will be no extra-curricular sports next week.

Monday

- Year 7 Church assembly
- Staff Karaoke, lunchtime in the Main Hall
Tickets (£1) available from the school shop (donated to Save the Children)

Tuesday

- Wear something Christmassy for a charity donation to Save the Children
- Year 8 Church assembly
- Christmas Singalong party, lunchtime in the Main Hall
Tickets (£1) available from the school shop (donated to Save the Children)

Wednesday

- Year 9 Church assembly
- End-of-term Rewards trip to the Trafford Centre

Thursday

- Year 10 Church assembly
- Year 11 Rewards morning (Periods 1 & 2)
- Sixth Form Church assembly (Period 1)



BRITISH VALUES
PARTICIPATION
LIFE PROGRAMME
CAREERS