



9 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to you to let you know how students have settled onto their A' level/BTEC studies and to make you aware of the ongoing support to which your son/daughter has access. On the whole students have really embraced being back in school; they seem excited to be in sixth form, although the reality of last week's assessments may have taken the shine off their return slightly! It really has been lovely to have students back in and they have coped remarkably with the new routines and procedures we have in place. Whilst it has been difficult for those having to self-isolate, we are incredibly proud of how they have continued to study at home, accessing online lessons and even completing assessments. Thank you for your support with this. The vast majority of students are working our recommended 40-hour week, but we know some may still benefit from a little extra encouragement with this. To help those who may find it tricky to work at home, we have recently started to allow students to stay and work in the upper hexagon until 5.00pm each evening.

Whilst we recognise that students have only just started with us, we are mindful that they should begin looking at their **next steps**. If they are interested in applying to university, it is never too early to start. We highly recommend students book themselves onto the virtual experiences UCAS are running, details of which can be found [here](#). Universities are also offering virtual open days which students should begin attending, dates of which can be found [here](#).

We have made some changes to our **Life Programme** sessions this year and these seem to have gone down well with students. These sessions will now be more frequent, delivered by form tutors and they will include a variety of different topics. So far, we have had sessions on mental health and we have launched our Wellness Hub on Teams. Please do ask your son/daughter to share this with you as it is a fantastic resource to support mental wellbeing. In line with Mental Health Awareness Week this week, students attended a virtual assembly which outlined ways to keep themselves healthy. Prior to this, we have run sessions on drugs and decision making, which will be followed by another session next week delivered by an external speaker.

Our Student Leadership Team has started the year well with its first **charity** fundraiser for Macmillan and, despite not being able to hold a coffee morning live, students still managed to raise our highest amount yet - £577! Thank you to all of you who donated. We hope to adopt the same approach on Wear It Pink day on Friday 23 October. To sit alongside this event, we have arranged an external speak to deliver virtual sessions on breast and testicular examinations, as we felt that it is important students know how to keep themselves healthy.

Please can I remind you that all students should attend from **8:25am every day** and they must attend **form time** on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:10-12:45pm. On Tuesdays and Thursdays students are able to leave at 12:10pm, provided they do not have lessons or supervised study periods in the afternoon. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, they may leave at 12:45pm, provided they do not have lessons or supervised study periods in the afternoon. Students are reminded that they should wear **business dress** at all times. Now the weather is turning colder, we are happy to allow students to wear a plain black v-neck jumper, but this is only to be worn in addition to, not instead of, their blazer. We would appreciate your support in ensuring students

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wear suitable footwear to school; trainers are not allowed. Students are also reminded that they should wear a face covering during lesson changeover and during social times when they are not eating. It is essential they bring their own (and ideally a spare in case of loss/breakage) and they adhere to these guidelines carefully.

We look forward to working with your sons/daughters throughout the next two years at Lymm. As ever, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H JENNINGS', written over a light grey dotted grid background.

H JENNINGS (Mrs)
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher