



LYMM
HIGH SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



A WARM WELCOME



Ever since receiving its Royal Charter in 1601, Lymm High School has had a strong tradition of providing first class opportunities for local children. We take particular pride in making sure that every one of our students is loved and cherished as an individual throughout their time here.

We do not have a complicated, clever sounding mission statement or a series of radical ideas about what education ought to be. Rather, we aim to keep things simple and focus on the things that matter most.

We work hard to ensure that all of our students leave with excellent academic outcomes, something that is reflected in exam results that are amongst the very best in the whole country and in the high numbers of students going on to study at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

At the same time, we provide a remarkable range of extra-curricular activities and trips. These enable young people to enjoy their time here, to taste success in whichever areas their talents and interests may lie and to develop as well-rounded, socially responsible human beings.

We are very fortunate with the grounds and facilities we have, but the real strength of the school lies in the people. Our students are typically very well brought up, polite, ambitious and bright. Their good behaviour and attitude to learning helps us to attract excellent teachers, who in turn give up a great deal of their own time to ensure that the students gain a high quality, all-round education.

As a parent myself, I recognise the huge responsibility we have towards the young people who attend our school; for some time now, Lymm High School has been a very popular first choice for our community, but we will never be complacent about ensuring that remains the case. I also understand that choosing a school can be difficult and wish you the best of luck in making your choices. Whatever you decide in the end, I do hope that you will take the time to visit us and to meet some of the people who help make this place so special.

Gwyn Williams
Headteacher

ACADEMIC STANDARDS



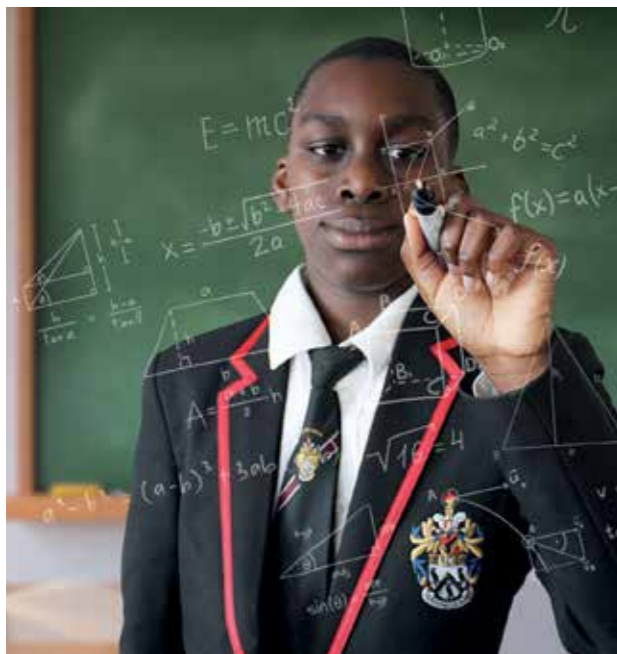
Parents and carers recognise that the academic standards on offer at Lymm High School are high, with year-on-year success at GCSE and A' level, as well as in other recognised qualifications.

Great schools are about far more than preparing students for examination success. However, at the same time, we are unequivocal about the fact that academic outcomes are hugely important to the life chances of young people. Expectations here are high, and they are rising still further.

Our retention into Sixth Form is very high, with the majority of our students wishing to remain at Lymm in the knowledge that they will have the best chance of excelling and entering into the world of higher education, employment or training.

A great deal of emphasis is placed upon developing the quality of teaching and learning, whether this be more traditional teacher-led activities or lessons where students themselves take more of a lead. Regardless of the style of teaching or teacher, we strive to ensure all lessons contain high degrees of both challenge and engagement.

Teachers and support staff here care about what they do and the young people they work with. Students appreciate this and enjoy their lessons, which plays a key part in them achieving such high standards.



“

Putting the curriculum at the heart of what we do, and continuing to evaluate, reflect and refine where needed, means we can best meet the needs of all our students.

THE FACILITIES

The Lymm campus is a mix of traditional and new buildings surrounded by wonderful countryside.

The school is situated in its own beautiful grounds with extensive playing fields, an AstroTurf pitch, a new 3G pitch and our own leisure centre, including a swimming pool, fitness suite and sports hall.

Originally Oughtrington Hall, the oldest block, was built in 1810 and is a Grade II listed building. The newest block of classrooms was built in 2012. Our buildings are in good condition and provide an excellent environment for learning.

We are also very fortunate to have our own residential centre, the magical Ty'n-y-Felin – situated in an incredibly picturesque part of Anglesey. Students visit 'Tynny' at various points during their time with us, including for the annual Year 7 visit, different field trips and revision and study weekends.

Inside the school, we are well-equipped with ICT facilities, including a state-of-the-art Apple Mac suite. There is a purpose built Sixth Form block and a well-stocked library. We even have our own restaurant, 'Chapters,' where our Food Technology students can often be found cooking and serving excellent food to guests.



“

I think the 3G pitch and sports facilities at Lymm are really great - I love playing sport at school in PE lessons and for the school teams.

We're really lucky to have a swimming pool and fitness suite too!

Max - Year 10



ENRICHMENT & LEADERSHIP

Academic excellence is an essential part of any great school, but is not the only aspect that matters. We offer a remarkably wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that help students develop their leadership skills and grow into well-rounded, decent, socially responsible citizens.

Our 'Leadership Ladder' is an important element of our provision. By taking part in various different activities, students can work their way up the ladder, gaining leadership colours as they go. In the early stages, the focus is on encouraging every single student to take part in the extra-curricular life of the school but, as they progress, more and more emphasis is put upon leadership.

One of the advantages of being a large school is the number of trips, visits and exchanges that we can provide.

Typically, we run over 70 trips every year, including recent ones to South Africa, Berlin, New York, Morocco, Naples and Paris – as well as many others a little closer to home!

We make great efforts to support those students capable of going on to the top universities, with a significant number of enrichment activities specifically targeted at the most able through our Scholars Programme.

Many extended activities are at lunchtime or immediately after school and we encourage all students to take part. Details of the programme (which changes regularly) are available on our website.

We run all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in school: Bronze in Year 9, Silver in Year 10 and Gold in Year 12 with typically around 250 students taking part each year.

“

There's a really wide variety of sports on offer at school and extra-curricular has encouraged me to continue playing sport outside of school which I really enjoy.

It's a great place to make new friends and extra-curricular activities have really helped me to gain confidence in communicating with other people.

Afy - Year 10

THE PERFORMING ARTS



The academic curriculum is further enhanced by an outstanding range of opportunities to participate in the performing arts. Music, drama and dance intertwine seamlessly in a large variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities, school productions and instrumental lessons. In 2018, Lymm High School received an Artsmark Gold Award in recognition of the many high-quality cultural activities in the performance and visual arts.

The school boasts a wide range of musical performance groups, including a brass band and strings group that are both of exceptional quality. We place a great deal of value on music, and peripatetic music lessons during the school day are encouraged.

Our musicians regularly perform in school and in the wider community, including at prestigious venues such as the Bridgewater Hall and Parr Hall. The Performing Arts faculty have embarked on three European tours in recent years – to Venice, Strasbourg and Barcelona.



The annual school production is highly regarded in the community, drawing full crowds at multiple performances and involving many students and staff both on stage and behind the scenes. Recent school productions have included: *Les Misérables*; *Oliver!*; *Sweeney Todd*; *Grease*; *400* and *Oh What a Lovely War*. The latter two took place in a packed Parr Hall and included over 300 of our partner primary school students taking part in the choir. Students have also performed nationally at the prestigious Dorfman Theatre with the production *Snow Dragons*, and in recognition of a recording of John Lennon's *Imagine* we were given a runners-up Character Award by the World-Class Schools organisation. Many of our talented students go on to study performing arts at world class institutions such as RADA, Bristol Old Vic and LIPA.

“

Holding hands with the cast before the curtain goes up is my favourite part.

Sophie - Year 11



THE CREATIVE ARTS



We have a wide creative arts offer in school with a huge number of extra-curricular events running each year, both in school and in the wider community. Recent community projects have included events at a local care home and at the annual Christmas tree festival at St. Mary's Church, Lymm. The school is awash with displays showcasing the creative work of our students, as well as vibrant artistic installations, such as the recent Remembrance Day poppy piece in our atrium.

Our visiting artist programme keeps students up-to-date with new techniques, styles and influences, and exposes them to a wide variety of practising artists and designers. These artists run talks and workshops in school exposing students to new disciplines and ideas whilst widening their artistic horizons.

We run a fashion show and various art and design exhibitions each year to showcase students' work; a fantastic opportunity for their creative talents to be seen by a much wider audience. In addition, there are creative trips and visits on offer and previous destinations have included Florence, Paris, Berlin and Ty'n-y-Felin, as well as primary research gathering visits and the Knit and Stitch show in Harrogate.

Students' work is entered regularly into local and national competitions such as the Royal Academy Young Artist of the Year competition, and it is lovely to see students receive wider recognition for their work in the creative arts. One of our ex-Year 13 students recently exhibited her paintings at the Warrington International Festival open call exhibition in the Warrington Art Gallery and Museum, a fantastic achievement of which we were extremely proud.

Many of our art and design students have pursued their artistic passions beyond Year 13, going on to work for prestigious fashion designers or study at highly respected colleges and universities in the creative arts such as the London College of Fashion, Nike, and the Glasgow School of Art.



SPORT



“

For me, being exposed to lots of different sports has opened up so many opportunities, I have connected with new students and learned so many new skills. The staff provide excellent support and coaching to help you begin new sports or continue to develop ones you already play.

Flo - Year 11



Lymm High School has a long-standing and very strong tradition of sport. Many individuals and teams enjoy success, gaining national honours in their chosen disciplines. These are reflected in school on our honours boards and by the international shirts displayed in our dining room.

The Physical Education programme is wide-ranging and high-quality. The 28 acres of playing fields, our own leisure centre and our outdoor centre on Anglesey ensure that we cater for all interests and abilities. Saturday morning fixtures are well established in rugby and enjoyed by lots of our students.

Many of our students have gone on to play professional sport or compete in world class events, including the Olympic rowers Richard Egington and Lucy Glover and rugby union player, David Strettle. We also have very strong links with professional clubs, including Sale Sharks.

Student talent is developed throughout all year groups, with sport included in the curriculum as part of core PE, GCSE PE, and in Sixth Form Level 3 BTEC Sport and A' level PE.

OUR PASTORAL CARE AND SEND SUPPORT

Although we are a large school, student and parent feedback tells us that we provide excellent support and care and we ensure every child is treated as an individual. Student Services at Lymm is the focal point for many of our students and inside you will find an experienced and highly-trained group of pastoral staff, who have an amazing ability to solve virtually any problem that comes their way. The Student Services team are headed up by a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the team are all mental health first aid trained.

They run groups for students on aspects of personal development such as resilience, self-confidence, making and maintaining friendships, and social skills, and these small group programmes are extremely effective in supporting the needs of our students at an individual level. As a school we forge strong relationships with families, signposting and referring to external agencies when needed. Student Services provide a superb level of care for all students, with a child-centred approach, and our highly-trained school first aider provides specialist support for any student with a medical condition, working with the SEND department to create bespoke plans where required.

Each year group is led by a Head of Year and supported by a Pastoral Manager, and Heads of Year in turn lead teams of form tutors. It is the form tutors who deliver the pastoral curriculum to students via an exciting programme of PSHE (Personal,

Social and Health Education), Careers and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development) which takes place in extended form periods outside of the academic curriculum. Strong pastoral support is at the heart of everything we do and we strive to ensure students feel safe and secure in school in order to thrive and fulfil their potential.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and our SEND department, led by our SENDCo, provides excellent care for students with special educational needs and disabilities. We work extremely closely with parents, external agencies and partner primary schools to ensure a smooth transition for students with SEND when they start. Our SEND department include a large team of Teaching Assistants, highly skilled in working with students with SEND, and who are armed with a plethora of creative strategies to support and engage students in learning and wider school life. We run a variety of programmes to support learning; for example, reading programmes and homework clubs.

Positive partnerships with parents and families are really important to us and these range from supporting students' academic journey through Information and Guidance evenings and information for parents to support revision at home, to our very active Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who do a brilliant job fundraising and supporting students and school in many different areas.



RESIDENTIAL TY'N-Y-FELIN

In 1958, the Lymm Grammar School Trust bought a run-down farmhouse near Rhoscolyn, on Anglesey, called Ty'n-y-Felin ("house of the miller"). Over the years that have since passed, countless generations of dedicated staff, students and parents have given up their time to turn Ty'n-y-Felin (or 'Tynny' as it is affectionately known) into the incredible outdoor education centre that it is now. Back in the 1950s and 60s, students would camp in canvas ridge tents in the grounds, with the farmhouse used for cooking. Soon after, a rec hut was built and later outside dormitories were created, using post-WW2 pre-fab metal from Liverpool. In 1990 and 2006, two extensions followed, turning Tynny into a luxurious destination for school trips.

As a school, we are very fortunate to have access to Tynny and this came about when two local Scout leaders (one of whom was the Headteacher of Lymm Grammar School at the time) had an idea. Understanding the benefits of the great outdoors to young people, and with their own adventurous backgrounds, Douglas Fleming and Joe Canney had the idea of finding somewhere the school could buy. They raised the money to do so from some highly entrepreneurial activity involving potatoes (!) and found an old farmhouse which had not been lived in for many years. Realising what a picturesque location it was situated in and the opportunity its provided for realising their vision for students, they set about purchasing it on behalf of Lymm Grammar School for £1,200 and the rest is history.

Our students are very lucky to have the opportunity to visit Tynny on their Year 7 residential in their halls (Arley, Dunham, Moreton, Tatton or Walton), and trips in other year groups have included biology and geography field work, art, business enterprise, scholars, exam revision, sport and summer camps. Whilst at Tynny, students take part in activities such as watersports, arts and crafts, problem-solving, visits to the beach at Silver Bay, crabbing at the creek and much more. It really is a very special place and we are indebted to the alumni of Lymm High School/Lymm Grammar School and the Lymm Grammar School Trust, for the fact that current students and staff are still able to create fantastic memories there.





LYMM
HIGH SCHOOL

Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0RB

Tel: 01925 755458 Email: info@lymmhigh.org.uk

Visit our website for more information
www.lymmhigh.org.uk