

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are all well and that you are starting to feel the Christmas spirit. I am looking forward to watching our incredible brass and strings groups at the annual concert at the golf club tonight – always a lovely event and one which, for me personally, always feels like it really marks the start of the Christmas season.

Similarly, the carol concert at St Peter's Church always puts everyone in a festive mood and I hope to see as many of you there as possible on Tuesday evening. We'll also have our Christmas assemblies at St Peter's every morning next week, as well as 'wear something Christmassy' and the famous (or should it be infamous?) staff Christmas karaoke on Thursday. All in all, it promises to be a very warm and vibrant end to a long term.

If you haven't already had a look at the [latest newsletter](#), I encourage you to set aside a few minutes to do so; it gives a great flavour of all the wonderful things students have been up to recently. They never cease to amaze me with the variety of things they get involved in and the amount of talent there is on display. There are too many events and achievements to mention them all here, but I must highlight the production of *Footloose* – another triumph by the Performing Arts department and a brilliant display of music, acting, singing and dancing (not to mention the faultless tech team behind the scenes) by all the students involved. It is also especially nice to see the chess team in the newsletter; Chess Club has really taken off in the last couple of years and, having watched some of them play, I can't say I'm surprised that we are starting to have more and more success in competitions.

Well done also to Year 11 students, who have been superb throughout their mock exams so far. It must be said that some of them are, understandably, looking a little tired by now but the hard work will pay dividends later in the year and they certainly deserve a good rest over the holidays.

Finally, I hope most of you have read about us being [recognised by *The Sunday Times*](#) again as one of the very best comprehensive schools in the whole of the North West, as well as seeing the recently published official Department for Education data that tell the same story. In many respects, I don't particularly like 'showing off' about these things, but we are proud of this level of performance and feel it is important to celebrate these things and take every opportunity to thank everybody involved – not least parents and carers, without whom it certainly wouldn't be possible.

So, thank you as ever for your support for the school and for giving us the privilege of working with your amazing children. And Merry Christmas!

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams

Early finish – Friday 20th December

A reminder that we break up for the Christmas holidays next Friday at 12.15pm. As is usual on an early finish, buses will not be running. **Monday 6th January** is an INSET Day. Students return to school on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Attendance

As we approach the final week of school before the holiday break, we understand that both students and families are now feeling the toll of what has been a long term. We appreciate that students are getting tired,

there are also plenty of coughs and colds around but please do continue to encourage students to attend every day.

All students with 100% attendance in December will be entered into a special draw to win an Apple iPad. Results will be shared on the final day of term.

In the Top Ten again

Following the publication of official GCSE data by the Department for Education last week, Lymm High School is once again comfortably in the top ten mixed comprehensive schools in the North West. *The Sunday Times* has also ranked Lymm High as the 4th best comprehensive school and Sixth Form in the North West. Please [click here](#) to read Mr Williams' full letter.

Sports clubs

As it will be the last week of term, there will be no Sports clubs running from **Monday 16th December**. This includes lunch times and after school.

Flu vaccination

If your child missed the Flu vaccination in school, you could arrange an appointment at one of the community clinic sessions. Contact the Warrington School-aged Immunisation team for more information on 01925 946 808.

Wear something Christmassy

On **Thursday 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 on Parent Pay that will go to Save the Children.

Staff Karaoke

Staff will be taking to the microphone in the Main Hall on **Thursday 19th December** for the annual staff karaoke show. Students can buy tickets for this event for £1 from the Finance & MIS office (old school shop). Both cash and card are accepted, and all proceeds will go to Save the Children.

Holiday Activities and Food programme

Warrington Borough Council's Winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is now live for bookings, with a range of holiday activities on offer from **Friday 20th December to Monday 6th January 2025**. HAF is for students currently eligible for free school meals. A range of activities are on offer, such as a pantomime, holiday clubs and food hampers. A central booking system called 'EEQU' enables families to request places at their chosen HAF activities all in one place, rather than contacting individual organisations. The system automatically checks eligibility against the local authority's free school meal list, so it's important that children's names are spelt exactly as they are known on their school record. Bookings can be made using [this link](#). If you have any questions about the HAF programme, email Hannah at haf@warrington.gov.uk.

Cross Country

A reminder that the next Warrington Athletics Club cross-country race is **Saturday 14th December**. This extra-curricular sport opportunity is open to Years 7–11. For further information, please [click 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 £700 just by shopping! As always, thank you for your support.

LHS Lottery

Congratulations to this week's school lottery winner, Mrs Young, who won £76.50! 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

Social media use

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to bring to your attention an important issue that has come to our notice regarding social media use among some of our students. As you may be aware, most social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, have a minimum age requirement of 13 years. This policy is in place to help protect younger users from exposure to inappropriate content and online risks.

Despite these age restrictions, we have observed that some of our students below the required age are actively using these platforms. While social media can have positive aspects, including communication and creativity, it also presents significant risks such as exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying, and potential breaches of privacy.

We are reaching out to all parents and guardians to work together in addressing this matter. Here are some steps we encourage you to take to ensure your child's online safety:

Familiarise Yourself with Social Media Policies: Review the age restrictions and terms of use for platforms your child may be using. We recommend you access the following website [Preteens \(11-13-year-olds\) online safety advice | Internet Matters](#).

- Monitor Online Activity: Have open conversations with your child about their online habits and regularly review the apps they are using.
- Set Boundaries: Consider limiting screen time and access to social media until your child meets the age requirements.
- Educate About Online Safety: Discuss topics such as privacy, respectful communication, and the potential dangers of sharing personal information online.

We understand that navigating the digital world can be challenging, and we are here to support you and your child. If you have any concerns or need advice on managing your child's online activity, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Jennings
Deputy Headteacher

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme

The HPV vaccine is being offered to boys and girls in Year 8 as part of the national school-aged vaccination programme on **9th** and **16th January 2025**. Please [click here](#) to read the full details.

UPPER SCHOOL

Year 11 Parents' Evening

The Year 11 Parents' Evening will be taking place on **Thursday 23rd January 2025**. Please [click here](#) to read the full details.

Year 11 Sixth Form applications

The deadline For Year 11 students to apply to Lymm High Sixth Form is **Friday 20th December**. Please [click here](#) to complete the admission form. Those who have applied will be invited for a one-to-one admission interview in February or March.

Year 11 congratulations

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who have worked exceptionally hard this half term, and over the last 3 weeks in particular. We are so proud of how they have handled the mock examinations and wish them a very well-deserved rest over the Christmas break. We would also like to extend our thanks to our parents and carers who have supported them and us during this time. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

Warrington & Vale Royal College applications

Applications for Warrington & Vale Royal College courses starting in September 2025 are now open. This year, some of its courses, such as Construction, Health and Early Years, had to operate waiting lists and a first-come-first-serve basis. As such, students are reminded to send in their application to study with the college by **Friday 31st January 2025**. The application process is outlined on [this video](#).

In addition, starting in January 2025, the School Engagement Team are offering a range of campus tours, that will be running from both Warrington and Winsford campuses. To register, [click here](#).

Personal Development Update

Our 'Kindness' focus for this half term has been incredibly successful with lots of our students and families getting behind the many initiatives we have ran, whether it be toy donations or charity bake sales. We are truly grateful and really proud of our school community who have really embraced our ethos of social responsibility and supported others in having a happy and healthy Christmas.



BRITISH VALUES

PARTICIPATION

LIFE PROGRAMME

CAREERS