



Málaga exchange, p.8

Students switch cold and rainy Lymm for sunny Spain.

We Will Rock You, p.10

Our latest musical theatre production was another huge success!

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2025 · WWW.LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK



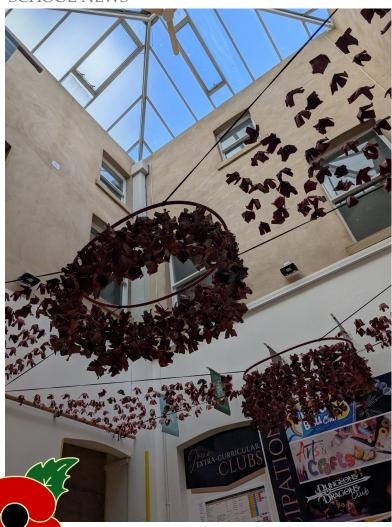
COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTNAS

From 1st December we have 15 school days until the end of term.

uring this time students will have the chance to take part in a range of festive incentives. Every student who attends school every day during these 15 days will be entered into a prize draw

to win Amazon vouchers.
The draw will take place on the final day of term, Friday
19th December. We look forward to seeing who walks away with an early
Christmas treat!

In addition, throughout
December, all students who
achieve 100% attendance
each day will be entered into
a daily draw to win a
selection box, these will be
drawn in each year group.





POPPIES GALORE

This year, the Visual Arts department created its biggest Remembrance Day display yet!

Students from all year groups donated hundreds of egg cartons, which were transformed into bright red poppies spread across the school. In the Atrium space, you can see hundreds of poppies hanging from above, making the space feel calm and thoughtful. In the Link Gallery, there's a huge curtain of poppies, and in the Lower Hex a tall pillar of poppies stands proudly.

These displays help us remember the soldiers who fought in the past and those who continue to serve today. Remembrance Day is an important time to think about their bravery and the sacrifices they made to keep us safe. "Creating these poppy installations is a lovely way to show respect. It also reminds us that by working together, even with something as simple as egg cartons, we can

make something beautiful and meaningful", said Miss Simms.





WE ALWAYS REMEMBER

Lymm High School has a long-held tradition of giving all its students the important opportunity to reflect, remember and give thanks for the sacrifice made by those who served during the wars, writes Year 13 Isabella Tither.

was reminded this week of Birdsong a novel by Sebastian Faulks, which follows a British soldier during his experience of the First World War. Stephen, the main character, represents many soldiers' experiences of service, sacrifice and peace that continue to shape our society today. The most profound theme in the book is remembrance, although Faulks implies that modern society disregards remembrance as we are a country with many war memorials but no memory of their meaning. Lymm Sixth Form rejects this notion: we actively encourage students to take part in a reflective assembly and a moment of silence to honour those who lost their lives. We hope this occasion will inspire thoughtful discus-

sion about the true meaning of remembrance, to embrace global citizenship, empathy, and the responsibilities we all share in building a peaceful future for all in honour of the men and women who sacrificed everything to keep us safe.

The Sixth Form Senior Leadership Team laid poppies at the cross memorial in St Peter's church on Tuesday 11th November before attending two remembrance services.



LYMM REMEMBERS

As part of our Remembrance events in school, the History faculty has once again partnered with Lymm Heritage Centre to investigate the story of local soldiers from Lymm who served and died in the First World War.



This story has been added to the Remembrance display in the Atrium, thanks to the Art faculty, and to Remembrance assemblies all week. This helps students to focus on a testimony of a local soldier when participating in the 2-minute silence at school and to gain a greater understanding of their local history.

This year's tragic story is of the **Appleton Brothers** from Statham. You can see the Atrium display bedecked by poppies on page 2.

Samuel Appleton was born in Hollins Green in 1833 but moved to Lymm when it was still a boat ride away across the river Mersey. He had married a Lymm girl, with a Lymm name, Ann Brazendale. Ann was already a Fustian Cutter and that was the trade that Samuel Appleton took up on Narrow Lane, now Oldfield Road in Statham. Somehow Samuel ended up as master of his own Fustian workshop there.

One of his sons, Thomas, married Ann Ball whose father ran the Shop and Post Office in Statham (the house is still there today and can be seen in the photo overleaf).

Thomas and Ann had eight children, not unusual at the time. There were six sons, the two youngest were George and Sydney. Both were a credit to their parents. George had gained employment in a Solicitor's office, quite something for a lad from his background, while young Sydney was a popular local Postman.

Both were stalwart members of the Primitive Methodist Church on Eagle Brow, where George was even the secretary of the Sunday School. George was a keen gymnast too and



The Last Post was played around school on Tuesday 11th November.

regularly attended the Statham Lads Club.

However, the even tenor of their ways was abruptly shaken by war. They were only 18 and 16, respectively, when the First World War broke out. Both answered the call to enlist and serve their country, George first and Sydney a little later. Tragically neither would return home.

George rose to the rank of Lance-Sergeant

before he was killed by a sniper's bullet in August 1915. This was a terrible shock for the family but worse was yet to come. In 1917, Sydney also lost his life at the tender age of just 19 years leaving the whole neighbourhood grieving.

Two lives cruelly cut short and a family left shattered. We will remember them.

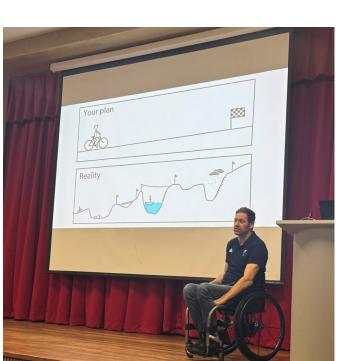


OVERCOMING BARRIERS

On Tuesday 4th November, we were really pleased to welcome Antony Cotterill, ex-Paralympic GB tennis player, back to Lymm High School.

ntony has been running the Lawn Tennis Association's Beyond The Baseline programme in school for the last 2 years with groups of students. This time, Antony spoke to all of our students in Year 7 to 11 assemblies – no small undertaking! His presentation covered disability, sport, resilience, unexpected bumps in life, achieving goals and the power of a positive mental outlook.

It was really inspiring to hear about the barriers Antony has overcome since breaking his neck in a shallow swimming pool in September 2003 whilst on holiday. His life then took an un-





expected turn and he started playing wheelchair tennis in 2004, whilst still in rehabilitation.

"The career he has gone on to have as a Paralympian has been incredible", said Ms Dixon. "He has represented Great Britain in tennis at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Paralympics". Antony showed some footage of the tennis games so the students could appreciate the level of skill required.

"Our students were brilliant and asked some really good questions at the end of each talk".

A massive thank you to Antony for coming to visit us. It was an incredibly though-provoking morning for our students.

Free, safe and anonymous mental health support.





Chat to our team



Helpful articles



Community Support



Self-help activities



Or if you'd rather not talk to anyone, we've also got a huge library of helpful content, plus self-help tools and fun activities.

Sign up today at kooth.com









Last month, nine students jetted off to the sunny south of Spain for an unforgettable week in Málaga as part of our Spanish Exchange programme, accomp-

anied by Miss Moreno and Mrs Hurn.

rom the moment we stepped off the plane, we were greeted with glorious sunshine, blue skies, and the warmest of welcomes from our Spanish hosts.

Our adventures began with a trip to the beautiful seaside town of Nerja, where we explored the famous Caves of Nerja – a truly breathtaking underground world of stalactites and stalagmites that looked like something from another planet. Afterwards, we enjoyed ice creams at the famous Balcón de Europa (purely for cultural immersion, of course!).



A memorable day was spent in Granada, where we visited the magnificent Alhambra Palace. Its intricate Moorish architecture and stunning gardens provided a fascinating insight into Spain's rich history and cultural heritage.

However, for many, the highlight of the trip was the day spent walking the Caminito del Rey. Once considered one of the most dangerous walkways in the world, it's now perfectly safe – though still thrilling to walk along the narrow paths and glass walkways suspended high above the gorge. The dramatic scenery and spectacular views made it a day to remember.

Throughout the week, the students demonstrated enthusiasm, independence, and a

genuine willingness to immerse themselves fully in Spanish life. They embraced the language, participated actively in family and school activities, and represented the school with great maturity. Both Miss Moreno and Mrs Hurn commented that they were concerned some of the group might not want to return home!

We're already counting down the days until March, when we'll be welcoming our Spanish friends for the return leg of the Exchange. We can't promise them Málaga's sunshine, but we'll make up for it with plenty of Northern charm – and maybe even a spot of authentic British drizzle to complete the cultural experience!

¡Hasta pronto, amigos!





We Will Rock You is a high-octane, adrenaline-fuelled musical featuring more than 20 iconic Queen hits, including 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'We Are the Champions', 'Somebody to Love' and 'Don't Stop Me Now'.

Set in a post-apocalyptic future where individuality has been outlawed and music is controlled by algorithms; the story follows two young revolutionaries who dare to defy the system to save rock 'n' roll.

This fist-pumping, foot-stomping anthem to freedom and self-expression is a musical for our time – unapologetically bold and filled with the timeless power of Queen's legendary music.

With over 7 million fans rocked in its original 12-year West End run, We Will Rock You made history as the longest-running show at

London's Dominion Theatre. The show has since been performed in 28 countries and been seen by more than 16 million people worldwide. This explosive, rockin' spectacle is a celebration of the power of music and individuality that left the Lymm High audience cheering for more. Feedback has been fantastic: "An absolutely brilliant school production", "The best show yet!", "The talent on stage was incredible from start to finish".

To read the full programme, click here.





CHESS CHAMPIONS

On Saturday 15th November, Lymm High students took part in an interschool chess tournament in Northwich.

here were 11 teams in total from St Nicholas Catholic High School, Hartford High School, Weaverham High School, The Grange, Victoria Road Chess Club and Knutsford Academy.

It was a very successful day for us! Our team A won the tournament with a perfect score of 6 out of 6; and our team B, made up entirely of Year 7 students, achieved 4 out of 6 and finished in 3rd place.

The only teams that managed to beat our Year 7 cohort were the Sixth Form team from St Nicholas Catholic High School and our own team A. "In other words, across the entire

event of 12 rounds, we lost only once to another school, and that was when our Year 7 team lost to a Sixth Form team", said Mr Soykir.

"We are now in our third year with our Chess Club, which I took over from Mr Morrison, and I can confidently say that we have established a strong chess culture. We have two strong teams who are eager to learn, and the years ahead look bright and full of promise."

A big well done to all our players for their hard work and exceptional attitude, which continues to make our club a place we can be proud of!





This year's Key Stage 3 Darts Tournament delivered excitement, drama and a record turnout, with 64 enthusiastic players stepping up to the oche.

P articipation continues to soar, and it was fantastic to see even more girls joining the competition as the sport's popularity grows year on year.

Mr Hayes praised the "huge improvement in standard" compared with last year, crediting much of this progress to the rapid rise of Mr Gornall's Darts Club, which has expanded significantly and become a real hotspot for budding arrowsmiths.

The early rounds were held in the Studio, the newly established home of the Darts Club. With five boards in action at once, matches moved at a brisk pace. Even so, there was no shortage of shocks. Club regulars Sophie 'Bullseye' Bennett, Ted 'Tee-shot' Cullen and Declan Richardson all suffered early exits, proving that anything can happen on tournament day.

As the rounds progressed, scoring power and pressure finishing took centre stage. The Quarter and Semi-Finals moved to the Main Hall, where competitors earned their own walk-on music. This delivered some unforgettable choices – from the nostalgia of Spandau Ballet to crowd favourites like 'Free From Desire'.

The first Semi-Final saw a tense contest between Tate Yarwood and George Sands, with both struggling to hit their doubles under pressure. Sands eventually held his nerve to book a place in the final. Joining him was reigning champion Oliver 'The Bullet' Edwards, who swept aside Alex Nash with clinical efficiency.

The Final featured a step up in format: 301, best of three legs. Both finalists started brightly, but it was The Bullet who impressed early, narrowly missing a 180 when his third dart



drifted into treble five. His scoring power continued into the second leg – opening with an 81 – but it was his perfect finishing that stunned the crowd.

While Luke Littler claimed the Grand Slam on Sunday with a 39% checkout rate, Edwards achieved a flawless 100% checkout, leaving Sands with no route back into the match.

In a cascade of ticker tape, Oliver 'The Bullet' Edwards lifted the Key Stage 3 trophy, securing back-to-back titles and earning valuable bragging rights for Arley Hall. We now set our sights on the Seniors and Staff Tournament in the new year, with students and staff alike already buzzing with anticipation.

Another thrilling darts tournament concludes, and if this is anything to go by, the future of school darts is looking very sharp indeed.







At the end of October, a lucky group of Year 13 students accompanied Mrs Rigby, Mr Harman, Mr Barnett and Mr Elwood on a trip of a lifetime to Iceland.

Day 1

We flew from Manchester airport to Keflavik airport in Reykjavik, writes Mrs Rigby. Upon arrival we went straight to the Reykjanes Peninsula and stopped first at the 'Bridge Between Continents'. Next stop was Gunnuhver. The smell of sulphur was overpowering from the steam vents and the impressive bubbling mud pools. We then visited the Stampar craters (extinct volcanoes) before the iconic Blue Lagoon. Students donned mud masks and



drank fruit juices. We ate our evening meal at A. Hansen restaurant at Hafnarfjördur. After a full-on day, we arrived at our accommodation at the Fisherman's Village, exhausted but elated.

"Best Trip Ever! "

Day 2

After an early breakfast and collecting our packed lunches, we were on our way on the luxury coach. Passing over the Eyjafjallajokull flood plain we saw evidence of the black ash and flood waters left behind by the volcano with the same name that erupted in 2010. We arrived at the Solheimajokull Glacier at 11am and got kitted out in harness, hard hat, cram-

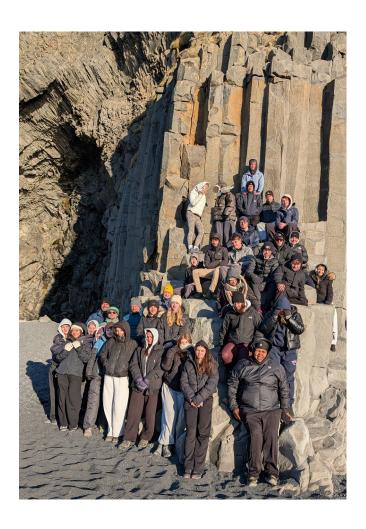
SCHOOL NEWS

pons and ice axes ready for our Glacier walk that lasted about an hour and a half. It was an incredible adventure to walk on the glacier, study glacier advance and retreat, and identify features of both erosion and deposition including aretes and glacial moraine. For some this was the best part of the trip! We then made stops at the Skogafoss and Seljandsfoss waterfalls before we went to our second accommodation Hotel, Stracta Rangarflatir.

After a hearty evening meal of pasta, salad

"The trip that kept giving. I couldn't choose my top 3 experiences as it was all amazing!"

and chocolate cake, it was time to take advantage of the steam rooms and hot tubs in the open air. And right on time (and obviously organised by yours truly) we had an amazing display of the Northern Lights! Breathtaking!



Day 3

After a hearty three-course breakfast we made our way to Kerid: a dramatic volcanic crater lake. We had the site to ourselves and the view was incredible following a heavy frost and a dusting of snow. We then went on a tour of the Golden Circle, stopping at Geysir and watching the eruption of Strokkur, spouting water some 30m into the air. After



hot chocolate and snacks, it was on to Gulfoss, which was even more impressive this year as the spray from the 33m waterfall was turning to ice as it covered the gorge. We made a quick stop at a local farm where we were able to feed Icelandic horses.



Did you know that the Icelandic horse is the only horse that has five gaits: walk, trot, gallop, canter and flying pace? This has evolved as horses have developed a way of movement to cope with the volcanic terrain.

Next came Pingvellir. The site straddles the North Atlantic Ridge and students were able to walk between the two continents and view the location of Iceland's Parliament, established in 930AD. Then it was off to the Lava Show in Rekjavik where students got to see lava up close. Next was a visit to the Perlan and a walk through the Ice cave and a 3D experience inside a volcano. The evening was finished off with an evening meal before our final night and a last dip in the hot tubs under the stars.





"The experience of a lifetime, my family are so jealous."





CHRISTMAS DINNER

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER



ROAST TURKEY OR BUTTERNUT SQUASH & LENTIL WELLINGTON WITH YORKSHIRE PUDDING

Savoury stuffing and cranberry sauce

ROAST POTATOES, GLAZED CARROTS, SPROUTS, PIGS IN BLANKETS, GRAVY AND A CHRISTMAS MINCE PIE!



Please ensure there are sufficient funds on ParentPay









IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

During November, we took 128 Year 9 History students to the Imperial War Museum, North at Salford Quays, writes Mrs Douglas.



ur students had a fantastic time exploring the museum, which is an archive of personal experiences and stories linked to conflict from 1914 and the First World War to the present day.

Our Year 9 curriculum in school focuses on the First and Second World Wars and the Holocaust so students were able to broaden and deepen their knowledge on these subjects.

They participated in a teacher -led information hunt in the main exhibition linked to our studies on experiences in the First World War and what we will study after Christmas on the Second World War. This enabled the students to develop their knowledge comparing and contrasting British and colonial soldier experiences of the war, investigate the important role of women, and the technological developments in warfare.





Their engagement with this independent activity was exemplary and we were complimented by museum staff on our students' excellent behaviour.

All students treated the museum as an opportunity to delve more deeply in the personal accounts of those involved in World War One and Two. Some highlights for our students including an interactive experience to be a 'tank driving crew', identifying the animals and smells of the trenches, and breaking the German code using the Enigma Machine.

Students also participated in a museum-led artefact handling session on Life in Nazi Germany. In this session they became budding museum curators. They were given a story of an individual that lived in Germany in the 1930s and 40s and then used artefacts to curate a possible museum display that would share that person's story. Students then had to feedback to the group on the identity of their person and why they had chosen the artefacts they had to tell their story. This developed their presentation and communication skills as well as their ability to analyse artefacts and evaluate their significance.

This trip also allowed students to experience some of the subjects that we offer within the History curriculum at GCSE. All students visiting the museum showed the innate curiosity and academic excellence of our History students.

We look forward to teaching them at GCSE too!











SCRANCHESTER

On Friday 17th October, Year 10 Food students took part in an exciting food tour of Manchester's Northern Quarter, led by Scranchester Tours.

he trip offered students the chance to explore the city's rich culinary past while tasting a variety of local foods along the way. The tour began with an introduction to the area's history at Manchester's famous Smithfield Markets. Students explored the remaining market buildings and had the opportunity to eat inside Mackie Mayor, a beautifully restored former butchers' hall that now hosts a wide range of independent food vendors.

Rob, the tour guide, shared fascinating insights into the Northern Quarter's development as a hub for wholesale textiles. He explained how this industry shaped the area's food culture, particularly through the rise of 'curry cafés'. These cafés emerged to serve the local workforce, many of whom were from the city's Indian and Pakistani communities who worked within the textile businesses. Students visited one of these cafés as part of the tour, gaining a deeper understanding of how migration and industry influenced Manchester's food identity.

Across the tour, students enjoyed four delicious food

stops, from Pizzas and Tacos to doughnuts, while learning about both the historical and cultural significance of each dish. The visit also incorporated elements of food science, including an introduction to the science of taste and how our senses work together when we eat.

The trip provided a valuable and engaging experience for all involved, enriching students' understanding of food, culture, and the stories behind the meals we enjoy.







You are never alone and there is always support available. Find out where and how to access support over the festive period.

We know that Christmas can be a hard time for a lot of people. It may even have a negative effect on your mental health. This is normal and lots of people share this feeling – it is okay not to be okay! Therefore, we wanted to highlight how important it is to do things that take care of your mental health and wellbeing over the Christmas and holiday period. This might include:

• Engaging in self-care.

Remember to take time to do things that make you happy. Be aware of how you are feeling. It can be hard at this time of year but make sure you make yourself a priority.

Setting clear boundaries.

Be honest with people about how you feel and what you feel comfortable doing. It is okay to say no if you don't feel up to something. Do what feels best for you!

• Have structure to your days.

It is great to have chilled days but also ensure you are getting some fresh air, are active and continuing to get up and follow your usual routine.





 Spend time with people you love and who make you happy.

> Be gentle with yourself. Try not to put too much pressure on yourself and take it one day at a time!

These activities are all positive ways to support your mental health. However, it is also important to recognise when you may need some help and support (see box).



You are never alone, especially at Christmas. If you are struggling, please speak to an adult you trust or contact a helpline. Over Christmas you can access the following helplines and services:

- Childline is open 24/7 over
 Christmas and New Year to support you with any issues. Call 08001111 or click here.
- Samaritans are open 24/7 all year round. Call them on 116 123 or <u>click here</u>. For some more tips and a guided breathing video visit the Samaritans' website.
- The Mix provides mental health support for people under 25. Call 0808 808 4994 or <u>click here</u> for more information.
- SHOUT can provide support through a 1-1 text service; it is a space where you can feel listened to and access help and support.

Text SHOUT to 85258 or access theirwebsite for more information.

KOOTH is a safe space for young people to speak to someone 1-1 via webchat. Their website can be used to access forums and helpful resources. Visit
 www.kooth.com
 to speak to someone or for more information.

CONSTRUCTION SIMULATOR

e've been delighted to welcome back the construction simulator into school for the third-year running. Mr Birchall, our Design Technology technician, has taken the lead running sessions on the simulator and nearly 100 students have had the opportunity to drive a vehicle of their choice including diggers and bulldozers.

The sessions have provided careers information and enabled an immersive experience aimed at creating awareness and boosting confidence so that anyone can consider a career in the construction industry. "The students have all got stuck in,



enjoyed the experience and impressed Mr Birchall with how fast they've got to grips operating the different vehicles", said Mr Beardsall. Mr Birchall said: "The construction simulator has been a great success. Each student attending has been engaging and identified skills they didn't know they had. The Baltic weather outside enhanced the sense of realism even further!"









- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chances to win up to £25,000
- £10,000 cash bonanza must be won!
- £5k for you and £5k for your school!

BUY TICKETS





On Friday 21st November, Sixth Form embraced its creative side for the annual fundraising event in aid of Children in Need.

he school grounds were filled with vibrant, quirky, and downright hilarious costumes as students and staff alike took part in the fun-filled day, all for a great cause.

Year 12 and Year 13 students didn't hold back when it came to showing off their costumes, and it was clear that they had put a lot of effort into making this day a memorable one. Sixth Form staff members also got involved, dressing up as *The Traitors*, including Mrs Neesam as Claudia Winkleman.

The highlight of the day was the fancy dress parade at breaktime, where students and staff proudly showcased their costumes to the whole school. From Marvel characters, Minions, Christmas elves and, of course, the obligatory dinosaurs, there was no shortage of creativity on display. At lunchtime, in the Sports Hall, the traditional staff vs. students netball game took place, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day.

Throughout the day, Sixth Form students worked hard to collect donations, with an option for parents and carers to contribute via ParentPay as well. We are pleased to report that the generosity of everyone involved helped raise an impressive £1119.20 for Children in Need, surpassing last year's total!

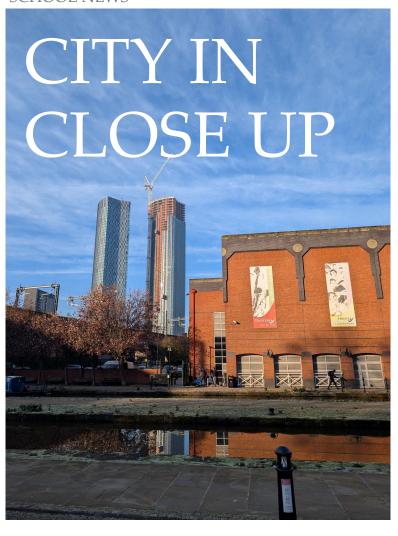












On Friday 21st November, 61 Year 10 Photography students travelled to Manchester to capture the city's vibrant urban environment for their 'Close Up' coursework project.

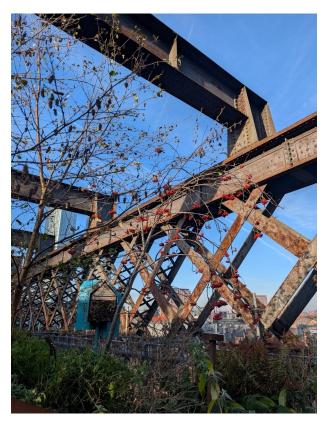
he group began by exploring
Castlefield Viaduct and the railway arches below, photographing the
rich variety of surfaces, textures and colours found throughout the area.

They then visited the Museum of Science and Industry, where the impressive Power Hall, filled with historic trains and steam engines, provided the perfect opportunity to focus on intricate mechanisms, nuts and bolts, and fine

details that are often overlooked.

"It was a fantastic and inspiring trip, giving students valuable primary research to support their GCSE coursework", said Miss Simms.







is it normal to feel ANXIOUS?

No matter how you feel inside, we're here to help.

Nobody is Normal

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME childline.org.uk | 0800 1111





Good progress is being made on the cottage at Ty'n-y-Felin.

he new roof, including guttering, is now in place, just in time before the weather turned! Solar panels have also been installed to both sides. The render on the external walls has been hacked off and the first scratch coat has been applied ready for the final topcoat finish. New windows are also being installed with Welsh slate cills.

Internally, some of the walls have been rebuilt because of not being structurally sound. In addition, damp proofing has been completed, new insulation installed and electrics fitted.

HELP THE HEDGEHOGS

Staff are collecting newspapers to donate to Lowton Hedgehog Rescue. These are used for bedding for the hedgehogs undergoing rehabilitation at the rescue centre. If you have any old newspapers you can donate, please drop them off at Reception and we will get them to Lowton. Unfortunately, we can't use magazines.

Hedgehogs don't always hibernate, especially if it is mild. They will also wake up during milder spells to have a bite to eat or even to move nest. Please leave out food and water for as long as hedgehogs are visiting and during milder spells.





Join the fun, join our Adivas family!

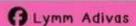
- Ages 4 to Adult everyone welcome!
- No experience needed just bring your enthusiasm!
- Non-profit, friendly, and supportive
- We're one big Adivas family!
 - Pre-School Year 2: 16:45 17:40
 - Year 3 Year 6: 17:30 18:30
 - 💆 Year 7 Year 11: 18:15 19:15
 - Adults: 19:00 20:00

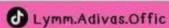




Lymm High School Dance Studio







UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 10th December

KS3

Celebration Evening

Thursday 11th December

Year 13

Parents' Evening

Monday 15th December

Carol Service St Peter's Church, 6pm Thursday 18th December

Student Rewards Trip

Friday 19th December

Early finish at 12.15pm

Monday 22nd
December to
Friday 2nd January 2026
Christmas holidays

Monday 5th January 2026 INSET Day

Tuesday 6th January 2026

School back

Follow us on Social Media @LymmHighSchool







