



Lymm High School

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents and Carers,

The last couple of weeks have, for me, summed up everything that is great about Lymm High School. On the academic side, we have seen Year 11 students tackling their mock exams with real maturity and focus; this is especially the case in English and Maths, where they are faced with new, tougher examinations but in which they are rising to the challenge. Equally, despite everyone starting to get a little tired as the end of term approaches, students are still working hard in lessons and meeting the higher expectations we have put in place this year.

On the extra-curricular side, we have had some tremendous individual and collective successes in sport (the Cheshire Cup final being played at Sale Sharks' ground on Sunday will be another highlight) in all age groups and for both girls and boys. The Key Stage 3 Art exhibition this week was fabulous and the Performing Arts faculty have been almost unbelievably busy. Our musicians have been performing all over

the place to rave reviews and the incredible performances of our actors, dancers, singers and musicians in the "400" production at the Parr Hall are still fresh in the memory.

Finally, there has been so much to celebrate in terms of the wider ethos of the school: more money has been raised for charities, OAPs have been invited into school for mince pies and mulled wine, huge amounts of food were collected for the Trussell Trust and many rewards and awards have been issued to those who have excelled in terms of behaviour, participation, attendance and for generally displaying the attributes of socially responsible young people. I remain extremely proud to be at such a school and lucky to be able to work with such fabulous young people and in such a supportive community.

I wish you all the very best for a lovely festive season.

Kind regards,

Gwyn Williams

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Being head girl is something I have always aspired to be, and I feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to represent the school, on behalf of all students, as well as helping improve the school wherever I can. One project I am currently working on includes a STEM society for any girls who are interested in studying or pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and Mathematics. This society will aim to improve confidence in their ability and encourage more women to take an interest in STEM subjects.

I am also keen to spend as much time with students in Lower school, to improve the student voice of younger students and ensure all students feel comfortable approaching and of the student leadership team, including Matt and I, for any queries or suggestions they might have.



I am honoured to serve as the Head Boy of Lymm High school alongside Lily and a strong student leadership team. I am excited about leading the students and further improving Lymm High school to become a stronger and more supportive learning environment.

The main project I am working on is a whole school recycling initiative. The school at the moment is doing very little to support the environment however, by the end of the school year I hope to have recycling bins in every classroom and around buildings. This will pave the way for the school to reduce its carbon footprint and hopefully lead to more environmental awareness and action even when I have left Lymm High school.

The Student leadership team and I are very keen on the integration of all year groups, we are currently in discussions about a few ideas during our regular meetings with the sixth form team and at last month's Whole school council.

I am excited about the year ahead and hope to speak to many people, staff, students and people from the community in my time as head boy. Please feel free to bring ideas to anyone in the Student leadership team, we really welcome new suggestions. I hope you have a great and successful year.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

IN THIS EDITION WE FIND OUT WHERE CHRISTIAN DAKIN-BROWN'S LIFE HAS LED HER SINCE LEAVING LYMM

I always felt so privileged to do my second teaching placement at Lymm High School under the watchful eye of Colin Grimes, Adrian Moulding, Simon Cranshaw and Linda Broadbent. What an amazing start to, what turned out to be, 12 years teaching at the school! I have incredibly fond memories of those early years at Lymm, with Colin's Operatic music always blasting out from the art office and the coffee pot always on! And who could forget the wonderful pupils, great art vibe and the marvellous views over the fields from the Art balcony!

It was a big decision for me to leave Lymm High School, but with a husband in the Royal Navy whom I very rarely saw, it made sense to make the move to the Hampshire coast when he was due to embark on a 10 month course actually on land!

And so, in 2009 I left Lymm HS, went mini-travelling to Japan, Australia and Hong Kong; bought a puppy, and moved down the coast. A great start to my new beginning.

We'd made a conscious decision for me to have a break from teaching and it wasn't too long before I'd set up my own business creating personalised porcelain artwork.

Having always seen myself as a teacher and not an artist, I was a little surprised at first that people started to commission my art. As my business began to grow, my confidence developed and I set my sights higher! I enrolled on business courses and I was soon accepted as a partner to sell on 'Not On The High Street.' This turned out to be an invaluable opportunity and taught me so much about developing a creative business.

It was after our little miracle boy Theo, was born in 2010, that I got my inspiration for the work I produce now.

I remember having a blurry photograph of my husband and Theo, minutes after he was born. Having the need to have this memory framed on my wall, I set about creating my first silhouette art piece...and I was hooked. Since this first image,



which still hangs in our lounge, I have created hundreds of personalised pieces for individuals (a fair few for the wonderful staff I taught with at Lymm). Quite simply, I love it!

I'm incredibly inspired by the coast and I've created many generic seascapes, one of which was bought by 'NEXT' and appeared in their spring collection. It was truly amazing to see my work in such a large chain store and it gave me confidence that I was doing 'OK!' I was proud to call myself an artist!

I still have a real thirst for learning and I never stop researching and teaching myself new skills and techniques. I have had great fun creating logos for a number of businesses as well as designing art achievement postcards for schools. It's lovely seeing my work in the press, most recently as part of 'Not On The High Street's' first collaborative 'Passion for Pattern' campaign for which one of my designs was selected.

On the downside, life being married to the Military can be pretty hard. It never allows for any consistency; a weekend taking the ship to London can quite literally turn into a 4 month trip to Libya! With the average deployment now being 9 months, life can be interesting to say the least. But with this does come many positives, it has certainly taught me resilience, confidence in my own abilities, given me a pragmatic outlook and a real focus on what is actually important in my life!

I'm thankful for the incredible opportunities I had being part of the Military Wives Choir. Personal highlights have included recording the Military Wives Choir CD's, auditioning and singing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert (Gary is even more handsome in the flesh!), performing at the Royal Albert Hall, 'Friday Night is Music Night Live' and of course, helping to raise so much money for such incredibly worthy charities. These are all truly unforgettable experiences that I would never have had had it not been for this truly 'bonkers' existence!

I do miss teaching sometimes, and I never say never when asked whether I'll teach again. I certainly miss having colleagues and banter. But, whilst Theo is little and I have to lead this beautifully chaotic lifestyle, I'll be sticking to creating works of art by the sea.

If you want to check out my work or contact me please visit my website www.littleloveart.co.uk or Facebook page Little Love Art - Christian Dakin Brown.

Christian Dakin Brown

littleloveart@btinternet.com

www.littleloveart.co.uk

<https://twitter.com/littleloveart>

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

NEWS FROM A NEW VENTURE BY
HELEN PORTEOUS, AND HER
PARTNER GARY SIMCOCK

Helen was a teaching assistant at Lymm.

Gary and I decided that 'life is too short' and looked to purchase a business where we worked for ourselves. The School House bed and breakfast was on the market and had been successfully trading for 20 years, we fell in love with the building and its numerous original features and decided to sell everything, except our beloved narrow boat, quite our careers and invest in our future. Only a few weeks in and we are loving every moment and have no regrets at all! If it works, fantastic, and if it doesn't, we'll have tried and will have no regrets.

All are welcome and our rooms start from £45 per night including a full English breakfast.

www.schoolhousetretton.com


Fran Dean - ex teacher in the Mathematics Department is now Key Stage Five Maths Leader and AST, at St Mary's College in Hull.

GET IN TOUCH!

WE WANT TO HEAR
WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN
DOING SINCE LEAVING
LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

Email: alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk





TO
THE OLD BOYS
1914 - 1918

OUR "THANKS" TO SUE LATHAM, WHOM, FOR MANY YEARS HAS SPENT TIME CATALOGUING SOME OF THE MANY ARCHIVES OF THE SCHOOL. THIS EXTRACT DEALS WITH THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROAD SITE.

At a time when the nation has been looking back at the Centenary of The Great War - 1914-1918, I thought it might be an idea to show how Lymm Grammar School commemorated the war. 11 pupils of the school were killed and they are remembered in several ways. There is a plaque in the present School Hall listing their names as well as those who fell in the Second World War (21 of them). Perhaps the longest lasting memorial was a line of 11 lime trees, interspersed with beech trees. They were planted to 'provide a worthy approach to the school and to give a welcome shade to the future generations of pupils.

Although now contained within a housing development 10 of the trees are still standing-one has died- and as a listed 'war memorial', so they cannot be cut down.

The second memorial was a set of sandstone Mounting steps. They were originally at Beechwood House in Lymm, the house of the Dewhurst Family and they have an inscription 'To

the Old Boys - 1914-1918'. They can now be found in the Garden Quad, viewable from the Hall Corridor. Within this memorial were placed several jars containing information about the ceremony to commemorate all the memorials and also information about the school, pupils, staff and governors. However, some of this information has been damaged by the elements, but does include references to the building of the three hard tennis courts, and Sports Pavillion, which, I am given to understand was first sited on the field between Grammar School Road Site.

When these memorials were finally unveiled it was said that they were 'A humble tribute to the meory of those who once worked and played here, and by the Grace of God helped to save our community from the greatest peril that had ever beset it'.

Sue Latham

THE ROMEOS

(Retired Old Men Eating Out),...continue to meet monthly, for a lunchtime 'get-together'. Formed initially, by Messrs. Capper, and Lawton, with a special invitation to Mrs J.Cooper, to become an Honorary Member, the group now consists of twelve members. This is now proving a problem, as we now require two tables, every time we meet. It is quite obvious that the ROMEOS should be in charge of the Country, as we discuss a whole range of subjects, from Politics to the latest storyline in 'The Archers'

(Membership by Application only)

BELLES

(Beautiful Ex Lymm Ladies Eating Socially) At the moment we are a group of six ladies: Carol, Jan, Vanessa, Laura, Gill and Diana.

Whilst at school we all worked in the Learning Development Department with positions ranging from specialist teachers, teaching assistant and the very important clerical assistant who made sure we all knew what we were doing.

We all try to meet once a month for lunch and to talk about the past but more importantly the future, usually about our ever growing and depleting families and putting the world to rights. We meet in different places and and sample good food in most. Around Christmas we go for a special night out and welcome anyone else who may wish to join us.

FROM THE CHALK FACE

The English Curriculum, when I taught at Lymm, always had a 'Speaking and Listening' component. This meant that every pupil had to contribute in some way, and the usual approach was for them to prepare a Traditional Class Talk. As you can imagine, there were a great many different subjects selected, but a favourite area was always 'My Favourite Pet'. I was quite surprised, one lunchtime to find a horse tethered outside my Demountable Classroom, however.

The horse in question had been ridden into school, during the lunch-hour by a pupil who was going to use it as their major theme for their talk. I believe the Caretaker, had excellent roses the following year!

On another occasion a pupil had presented a Class Talk on their budgie. She ended the talk by stating that the budgie had actually died three days earlier. I offered my commiserations. "Oh don't worry," she replied, 'I've still brought it in to show you," whereupon she produced a dead budgie from her blazer, which she had carried around all day!

R Coleman

WARTIME SCHOOL SPIRIT

The Field family moved to Lymm in 1941 and I started at L.G.S where Mr J R Canney was headmaster. It was in the old building of course and co-ed which was a pleasant surprise. There were about 350 pupils and the atmosphere was almost like that of an extended family - I think the wartime spirit helped. Boys and girls sat on opposite sides of the classroom but that was the only segregation.

Mr Canney's house was almost part of the school and I remember being shown rows of caged rabbits in his garage which I took to be pets but found later they were to supplement the meagre meat ration - not that I recall rabbit on the school dinner menu!

We sat at tables of 6 or 8 with a senior pupil at the head, I don't remember much about the meals but I was never hungry so they must have been OK.

In the 3rd and 4th years we were given time off to help with the potato harvest, mainly at Mr

Thomason's farm (his daughter Rita was at LGS) but also where half the sports field had been ploughed up for food production. Later on, when I was in the 6th, I had two weeks off to help with the Christmas post - down to the sorting office under Lymm P.O for 6.30 am and, after a strong cup of tea, out on the bike with the post bag full of sorted letters in the front carrier. Most enjoyable and I got paid!.

We had an active Air Training Corps (2137 Sqn) and we met on Thursdays after school. Cook supplied us with a good tea and then we would study astronomy, navigation, aircraft recognition etc. We had summer camps at various airfields and were often given flights in various types of service aircraft - very exciting.

We had a steady core of teachers under Mr Canney and Miss Reynolds and various "interesting" characters came and went as temporary staff. After the war Mr Gus Hunnam returned from war service and restarted the school Scout troop.



SEND US YOUR MEMORIES FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE

alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk

He had no senior scouts so he asked 3 of us 6th formers to go on the summer camps to help look after the youngsters. The first was a glorious 3 weeks of sunny weather in 1947 at Sedburgh on the edge of the Lake district and we wore no more than shorts and pumps the whole time - wonderful. Other camps were at Par, Cornwall and Powerscourt Desmense in Eire where we found to our delight that chocolate and sweets were not rationed as at home. We had some wonderful times. Mr Hunnam eventually married one of our beautiful senior girls which upset my brother who was rather keen on her himself!

Sport played an important part of life at LGS and I played a lot of football and cricket. Sports days were well organised by the teachers and most pupils had a go at something. The Open mile was run a week before Sports Day and on one occasion, although still a junior, I managed to finish 6th.

Towards the end of my time at LGS the move to Oughtrington Hall was getting nearer and I remember making a speech off the balcony at the Hall in support of providing a swimming pool as a memorial to the old students lost in the war. Pat Cowlshaw was head girl at the time and she followed me onto the balcony to give her oration.

Older brother John left before me and trained to be a pilot in the RAF. The war ended just before he finished training much to the relief of our parents - he eventually reached the rank of Air Cdre. I went to the Dental School in Manchester, qualified in Dec 1952 and after 6 months as a Junior House Surgeon I was called up to do my 2 years National Service as Dental Officer at RAF Wattisham.

I really enjoyed my time at Lymm and all the friends I made. The teachers were a great bunch and I remember them with great affection.

Geoff Field

Photograph taken after the 5 mile cross country run with Geoff Field on the left and "Bud" Flanagan on my left. Flanagan went on to become Sir Maurice Flanagan after a career in Civil Aviation.

ALUMNI NEWS

TY'N-Y-FELIN

In June of this year a group of ex-teachers, Governors, and friends of the school enjoyed an excellent weekend at Ty'n-y-Felin. For those of you who have enjoyed the school's outdoor centre in the past, it is still as wonderful as ever. Hopefully, the usage of the Centre will increase, but I'm not so sure of some of the present clientele!



TY'N-Y-FELIN

Outdoor Residential Centre

Ty'n-y-Felin, Bodior Estate, Rhoscolyn, Anglesey, LL65 2RX

For booking enquiries please contact:

Tina McGuffie - Business Manager

Email: tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk Tel: 01925 755 458



CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

As you will be aware we are very fortunate to have a number of very talented students who are academically gifted and have very bright futures in front of them. Part of our support programme for these students starts in the classroom, but in addition to this 10% of each year group, Years 7 to 11, follow a Scholars programme leading to the Gateway programme in Sixth Form, which aims to raise aspirations and ensure that these students are the best candidates for the top universities and courses.

The programme has been supported by both Oxford and Cambridge with Dr Peter Claus from Pembroke College, Oxford, stating, 'If Oxford stands for anything it stands for excellence and the application of talent by hard work. The Scholars and Gateway Programmes also commends these values and invites pupils to meet a realizable challenge. I would hope that horizons are opened up by this initiative and that it comes over loud and clear that any university, any subject, any destination beyond school is possible and ought not be rejected because of unwarranted myths or fears'.

As part of the continuing development of this programme we are seeking the support of former alumni who may be able to support a mentoring programme for our Gateway Sixth Form students, or even work experience in the summer for some of our Y11 Scholars. The mentoring programme would involve meeting up with a student who has an interest in a particular area that you could support, for example, Medicine, Law, Engineering, Sciences, or even preparation for OxBridge entry. The plan would be to meet the students and develop their interest beyond the curriculum, getting them to read widely and problem solve within their field. Full support and guidance would be available. The commitment initially would be a minimum of once a month face to face with some additional communication via email, but would be flexible. It would really be dependent on what you could and would be willing to provide to the student. Any insight into the different fields would be of immense benefit.

If you are interested in supporting the mentoring programme, or would be able to offer work experience in these areas, please contact Rachael Wardle (Assistant Headteacher) on rwardle@lymmhigh.org.uk.

THE INAUGURAL SPORTS FUNDRAISING DINNER

Friday 4th November saw our inaugural Sports Fundraising Dinner in school with Iestyn Harris, the former Welsh international rugby league and union star, as the guest speaker. The school hall was transformed into a magnificent scene with the PE staff kindly propping up bar - only this time acting as bartenders and happily serving our thirsty guests.

Over 115 guests braved the rain to make their way to the school for an evening to remember. Harris had guests on the edge of their seats as he recounted his illustrious career with plenty of jokes and stories from the game he loves, as well as some inspirational advice.

Auction prizes included a signed Manchester United Shirt, a week's holiday on-board a yacht in Crete, a signed picture of Sean Fitzpatrick and much more. There was also a fantastic raffle with many prizes for lucky winners.

Lymm High School would like to thank all of the special guests on the evening, especially Iestyn Harris and Huw Thomas, who expertly hosted and kept his audience entertained with jokes and games aplenty. The school would also like to thank everybody who generously donated the raffle and auction prizes, as well as all of those who attended the evening.

Gwyn Williams, Head Teacher said "It was a fantastic evening and it was great to see so many of our parents support the school. The evening could not have gone ahead without the hard work of the team behind it and I have to say a special thank you to all of those students who gave up their Friday evening to serve as waiters and help ensure it was such a success. We hope this is just the start of many successful fundraising events in school".





The evening raised just under £5,000 and all proceeds will go towards developing the quality of provision in all sports across the school, something that means so much to so many students. We are extremely lucky with all of our sporting facilities, but they are expensive to maintain and fundraising initiatives like this are increasingly important in the light of severe cuts to school funding.

We can't thank all those who attended enough and hope to see many more next year.



FUNDRAISING AT LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

POPPY APPEAL RESULT

Many thanks to all those who donated to this year's Poppy Appeal; together we raised over £210 which is a great achievement.

Congratulations go to Dunham Hall students who raised the highest amount this year with a grand total of £45.28!



MACMILLAN BAKE SALE

A huge well done must go to our staff and students who collectively raised a fantastic £742.91 for MacMillan nurses during the coffee morning events held in school in September.

CHILDREN IN NEED

The Sixth Form took part in their annual fancy dress day for Children in Need on Friday. As always this was a fantastic event, students went above and beyond our expectations with some fabulous costumes and much fun was had. More importantly, £1402.33 was raised for the cause.



ROALD DAHL DAY

Students and staff came together for the 100th Birthday of Roald Dahl in the ILC on 13 September. Quizzes, competitions and cakes all added to the celebration of Britain's favourite children's author. Tilly-Ann (9WL) correctly guessed the number of Willy Wonka's sweets in the jar to win them, and the bring-and-buy cake sale raised an excellent £91 for 'Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity'. Thank you to all those involved.

(<http://www.roalddahl.com/charity/about-thecharity>).



SHOEBOXES FOR STREET ANGELS

As part of our drive to support the wider community, this half term students have been supporting Manchester Street Angels who support the homeless people in the Manchester and Warrington area. Students were asked to support the shoebox collection by bringing in items such as warm hats and gloves, high energy food such as biscuits and chocolate and toiletries such as toothpaste, tooth brushes and soap.

Again the support for this was superb, we had over 100 boxes donated and many loose items as well. The students will have made a real difference and gone a long way to spreading a bit of festive cheer!

FOUNDERS DAY

Towards the end of the Summer term, we celebrated our Founder's Day with a sponsored walk, carnival and many activities whereby students went out into the community to help local people and organisations. We are delighted to report that as well as the good we were able to do in the community, we raised a total of £6,618.27, which has been donated to Afritwin and Claire House Children's Hospice.



|SCHOOL NEWS

CHRISTMAS BINGO

On Monday 12th December, our sixth form students invited residents from local care homes and other elderly members of the Lymm community to join us for an afternoon of Christmas Activities. Our visitors were delighted to listen to and join in with some well-known Christmas carols and songs performed by the school choir whilst also enjoying tea, coffee and some homemade mince pies. We then had a professional game of Bingo with our very own Head Boy, Matt Davies as the 'call master'.

Needless to say it was a fun filled afternoon, enjoyed by all our guests and students. A great way to celebrate Christmas within the community and spread some festive cheer.

By Rachael Roberts, Deputy Head Girl



FOODBANK COLLECTION

SUCCESS!

Once again Lymm High School students have shown how generous they can be, by donating nearly 900kg of food to the Trussell Trust during October for the Warrington Food Bank.

Code named Operation Hippo, students were set the challenge of bringing in food donations that, combined, would match the weight of a Hippopotamus.

They did not disappoint, showing a sense of community, empathy and generosity that meant the Warrington Trussell Trust had to come into school to take collection more than three times in the space of a couple of weeks. At one stage, the staff room was overflowing with trays of donations!

Richard Hughes, Head of Ethos, said: 'This was a whole school challenge, increasing the rivalry between our different halls and form groups. Particular recognition should go to two year 8 forms, 8TL and 8MH, who donated 240 kilograms of food between them! The level of enthusiasm and support shown towards the Food Bank was excellent, reaffirming the belief that students embrace the community they live in and are willing to help those who are less fortunate.'

Rachel Morris, Head of Ethos, added: 'At Lymm High school we are very proud of the generous nature of our students and strive to embrace this aspect of our ethos, making sure that we embed and promote the importance of being decent, socially responsible members of the community.'

As such, supporting the Trussell Trust is now going to become a regular instalment in our academic year and, fingers-crossed, we will reach the goal of donating the equivalent weight of an elephant

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.lymmhigh.org.uk



THE 400

The beginning of December saw two incredible performances of “400” at the Parr Hall, involving around three hundred students from our partner primary schools and nearly a hundred of our own students. The story was a celebration of 400 years of Shakespeare through drama, dance and music and it was fabulous to see so many students taking part with such skill and courage. Bringing together so many different schools in such a way really is a special way to celebrate as a community. Huge thanks go to Mrs Richards and the Performing Arts team for all the work that went into making it such a success, as well as to everyone at our partner primary schools for their support.



| SCHOOL NEWS

EXAM RESULT SUCCESS!

Lymm High School are delighted to be celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 students in their GCSE examination results.

We are pleased to report a further improvement in the headline figure, with 76% of students achieving five or more grades A*-C including English and Maths and a very strong Ebacc score of 38%. Within these results, we are especially pleased to see a significant improvement in the performance of students eligible for the Pupil Premium, something that has been a key priority for us. When national data is released later this year, we also expect to have performed very well on the new 'Progress 8' measure.

So many students have performed exceptionally well at the top end, with almost 60% achieving at least 1 A*/A grade and 27% achieving 5 or more A*/A grades.

Those who deserve a special mention for achieving at least five A* grades are: William Caldwell, William Catlow, Ben Corrigan, Elizabeth Coy, Jack Evans, Rory Foster, Joseph Hassall, Molly Horne,

Pip Hyde, Liam Johnson, Rebecca King, Sian Lakey, Alex Lee, Hannah Leighton-Jones, Elena Rurlander, Pavan Sidhu, Ellen Thomas and Matthew Warren.

The Languages department should also be applauded for a truly exceptional set of results: over 95% of students gained A*-C grades in French, German and Spanish, with around 50% in each of the three languages scoring A* or A grades.

Headteacher, Gwyn Williams said:

"We are extremely proud of every single one of our students and are delighted to see so many of them achieving so highly today. Watching them celebrate with their parents and teachers this morning has been wonderful. It has been a real team effort and I want to thank everybody involved for all their hard work and commitment. Taken together with last week's excellent set of A'level results, it has been a great few days for the school and reinforces the feeling that we are going from strength to strength at the moment"



A LEVEL RESULTS



We are delighted to report an excellent set of A' level results. These results include superb performance at the highest grades, with 24% of all exam entries receiving A* or A grades. In addition, 52% of all grades awarded were A*-B grades and 82% at A*-C. The pass rate remains extremely high at 99%.

Whilst we are very proud of the achievements of all of our students, within these results there are some exceptional individual performances that deserve particular mention with eleven students gaining at least 3 A* or A grades:

Eleanor Anderson (AAA), Timothy Cooper (AAA), Thomas Gregson (A*AA), Eleanor Harrison (A*AA), Myles Jones (A*AA), Ciara McEvoy (A*A*A*); Sam Smith (A*AA), Isabel Troth (A*A*A*), Joshua Wadsworth (A*AA), Michael Walshe (A*AA) and Eleanor Ormerod (A*AAB)

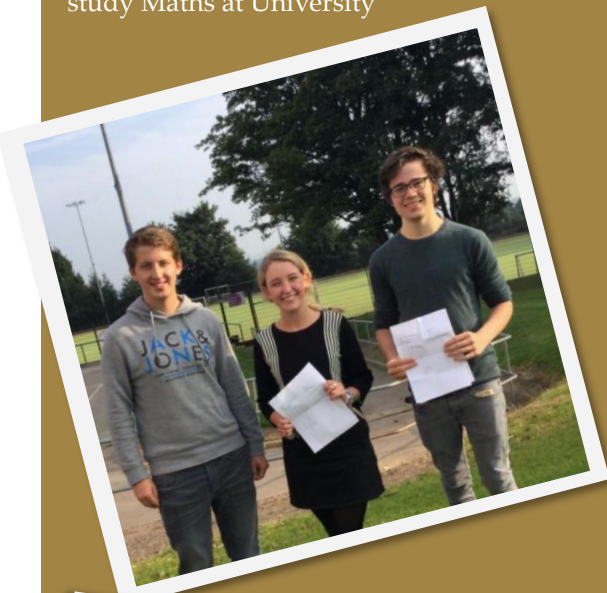
Hayley Edwards, Head of Sixth Form at Lymm High, said: "We are extremely proud of our students' success: they have worked incredibly hard for these results and it is wonderful to see so many students moving on to exciting futures at university, in apprenticeships and other training courses or employment.

We wish all of our students the very best for the future and hope that they will stay in touch with us."

Twin sisters Cerys and Ellie Anderson were thrilled with their results.

Cerys is off to Derby University to study photography and Ellie will head to Birmingham to study sport exercise and Science

With an impressive five A*s and four As between them, Lymm High students Michael Walsh, Ciara McEvoy and Miles Jones have all chosen to study Maths at University



AFRITWIN 2016

On 1st August 2016, a group of 28 Lymm High staff and students landed in Johannesburg, South Africa, marking the beginning of an adventure that was to have a significant effect on all of our lives. Prior to this sixth such visit, we had been planning events and working together for over two years, continuing a programme which was first established at Lymm in 2002. Over the next three weeks we shared many emotions as we travelled the length of the country and witnessed some amazing natural, cultural and economic contrasts.

On a personal level I took part for a number of reasons. Afritwin opens so many opportunities for people, not just for those directly involved but for those who give and help the project indirectly. Afritwin has shown that those involved have the opportunity to form stronger links with the wider community and also offered the opportunity to be involved in something to do with school, in particular for those less involved in usual extra-curricular activities like sports teams and music groups.

Generally, Afritwin offers the chance for the participants to develop as people through the learning of new skills such as self-confidence, through presentations or public speaking. Developing and learning all the time, we became better educated and more understanding individuals while simultaneously making friends

for life and making a difference to those less fortunate than ourselves. It was for these reasons and that I chose to take part in the amazing opportunities that the Afritwin project offered.

Fundraising was a great way to develop as people because it led to us bonding as a group, demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively whilst in meetings, and most importantly fund the kitchen garden at Qhasana and the delivery of the CPR dolls. We also worked collaboratively on a campaign about the demise of the rhino species. Within school we led many fundraisers such as: bags to school, raffles, cake sales and candy cane selling at Christmas time. These not only funded our work at Qhasana and beyond but raised awareness of the Afritwin project around the school and within families. Out of school, we have had stalls at the Lymm Dickensian, May Queen and Transport Day. This allowed us to promote Afritwin to the community in Lymm and further raise awareness about the projects we undertook. Some of our larger fundraising events were the Auction of Promises, quiz evening and CPR curry evening. These were fantastic events as the hours that we invested in preparation and planning paid off as we raised significant sums of money towards our projects and spread awareness of Afritwin to people who had no understanding of the project.



Over the years Afritwin has become better-known throughout the school. The project has become increasingly popular, made aware within school by bake sales, fundraising events (e.g. auction of promises, curry night) and stalls at the May Queen. One of the many projects that got the sixth form and year 7s involved was the rhino project, organised by some of the Afritwin team. The students stood in the formation of a rhino, holding red material where the horn is. We hired a company to film using a drone so we had a bird's eye view of the rhino. It was to show the significance of the rhino's horn and to show the importance of saving the rhinos from being poached. They are in danger of extinction we pledged to spread awareness of the problem whilst on safari. When in South Africa, we bought 'save the rhino' bracelets to show our support for this campaign. It helped us to further spread the awareness of this issue that we feel passionate about.

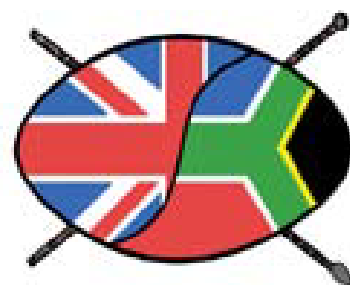
The aim and main focus of our trip is the work we do in our twin school Qhasana high school, in East London in South Africa. Qhasana is a school of around 500 pupils in the large township Mdantsane. This year each student from Lymm planned two lessons; an English lesson and a subject of their choice, to be taught to classes at Qhasana. The subjects ranged from maths to art, business to history and covered a wide range of topics. Some lessons such as the English classes fitted in with students ongoing curriculum aiding them in their exam technique and practice while others gave us the opportunity to teach lessons that we found interesting and engaging, on topics that were new and exciting to students at Qhasana. Throughout our stay in Qhasana we discovered difficulties in our lessons that forced us to adapt them quickly to best suit the particular class being taught.

This helped us to develop skills of being able to think on our feet and to be flexible in difficult situations, especially while under pressure. The lessons themselves were harder to deliver than expected and challenging at first but over time each of us settled into the subjects we chose to teach. The students from Lymm and Qhasana alike were truly loving the lessons as the week went on.

Other projects at Qhasana included the kitchen garden, in which students from Lymm and Qhasana helped to begin the process of constructing a kitchen garden for the school and the surrounding community. We also, with donations from family, friends and the Afritwin project, were able to present 70 Qhasana students with Xhosa English dictionaries and a scholarship for a year at the school.

The time we spent at Qhasana was life changing and has certainly had an impact on all of our lives.

Midstream was another school we went to visit which is in Pretoria. It was massively different from Qhasana. Due to it being a private school, the facilities were of a much higher standard, especially the sporting facilities, with a vast range of pitches and courts, compared to only a cow field at Qhasana. Another big difference was the equipment in classrooms, with interactive whiteboards and iPads in one, and just a blackboard in the other. In Qhasana, the students have no choice over the school meal, with it just being one school meal cooked for all, whereas in midstream, there was a fully functional school canteen like at Lymm High School.





During our stay in South Africa, we visited a great variety of places as different from each other as our safari experience and a bike tour in Soweto. Through these we were able to see at first hand, how varied the country is. Whilst we were staying in Pretoria, we visited different museums which each showed different perspectives on the apartheid years. These were the Apartheid Museum and the Voortrekker monument. The visits to both museums helped develop our understanding of a country with such diverse opinions and such a significant history. Another really eye-opening experience whilst in Pretoria was our bike tour in Soweto. This made such a huge impact to our understanding of how the people live in the largest township of South Africa – and to see how happy they were, even though they had so little, was inspiring.

After that we went to the Safari. Dressed up with our hats, scarves and gloves we set out on our first game drive, not expecting to see the big five by our second game drive – the safari was an amazing experience. As our trip was coming to an end, we had the weekend to relax at Buccaneers in Chintsa near East London. It was a completely different environment to anything we had previously experienced. There were various different fun activities, including horse riding and surfing. We also had the opportunity to visit a soup kitchen in a township in Chintsa part of which had been built by some of our group during the previous summer. We prepared and served meals to the children of the

township and played with them. We spent our final days of the trip in Cape Town, where we went on an open top tour bus and visited places such as Table Mountain, traditional markets and the Kirstenbosch Botanical gardens.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the project is the way in which we have developed as individuals. At the beginning of the project, we each had our own personal goals; all of which have been achieved over the past two years. We have all been extremely pleased with the way in which we have developed our confidence, through overcoming our fears of public speaking and teaching lessons in a foreign school. Working so closely together, tackling a range of challenges, has enabled us to bond as a group and build new friendships. The friendships we have built are not only between the individuals of the group that travelled to Africa but also with the students we met and were hosted by at Midstream as well. This experience has enabled us to develop our cultural awareness, which has, in turn, changed our outlooks on our wider community and has helped us to understand both the similarities and differences between the cultures of our two countries. Our time in Africa in particular has highlighted many of the problems in different parts of the world, which has led us to now see things from a different perspective and taught us to not take things for granted.

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE

Challenge

The Ryman National Enterprise Challenge is a concept developed by Ben and Michael Dyer who are passionate about developing business skills in young people. Many famous entrepreneurs and successful business people started concepts and ideas when they were of school age. This project aims to inspire the younger generation and develop key work based skills such as team work, communication and problem solving. Proving that at any age you can have amazing ideas that could be successful business ideas.

So the Ryman National Enterprise team came to Lymm High to seek out future entrepreneurial talent. They were not disappointed! Year 9 arrived at the Sports Hall filled with ideas and imagination. Set the task of creating an App for the company Ryman, the year 9's worked tirelessly all day in groups to come up with innovative ideas that could send them to the final, being held next year.

Eight teams were selected from the year group and a wild card to present their App concept to our resident dragons; Mr Williams, Mr Scott, Ms O'Grady and Mr Thomas. Prepared with intimidating stares, sharp dress sense and a business like bravado the dragons put the teams through their paces. Our Year 9's passionately sold their ideas facing a barrage of probing questions.

Our winners on the day and the team going to the finals to pitch their idea are the group known as Ryman Reality, with a strong concept for an app that will hopefully put themselves and Lymm High into the spotlight!

The final will be an exciting opportunity where they may get the chance to pitch their idea to celebrities such as Theo Paphitis, Dick & Dom, Eddie the Eagle and Lord Sugar to name but a few that are currently involved with the project.

Mrs Morris (Head of Ethos) commented "we are incredibly proud of the way our year 9 cohort conducted themselves on the day! They have shown imagination, enthusiasm, and determination representing our school in the best way possible. It was a revelation to see so many students in one place, working so hard, the energy in the room was electric!"

The day does not end there, the National Enterprise Team have spotted students in the year group who individually, have demonstrated promising entrepreneurial skills. These students have been told to independently upload their ideas to the company Facebook page and submit an independent entry. We will keep you posted on this exciting endeavour, and wish our year 9 team success in the finals! Bring it on!





BANK OF ENGLAND TARGET

On the 22nd November our team, Josh Donley, Joe Dowdeswell, Dan Hodgson, Matteo Johnson, Sam Furness, Olly Oakes, and Charlie Litherland, went to the Chancellors Hotel in Manchester for the Bank of England's economics competition. In front of Bank of England officials, we presented our monetary policy decision on how to meet the government's 2% inflation target. For over a month beforehand, we prepared our presentation using economic data from numerous sources and came to the conclusion that the base rate should remain at 0.25%. Having presented our ideas to the headteacher, Mr Johnson and Mrs Hill previously, we were excited for the opportunity to present in front of established economists and Bank of England members. On the day we felt a large amount of pressure; however we were extremely pleased with how the presentation went and especially with how we reacted and

responded to questions from the judges. Unfortunately we didn't finish in the top two to qualify for the next round, although a teacher from another school complimented us on our presentation and was surprised that we didn't progress. We took great pride from her comments. Overall, the Target 2.0 completion was an invaluable experience that we have benefitted greatly from, most importantly in terms of gaining greater economic knowledge on the topics we covered, but also skills that we can transfer into everyday life such as presentation techniques. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gives thanks to Mrs Hill and Mr Hayes for their help in making the trip happen.

by Joshua Donley, 13AH

GERMAN EXCHANGE

In July our German exchange students had the great pleasure of visiting our partner school in Germany.

Based in Lauf, students travelled via Munich and Nuremberg then caught a train for the final leg of their journey: an adventure in travelling in itself!

The weather in Germany was superb, with students swapping a miserably rainy North West climate for 28 degrees of warm sunshine and blue skies. They were able to enjoy refreshing swims in outdoor swimming pools.

The students also experienced German school life: an essential part of the exchange experience, following the continental day of very early lessons with school finishing around lunch time.

They really enjoyed the beautiful countryside, trips to medieval towns and villages and learning about European history first hand through visits to key historic cities and museums. This enabled them to

not only improve their German (which they did) but also improve their knowledge of German culture, society and history – essential components to success at GCSE and A level.

Overall the trip was superb and students highly recommend the experience to all.

We welcomed in return, two teachers and seventeen students from Christoph Jakob Treu Gymnasium in Lauf, Bavaria to our school in October, for the return leg of the German Exchange. They had a busy week with their host families, trips to Liverpool, Manchester United Football Ground and Alton Towers, as well as having some time spent in school. Everyone involved had a happy and enriching time.



TRIPS AND VISITS

ITALY

Fifty Year 10 students from Lymm visited Italy on an exciting educational visit in July. The students had an extremely busy 4 days, with visits to Rome, Vesuvius, Pompeii, Paestum, as well as a guided tour of Naples underground and a trip to a mozzarella farm.



KRAKOW

This trip was a great experience for our students. We visited Auschwitz and were given a three hour tour of the work camp and the death camp. Our students were moved to hear about the horrors of what had happened here and learnt a lot from our very knowledgeable tour guide.

We visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine and travelled 327m underground down a very narrow wooden stair case. We were able to see where salt had been mined over periods of hundreds of year and to see the statues created from salt. Luckily there was a lift to bring us back up to the top!

We spend some time in the beautiful Old Square in Krakow and saw lots of old buildings and heard the trumpet player from the bell tower. We also went on a walking tour of Krakow and visited the Jewish area, synagogues and the area which once housed the Jewish ghetto.

LONDON

On Thursday 20th October, our Year 10 History students took an enjoyable trip to London in order to broaden their knowledge on crime and punishment and Elizabeth I. We visited the National Archives to investigate actual documents from the reign of Elizabeth I to understand what she was like as a ruler. We also undertook a Jack the Ripper walking tour linked to our case study on Whitechapel during the Victorian era and then finally visited Westminster Abbey to uncover the changing religion during Tudor times. Students were fantastic throughout!



NEW YORK

The half term break saw the inaugural Business Studies and Economics trip to New York. The students had a fantastic time exploring the city whilst enhancing their knowledge and awareness of business and economic issues.

We were fortunate enough to watch a meeting taking place in the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations Headquarters and it was a great opportunity to see economic theory in a real life setting. Guided tours of Madison Square Gardens and Macys provided valuable insights into event management and marketing. We also enjoyed a walking tour of Wall Street and the financial district.

Along with the educational aspect of the trip we managed to take in the sights which included a trip to the top of the Empire State Building, Ellis and Liberty Island ferry cruises, a stroll around Central Park and a poignant visit to the 9/11 memorial. It was a wonderful experience for the students and one they won't forget in a hurry.

TYN-Y-FELIN SCHOLARS TRIP

Wednesday last week saw 33 Year 11 Scholars attend a 3 day 'Shooting Stars' residential at Tyn-y-Felin, a series of intensive revision workshops alongside some aspiration activities looking at future career paths.

Whilst the students enjoyed crabbing and a blustery walk to Silver Bay via the field of cows, they were also put through their paces with intensive Masterclasses in English, Maths and Science.

Highlights of the trip included creating a maggot maze; and one student nodding off in the meditation session and being 'gently' awoken an hour later. All the students put in 110% effort and really pushed themselves to the limit. We are sure they will keep up this level of enthusiasm and dedication in preparation for their exams.



PE AND SPORT UPDATE

It has been an incredibly busy period for the PE and Sport Faculty. We have had an unprecedented number of fixtures across a range of sports for both girls and boys. The U14 girls football team remain unbeaten and have progressed in to the quarter finals of the Cheshire Cup with a fine 5-1 win over Congleton High School. More recently they beat Alsager High School 3-2 in an extremely close encounter in the National Cup 4th round. This means they are likely to play Thomas Telford at home, with a 1.30pm kick off pencilled in for the 13th December.

Pleasingly, the U16's and first XV have both reached their respective Cheshire Cup finals. The under 16's secured their passage into the final with an excellent win over Bridgewater, whilst the first XV narrowly beat a very good Wilmslow team 11-8. The U16's will be playing in the final against Wirral Grammar with game being held at Chester Rugby club after Christmas. The first XV will play Stockport Grammar in a game that will kick off at 2.30pm at the A J Bell stadium on Sunday 18th December as a curtain raiser to the Sale Shark versus Saracens Aviva Premiership fixture.

On the 11th January, the first XV will again be in action, hosting Coopers Company, Coborn in the NatWest Plate quarter final. The game will be starting at 2.15pm at Lymm High School.

The U14 boys hockey team consisting of pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 performed extremely well against King's Macclesfield. Despite going down to an early goal, they played some fantastic hockey and deservedly got back into the game with a great goal on the counter attack scored by Alex Jackson. Unfortunately, we conceded a late goal to lose the game 2-1; however, there were many positive signs for the future.

It has also been a busy few weeks for the girls hockey teams, with both indoor and outdoor games. The U19, U16 and U14 girls played in the county indoor hockey tournaments over the last two weeks. Having drawn 1-1 with Loreto outdoors, the U14s enjoyed their first tournament adapting to the change in skill required to gain a win, a draw and two losses. The U16s narrowly lost their first game 1-0 and again lost the second by the same score to a late goal in the last 30 seconds of the match. The girls bounced back and went on to win the next two games, narrowly missing out on progressing to the finals. For the U19 girls the indoor marked the end to a busy first term and despite having all the pressure the girls were defeated in both games through break away goals. Luckily the team have had a fantastic outdoor season to date and look forward to continuing this after the Christmas break where they will play in the Cheshire finals.

Finally, ten students represented the school on Saturday 26th November in the final schools cross-country races at Walton Gardens.

Whilst their parents shivered in the frosty conditions, the students ran 2 or 2.8 km. Results were as follows:

Minor Girls year 7:

Eva Ferris 2nd, Olivia Molden 3rd, Lydia Kelley 6th

Minor Boys year 7:

Reece Connell 2nd, Findlay Smith 9th, Joseph Chadwick 16th. Unfortunately, Charlie Pemberton was unable to finish the race.

Junior Girls year 8: Katie Swann 14th

Intermediate Girls year 9:

Amy Nuttall WINNER, Twigg Falloon 15th.

Congratulations to all involved.



THE A TEAM

Well done to all the girls football teams that have been competing in the Warrington 7 aside league over the last three weeks.

Over sixty girls from Lymm participated in the competition. The year 7's fielded two teams with the A team finishing in second place and qualifying for the next round. The year 9 team won the U14 league, continuing their fantastic season. Both of the teams will represent Warrington in the County competition held next year.

MOLLY FOR ENGLAND

Congratulations to year 13 student Molly Clark on her inclusion in the England U18 Handball team for their upcoming fixtures. The team are scheduled to play fixtures against Scotland, Ireland and Australia in Liverpool in early January. Well done and good luck!



BASKETBALL SUCCESS

The year 7 basketball team competed in the Warrington Championships on December 7th entering two teams into the 6 team tournament. The A team won the overall competition unbeaten with 4 wins and 1 draw and were led exceptional by captain and top points scorer Matt Beattie. The B team finished in 5th position which was a great achievement considering many players had not played basketball before. A special mention for Leon Colwell who led them B team as captain and top points scorer Hamish Scott- Heron who despite never playing the game before took 3 baskets.

Squad Players: Jake Henshaw, Matt Beattie, Ewan Hacker, Toby Ward, Harley Priest, Jack Clarke, Leon Colwell, Blaze Gibbons, Alfie Grant, Jack Speakman, Taylor Cooke, Rachel Beattie, Tom Nolan, Hamish Scott-Herron, Patrick Boyle