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HIGH SCHOOL

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Sixth Form
stateside,
p.8

It's not just King
Charles and Queen
Camilla who have
been in the USA.

Space race,
p.12

Students have
had success with
rocket launches.

NEWSLETTER

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LIVE ON AIR!

On Friday 24th April, Lymm High School was thrilled to welcome the BBC to broadcast *Any Questions?* live from our newly refurbished Main Hall.

Any Questions? is a Radio 4 political debate programme, which airs on a Friday evening from various

locations around the UK. It features a panel of guests and a presenter – currently Alex Forsyth. Our panel was Richard Fuller MP, James

Murray MP, Hannah Spencer MP and journalist Poppy Coburn. Tickets were free, and we welcomed around 200 guests to watch and



participate in the live broadcast.

The school was a hive of activity in the run up to the show. The BBC engineers arrived first (around 11.15am) to run cables from E205 to the Main Hall. This classroom was selected as the sound control room with it being the nearest to the Hall. The producer, assistant

producer and presenter arrived next, and based themselves in the Boardroom. Because the questions are only selected on the evening of the broadcast, the team had to make sure Alex was prepped for any potential subjects.

The panel was announced the day before the broadcast and three security guards were

provided to ensure their safety. A police presence was also on site. The panel arrived shortly before the broadcast began and were whisked into the staff room by the security guards.

Meanwhile, Sixth Form students greeted the attendees as they queued to show their tickets and undergo security checks. Bags were searched and metal detector wands were used on all attendees. Next was the opportunity to get your questions to the panel! Miss Cucuz and Mrs Hunter handed out question cards and bios of the panel. The handwritten questions were then placed in a sealed box, which was emptied sporadically by the





The panel (l-r): Richard Fuller MP, James Murray MP, Alex Forsyth, Poppy Coburn and Hannah Spencer MP with Mr Williams.

production team who made their selection.

Once the audience was seated in the Main Hall, the producer, Paul Martin, explained how the show was going to run. He then selected four questioners who were asked to sit in the front row and ask their questions direct to the panel. Year 9 Matthew Hassall and Mrs Peach were two of the four selected!

Mr Williams then welcomed the audience to Lymm High and spoke about the importance of young minds being exposed to, and taking an interest in, politics. He also divulged how he himself

had asked a question to the panel of *Any Questions?* as a Sixth Former when the show visited his school.

The live broadcast began after the pips and the 8 o'clock news. The panel discussed mobile phone use in schools, the assisted dying bill, opportunities for young people, and whether the King should build bridges with Donald Trump or be more like Pope Leo. If anyone would like to listen to the show, they can access it on BBC Sounds.

Apparently, it's been 50 years since *Any Questions?* was broadcast from Lymm. We very much hope it won't be

that long before we get another visit. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all involved.

Thank you to all the staff and Sixth Formers that helped out on the night, and to the PTA for running the bar.



Ms Peach was selected to ask one of the questions to the panel.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

Over the Easter break, we were incredibly fortunate to receive a very generous donation of fifty 27" 4K monitors, along with matching peripherals – a package worth around £10,000!



Prior to this, the best monitors we previously had in school were 24" 1080p, so this is a huge upgrade. They've now been installed in the main computing room (B205), and it's fantastic to be able to provide students with

such high-quality equipment. "This came at a perfect time", said Head of IT Mr Waslin, "as our existing equipment is beginning to age faster than budgets allow us to replace it".

Our sincere thanks go to Ofcom for the donation, and to Muhammed Shafique for reaching out and making it possible.

Above are some before-and-after photos of B205.

SPRING CONCERT

The Spring Concert was held on Tuesday 28th April. It was a great show, well attended with a mix of different groups and genres of music. "Our students rehearse and push to a very high standard of performance, driven by our brilliant Tutors", said Head of Music Mr Starkey.



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CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS

On Thursday 26th March, a group of our KS3 Scholars embarked on an inspiring and intellectually stimulating visit to the University of Cambridge as part of the annual Cambridge Festival Schools Day.

Despite the early start, students arrived full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to immerse themselves in a day of university-level learning. Upon arrival, they took part in a range of carefully selected lectures and workshops led by experts from across the university.

The morning sessions offered a fantastic breadth of

academic exploration. Some students delved into the History of Medicine, examining artefacts and uncovering the evolution of medical practices from the Stone Age to the modern day. Others took part in a hands-on coding workshop with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, gaining insight into artificial intelligence and digital creativity. Another group explored core

physics principles through practical investigations inspired by the work of Isaac Newton.

Later in the morning, students continued to challenge themselves through sessions on toxicology and antibodies, learning about the body's immune system and even creating their own molecular models, while others

engaged with rich mathematical problems designed to develop reasoning, resilience and curiosity.

The afternoon programme continued to inspire. Highlights included a fascinating lecture on the mysteries of the universe – exploring black holes, time travel and dark matter – and interactive workshops in veterinary science, where students analysed X-rays and explored careers within a working animal hospital environment.

The day concluded with a guided walking tour of Cambridge, allowing students to experience the historic surroundings of one of the world's leading universities



and gain a sense of what studying there might be like in the future.

“Throughout the trip, students demonstrated exceptional curiosity, engagement and maturity. They asked thoughtful questions, embraced new challenges and represented the school with

pride”, said Miss Cucuz. “The visit not only broadened their academic horizons but also encouraged them to think ambitiously about their future pathways.”

A huge well done to all students involved for making the most of this incredible opportunity.



THE WONDER OF WASHINGTON

In February Half Term, Year 12 and 13 History students went on a trip of a lifetime to Washington DC, writes Miss Howard.

As part of History A' Level, students study the unit; *'In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96.'* This unit comprises a study in breadth, in which students learn about the dramatic political, economic and social transformation of the USA in the 20th century. Washington DC is a fantastic location for students to experience first-hand many of the themes studied in A' Level History and to understand the social and political context of America both then and now. Students also had the opportunity to experience American culture and food and to speak to many Americans about life in America now.

On the first day, students focused on American politics and the three branches of government. They visited the Supreme Court in the morning where they got to sit in the Chamber for a talk about the role and functions of the Supreme Court and justices, and learnt about key cases. These included *Brown v. Board of*

Education of Topeka, which ended segregation in schools; and *Roe v. Wade*, which legalised abortion. In the afternoon, students had a tour of the US Capitol building where they saw the Rotunda where Presidents are inaugurated and lay in state and the original Senate. They then were able to get passes to visit the public gallery of the Senate and House of Representatives to see the heart of American government. The day ended with a visit to the stunning Library of Congress and food at Union Station. Mr Wilde particularly enjoyed sampling Raising Cane's chicken combo!

On the second day, we had an early morning visit to the observation deck at the top of the Washington Monument where we got incredible views over the city. We were very lucky as it had snowed the week before so everything was blanketed in snow but with bright sunshine and blue skies! We then visited The National Museum of African American History



and Culture where students got to learn about the history of African Americans from the slave trade, through Jim Crow laws and segregation to the civil rights movement. Students were very moved by their visit to Emmet Till's memorial and were excited to see many original artefacts including the chairs from the Sit-Ins, a segregated rail carriage and Rosa Parks' dress from the Montgomery bus boycotts. In the afternoon, we had a walking tour of the Mall, which included the White House, war memorials and the Lincoln Memorial. We had a moment when we sat on the step where Martin Luther King stood to make his "I have a Dream" speech and listened to it *in situ*. Students were excited to visit a classic American Mall in the evening to shop and eat.

The final day involved a visit to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. We had two budding pilots in our group who were thrilled to see planes from the first Wright Brothers' flight, through the World Wars, to modern day aircraft. A particular highlight was the space exhibition where we saw many artefacts from the first moon landing including Neil

Armstrong's suit! Students also had time to shop for souvenirs and to try pancakes and waffles at a traditional diner. The long-haul flight overnight to Paris and Manchester were also an experience in themselves as many students had not flown long-haul before.

The Lymm High students were brilliant throughout the trip and clearly loved seeing the places they had learnt about and experiencing American culture. Mr Wilde and Miss Howard had never had such a friendly enthusiastic group who were willing to chat to members of the public wherever they went. We hope to run the trip bi-annually as it was such a success and really enhanced students' understanding of the course.



ONE TO WATCH

Ollie Malpass can soon be seen in a film premiering at Home in Manchester.

The Year 7 student is playing the lead in a short film called *Big Ol Boots*. The story is about a young boy called Billy whose parents have divorced and who is being bullied at school. The film is about how Billy navigates his parents' separation and his bullies, and explores



the different ideas of what masculinity is. Billy feels that he needs to be the 'man of the house' after his father's departure and stands up to his bullies after being targeted for being different. He also escapes reality by pretending he's a cowboy and his school bully plays the baddie in a dream sequence. You can see some behind-the-scenes images here.



The film is being edited at present and will move onto film festivals after its premiere in Manchester.

Since filming ended, Ollie has secured a job as a young presenter on an educational series, which will be shown in Catholic schools

across the UK. The show deals with how children navigate changes from the ages of 10–12, such as moving from primary to secondary school. Shooting starts in May.

Exciting times ahead, Ollie. We look forward to seeing what's next!



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WE HAVE LIFT OFF!



Space has been in the news of late, and our students have had their own experience of skyward projectiles thanks to Mr Barratt's Rocket Club.

The first step was to design and make their rockets. Year 10 and 12 students used software called OpenRocket to calculate the rocket's apogee (how high it will go), flight duration, model stability, as well as other parameters such as the predicted mass of the rocket depending on the materials chosen and predicted centre of gravity.

When building the rocket, the students had to choose which parts to buy in and they were challenged to 3D print/laser cut some of the other components. With the help of Miss Cucuz and Mr Birchall, the students were able to design and print their nose cones and laser cut their custom tail fins. They used 'Sketch Up' for the 3D printed components and '2D Design' for the laser cut components.

On Tuesday 2nd April, the rockets were tested in a practise launch scenario. The rockets are powered by a firework-like 'motor' that is installed into the base of the rocket and then activated via an igniter (from a safe distance). Students were taught how to safely handle the motors and operate the igniters so they were fully prepared for the launch.

Launch Day

On Tuesday 21st April, six Rocket Club teams departed Lymm High bright and early to make their way over to Elvington Airfield in York for the UKROC regional rocket launch day. After a long but lively minibus ride, the teams arrived on site and immediately made their way into the workshop area to begin making final preparations to their rockets before launch. They were met by volunteers from the University of Manchester's Aeronautics Society called ManSEDS (Manchester Students for the Exploration and Development of Space). The ManSEDS students gave some final sage advice, words of encouragement, and allowed them to borrow some much-needed tools.



Following the safety briefing, teams were allowed to visit the check-in station to get final confirmations that their rockets were ready to launch. Some teams faced last minute challenges as their rockets were slightly shorter than the competition length requirement, but with some quick thinking, and no lack of elbow grease, the rockets were quickly modified and made ready to launch. To score well, the rockets had to reach a target altitude of 750ft (229m), have a flight duration of between 36–39 seconds, and had to carry a payload of one medium-sized egg without it cracking upon landing. Scoring for the competition was based on accumulating the least penalties by going outside of these parameters, so a score close to 0 was what the teams were aiming for.

Lift off!

The first team to launch were the Zenith Aerospace Orbital Syndicate Organisation (ZAOSO) and their first launch achieved an incredibly competitive score of 75. Next up were the Randale Kobold Rocketeers, a team of Year 10 boys. Their rocket launched cleanly from the rails, but their parachute failed to deploy fully resulting in a cracked egg upon landing. While the boys went back to the pits to re-engineer their rocket, the Combustion Bros took to the launch pad. The Combustion Bros had opted to use a unique egg protection style in the form of a custom-printed gel egg holder that promised a cushy ride for its passenger. Unfortunately for the Combustion Bros, an issue with the launch buttons attached to the side of the rocket caused it to veer off from the rail costing them precious height. Their egg survived but their launch score couldn't compete with ZAOSO who still had the lowest score of the day at this point.

Up next and hoping to silence the bravado of team ZAOSO were the You'll Never Launch Alone boys, a small team with only three members. Their rocket left the rail cleanly, but their rocket motor only took them to around 500ft, making their score too high to compete. The underperforming rocket motor only served to fuel the boy's competitive spirit as they headed back to the workshop to rethink their strategy.

Shortly after, cries of jubilation from other teams attending the competition could be heard across the launch site. Multiple teams had surpassed ZAOSO's score of 75 pushing them further down the ranks, but Lymm High still had two teams ready to go.

Aiming to prove that they had what it took to take the top spot, the G-Force Girls stepped up to the launch pads with their iconic sticker-studded rocket. The glittering rocket launched



cleanly and soared into the sky, almost getting lost from view. As the rocket descended, it was clear that they would be close to, if not within, the flight duration and all was looking hopeful for the highest score of the day. Tragedy struck as the team reclaimed their rocket only to discover that the Altimeter – the device used to measure the height of the rocket's flight – had fallen off at some point during the launch. The team and volunteers from ManSEDS scoured the field hoping to find the

SCHOOL NEWS

missing altimeter and prove that the G-Force Girls had indeed set a record flight for the day, but the altimeter remained elusive and with its disappearance went the hopes of the crestfallen team.

The last team to launch their rocket were the Beautiful Rockets. The Beautiful Rocket struggled to leave the launch rail and, because of a wobbly exit from the rail likely caused by issues with the rail buttons, the rocket flew in a short loop before diving nose cone first into the ground. Upon recovery, they found that the impact had driven their rocket's nose cone so deep into the ground it had to be dug out and sadly the rocket was broken beyond repair.

The Randle Kobold Rocketeers and the G-Force Girls both made repeat launches where they managed to score but neither were within a top 10 position.

Lowest score

The final launch of the day were the boys from team You'll Never Launch Alone. They had requested a higher-grade rocket motor to address the issues with their last launch and carefully compensated with some added mass. Their rocket leapt from the launch rail and into the clouds. Onlookers from the other teams watched with anticipation as the rocket slowly descended to the field on a successfully deployed parachute. The rocket impacted softly and well within the flight duration. Celebrations from the team's members could be seen even before the rocket's flight had been scored. At the scoring desk, all teams gathered around to see if You'll Never Launch Alone's egg had survived. A pristine egg was extracted from within the body tube of their rocket

and they were scored a handsome 17 points, putting them as the second lowest scoring team of the day.

“We will have to wait a little longer to find out if You'll Never Launch Alone will be making an appearance at the UK Finals in June, but we remain hopeful”, said Mr Barratt. We wish the team the best of luck. What an achievement!



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young people just like you.

YOUNGMINDS



MAKING WAVES: TAKING A DEEP DIVE INTO OCEAN CONSERVATION

On Tuesday 31st March, seven staff members and 96 enthusiastic students traded the classroom for the immersive depths of the Blue Planet Aquarium.

This wasn't just a day for spotting sharks: it was a mission to understand one of the most pressing crises facing our planet: the 'Oceans Drowning in Plastics', writes Trip Leader Mrs Rigby.

The day began with a buzz of excitement as the students arrived at Cheshire Oaks to engage with the aquarium's 'Drowning in Plastics' workshop, a session specifically designed for Key Stage 3 learners. In this interactive lesson, students explored:

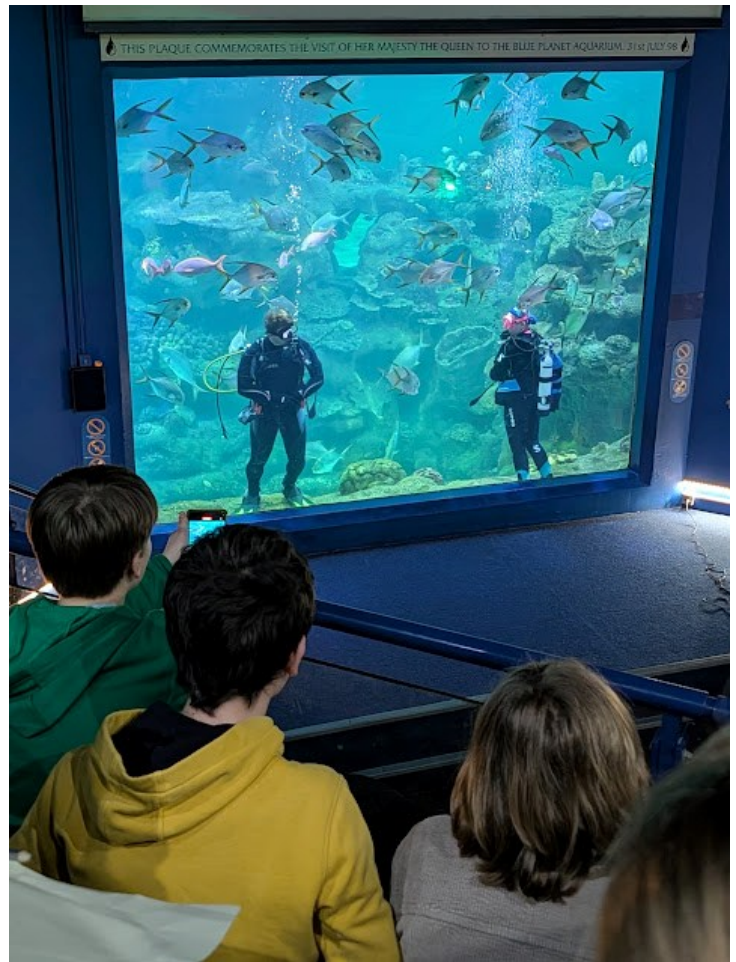
- **The Lifespan of Waste:** Learning that some plastics can take millions of years to decompose, often outlasting the marine life they encounter.
- **The Tipping Point:** Examining the sobering prediction that by 2050, the weight of plastic in our oceans could exceed that of all of its fish.
- **Real-World Impact:** Discussing how floating garbage patches and discarded

'ghost nets' threaten species like sea turtles and whales.

Between workshops, students ventured through the aquarium's iconic 360° underwater tunnel. Surrounded by four million litres of water, they came face-to-face with five species of sharks and hundreds of tropical fish in the Ocean Exhibit.

A highlight for many was the Aquatheatre Show where they watched divers feed large shoals of tropical fish. Students also learned about 'Betty' a female Sand Tiger Shark who weighs 36 stone and is 3m long. Students also learned how humans can directly influence the health of fragile Ocean ecosystems through daily choices.

The goal of the trip is clear: to foster a life-long appreciation for the natural world. By witnessing the beauty of the Coral Cave and Northern Streams firsthand, students left not just with facts, but with a renewed sense of responsibility.



As they returned to Lymm, the conversation wasn't about the souvenir shop or the outdoor play area – but about how they could reduce their own plastic footprint. For these 96 students, the tide is turning toward a more sustainable future!

Comments received from students post trip included:

- "Best school trip so far!"
- "I learned that octopus have 9 brains. They have one central brain and 8 mini brains, one in each of their arms."
- "I was shocked to find out that the average person in the UK eats around 250g of plastic each year, that's about 5g of plastic each day, the weight of a credit card."

Behaviour on the trip was exemplary, and the students were fantastic ambassadors for Lymm High School.



PENALTY SHOOT-OUTS



Well done to everyone who took part in the Inter-Hall penalty shoot-outs during the last week of April. Over 100 students took part over the 2 days and won a Hall point for their Halls!

The overall winners were both from Walton Hall:

- **Key Stage 3**
1st Place:
Matthew Clark
2nd Place:
Krishan Patel
- **Key Stage 4**
1st Place: Gabriel Gyepi-Garbrah (see also p.23)
2nd Place:
Adam Riley



HIGH LEGH TEAS

Lymm High's PTA are hosting the High Legh Village Hall 'Sunday Teas' on Sunday 17th May

Sunday Teas is a delightful summer tradition, which supports local charities. Between 12 and 4pm, anyone can drop

in to the High Legh Village Hall for very reasonably priced sandwiches, cakes, pastries and hot drinks. There is a car park right outside. We hope many of our parents, carers and students will support this fundraising occasion.

In addition, we are looking for:

- Volunteers on the day to set up, serve guests, wash up and clear away.
- Bakers to provide cakes, bakes, trifles, pavlovas, sausage rolls and sandwiches.

If you can help at all, please email pta@lymmhigh.org.uk. Thank you for your support.



DAPHNE AND HER DUCKLINGS

We have a wild duck that chooses to return to Lymm High's Quad each year to lay her eggs in safety and get a helping hand in feeding them. On Friday 24th April, Daphne appeared again with 8 babies in tow. The ducklings are all thriving and showing a healthy interest in food. Tins of sweetcorn would be gratefully received to help with the feeding. Please drop at Main Reception.



LOOK OUT RORY!

Lymm High put in a strong performance at Wilmslow on Monday 27th April at the Cheshire Schools' Boys Championships 2026. There were strong performances from Owen Kershaw, Joel Doubleday and George Clarke. To see the competition statistics, [click here](#).

Lymm High looks to have won the overall schools net (best 3)!



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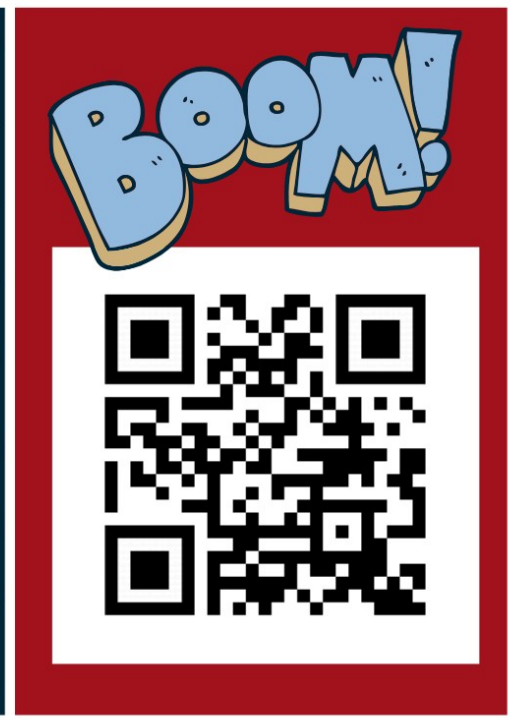
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RESPECT
IN GOLF



U15 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

Blackpool FC has been crowned champion of the KOMM MIT u15 Spanish tour, unbeaten in 7 games and only conceding 4.

Gabriel Gyepi-Garbrah and his teammates took part in Blackpool academy's first ever tour to the Barcelona region where they played across six different stadiums. The tour was for players born in 2011 and they topped the group, having faced Belgium in the quarter finals and Juventus in the semi-final. All were extremely difficult games, but they fought hard as a team.

For the final, held at the MHP Arena, Blackpool met the age group favourites VfB Stuttgart from Germany. Blackpool went 1-0 down within 10 minutes. With the crowd cheering and flags waving, the boys managed to claw one back before half time to make it 1-1. In the second half, Year 10 Gabriel delivered a brilliant corner to the head of his striker to make it 2-1. With moments to go, Blackpool held on and managed to find the third to make it 3-1!



A fantastic result achieved through grit, determination and digging deep!

 An illustration of a person with teal hair, wearing a pink patterned shirt and yellow pants, slumped over a white desk. The person's head is resting on the desk, and their body is hunched over, suggesting exhaustion or mental health struggles. The background is a solid orange color.

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NETBALLERS MAKE NATIONAL FINALS



Freya Inskip and Freya Loxham played in the ENG National finals in Essex on Monday 30th March.

The girls play for ANC All Stars and took part in the ENG Northern finals in Manchester over Christmas. As they finished in the top 4 teams from the North they qualified for the National finals where they met the top 4 teams from the East, West and South.

Out of the 16 teams competing, The Year 7 students' team came 6th, which was a huge achievement for a small village club.

"They were pretty much the smallest club there", said mum Vicki. "Everyone was very proud of them."

They really made a name for themselves, and even beat the top seeds to get a place in the quarter finals. Freya Inskip scored a super shot (from 16 feet away from the post) to gain 2 points and take the win 5:4!

This was a fantastic accomplishment for the girls. They must have gained so much from the experience.

"What an amazing achievement. Congratulations!", said Head of Year 7 Miss Taylor.

UPCOMING DATES

Monday 4th May
Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May
External Exams
begin

Sunday 17th May
PTA High Legh Teas
(see p.19)

**Monday 25th to Friday
29th May**
Half-term break

**Tuesday 2nd and
Wednesday 3rd June**
Animal Farm
production

Thursday 18th June
Year 11 Prom

w/c 22nd June
Year 7 Tynny
trips start

Wednesday 24th June
Visual Arts exhibition

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