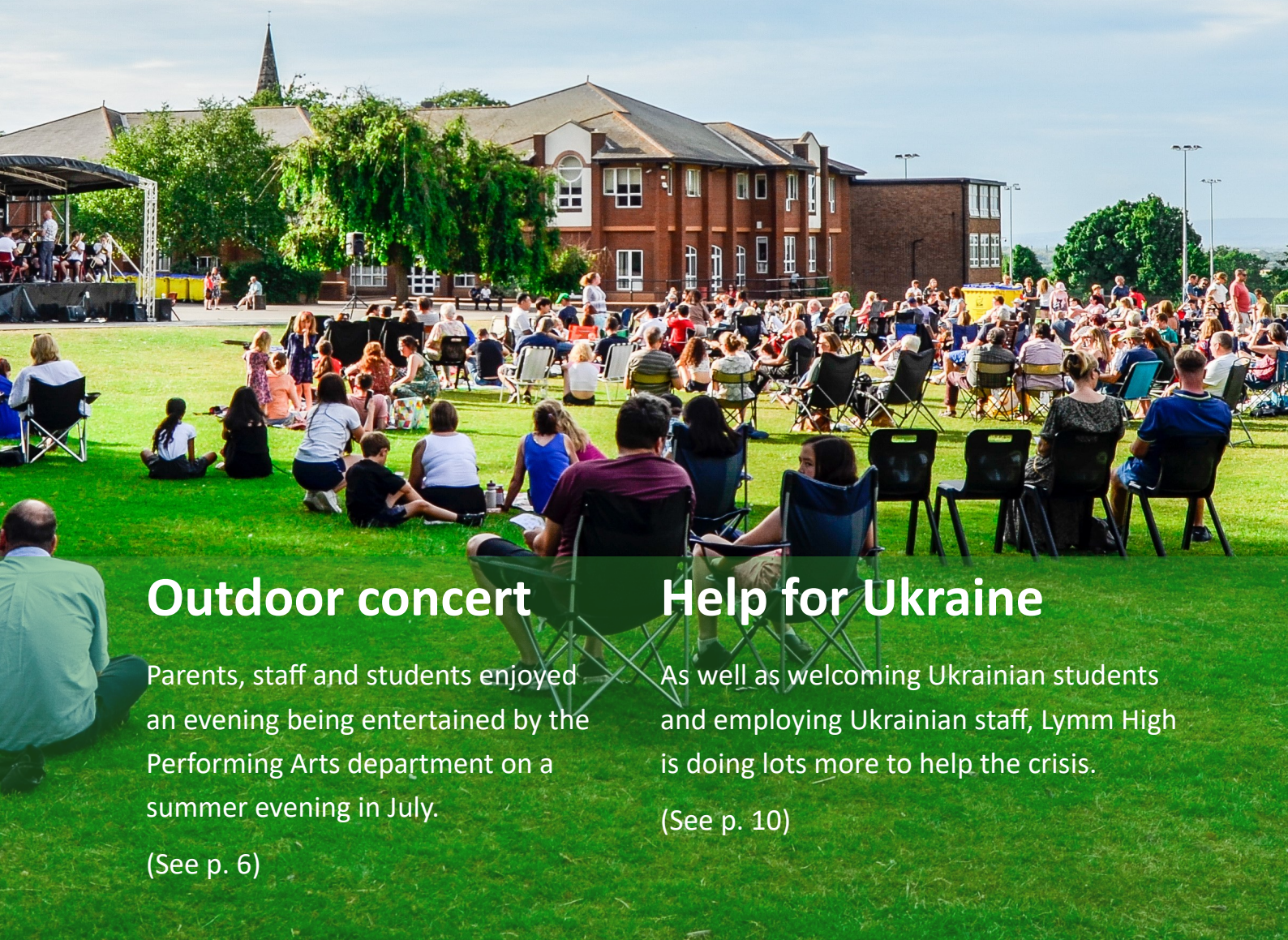




# ALUMNI

## LYMM HIGH SCHOOL



### Outdoor concert

Parents, staff and students enjoyed an evening being entertained by the Performing Arts department on a summer evening in July.

(See p. 6)

### Help for Ukraine

As well as welcoming Ukrainian students and employing Ukrainian staff, Lymm High is doing lots more to help the crisis.

(See p. 10)



# WELCOME

Dear Alumni,

Welcome to the Autumn issue of Lymm High's Alumni Newsletter. The summer term is always busy and there has been lots happening since our last newsletter.

The heatwave in July caused us a few issues with rearranging events, but we still managed to have our Sports Day on the last day of term (p.18). We were also able to enjoy one of the balmy nights watching our fantastic Performing Arts department at our outdoor Summer concert (p.6).

For our Founders' Day celebration this year, we held a Colour Run, which the students enjoyed immensely! We hope their parents felt as pleased when they saw the state of them returning home! You can see some of the 'colourful' photos on pages 8 and 9.

There is lots more information on our new-look website [www.alumni.lymmhigh.org.uk](http://www.alumni.lymmhigh.org.uk), including photos from our Year 11 and Year 13 Proms in June.

I do hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. We always like hearing from you. Please know that all alumni are always welcome to come back and visit at any time – I always enjoy taking ex-students and staff around the school and chatting to them about their memories of this great place.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams  
Headteacher

# JOHN BERRY AWARD

Lymm High introduced the 'John Berry Award for Exceptional Service' in honour of a much-loved colleague and friend who sadly passed away in May 2021. John Berry was our site supervisor and had worked at the school for well over 10 years. He was a hugely significant figure within our school community. His warmth, good humour, kindness and capacity for hard work made him very popular with colleagues.

This year's winner of the John Berry Award was Anne Mogeey from Student Services. Speaking at the presentation in October 2022, Gwyn Williams said that Anne consistently went above and beyond in her work with students and that nothing was ever too much trouble. Ruth Ball, Head of Safeguarding, said that "Anne was the glue that held Student Services together".



## LYMM IS LINKED IN

Thanks to a nudge from one of our former students, Lymm High is now on LinkedIn. This means that all of our current staff, past employees and Alumnites can now link to Lymm High as either a company or education provider.

LinkedIn has a large community of professionals, meaning as a school we can reach a large audience to promote the school for many reasons, one of which is being a good place to work. If you are on LinkedIn already, please connect with the school's page. We will be posting vacancies on the page and would like these to be shared with your professional networks to increase our reach.

As our ex-student said: "I'm so proud of my Lymm High roots and it seems a shame that the page isn't showcasing the school on a platform that will help so many of your students find employment."

## IN MEMORIAM: MR MARK JACKSON

We were saddened to hear about the passing of a valued colleague, Mr Mark Jackson. All our thoughts and best wishes are with his family.

Mark Jackson was the kindest and most humble of men, who will be very sadly missed by everyone who knew him. He worked as a peripatetic teacher at Lymm High School for over 20 years and in that time supported numerous students through their instrumental and GCSE exams. He shared his outstanding musical ability and expertise as a guitarist teaching classical, rock and jazz styles and had an exceptional ability to communicate with pupils of all ages and abilities.

In his quiet and unassuming way, Mark guided his students to achieve outstanding results and Lymm High School will always be grateful for his invaluable support, contribution and dedication to our students. His stoic and selfless approach to life has left an imprint on our hearts.

# SUMMER OF SUCCESS



It's hardly surprising that our A' Level students had high levels of nerves prior to receiving their results this summer.

Not only did the 2021–2022 Year 13 students have two years of Covid disruption, they hadn't sat public examinations since their SATs in Year 6 at Primary School. This year group was the cohort that were unable to sit their GCSE exams in 2020. As such, it was especially satisfying to see such a superb stream of results and lots of happy faces at Lymm High on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Like-for-like, the results were even better than the excellent ones we were getting before the pandemic hit.

Almost all students have confirmed places at the universities of their choice. This includes very high numbers going to the prestigious Russell Group universities. Others have won much sought-after apprenticeships.

"It's important to stress how proud we are of *all* the students in this year group and just how many individual challenges were met", said Mr Williams.

"Lymm High is one of the very highest performing schools in the North West and indeed the whole country."

"They have worked so hard and showed so much resilience, maturity and good humour throughout the last couple of years that they thoroughly deserve all the success they have had. I am just so proud of all of

them, as indeed I am of the staff who have worked so hard to help make all this happen."

Following the tremendous success of the Year 13 students, Year 11's GCSE results were equally as impressive. We are trying to be modest and are waiting for the official government data to be published in October before we share too much with parents. However, we expect this data to confirm that Lymm High is one of the very highest performing schools in the North West and indeed the whole country. To give just one statistic for now, over 49% of all GCSE grades were at 9–7 (i.e., the old A\*– A).

More information on our exam results will be shared once the official DfE data is released later this autumn.

# MEET THE NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Head of Student Leadership

### Atticus Burnett

“I am thrilled to represent Lymm as Head Student. Over the course of the year, I aim to produce a year-book for the Sixth Form community and to develop the strength of university applications from the school. I hope to do this by increasing super curricular involvement through subject-specific events and societies, and through providing mentorship for Year 10 and 11 students. I endeavour to create more accessible Student Voice and to assist members of my team to work towards their own leadership goals. Most significantly, I would like to strengthen the Lymm community and ensure that all students are proud of their education and feel supported in deciding their next step.”



## Deputy Head Students

### Ella McCarthy

“Throughout the year I hope to explore my passion for human rights by inspiring and modernising the school's outlook on diversity and inclusion. I will strive to achieve this by raising money for the Anthony Walker Foundation and reforming the way we teach Life Programme.”



### Louisa James

“I aim to reinforce our school's values of social responsibility by integrating the school into the wider Lymm community where I hope to build a bigger and better social network of a range of ages. I want to recognise those that go above and beyond the expectation as well as addressing current social issues.”



# SUMMER CONCERT

Parents, staff and students enjoyed an evening being entertained by the Performing Arts department on a lovely summer evening in July.

The Lymm High Summer Concert 2022 took place on an outside stage on a glorious summer evening. The audience watched from deck chairs and picnic blankets scattered across the school field.

The show started with the Boys' choir singing *Riptide*, and the Girls singing *Yellow* and *Rolling in the deep*. The Year 8 singers then performed their rendition of *Imagine* (see p.10).

The brass band followed with a varied array of musical pieces, including *Funky Town*, Billie Eilish's *No Time To Die*, and *The Final Countdown*. James Brown's *I Feel Good* was a particular highlight!

During the interval, the audience were treated to a hog roast and salads, served by the school's catering staff. There was also a bar, run by the PTA, which offered welcome refresh-

ments on the very balmy evening.

To the right of the school field, a cricket match was being played and the distant thwack of leather on willow helped emphasise the English countryside at its best. Lymm High's spectacular grounds couldn't have been on better display.

The second 'Act' of the concert featured Lymm High's String ensembles. The juniors per-



formed first and included students from our partner primaries playing *Syke Boat Song*, *Pop-corn Pizza* and *Fairy Dance*. The senior strings covered *Hallelujah*, *Viva La Vida* and *Angels*, and featured a troupe of Year 8 dancers who performed in front of the stage.

Year 9 Bella Galloway then gave a powerful rendition of Adele's *Make You Feel My Love*. Zac Green and Izzie Rothwell followed with *Fields of Gold* as a tribute to two much-loved members of the Performing Arts department who sadly passed away this year.

The Concert was brought to a close with Chuck Berry's *Johnny B. Goode* performed by the Staff band, featuring Mr Scott, Mr Gornall, Dr McCombs, Mr Starkey and Mrs Wheeler.





# COLOUR RUN FUN

Lymm High ran its first Colour Run for Founders' Day this year.

In July, it was fantastic to celebrate all of the money we have raised for our Hall charities.

The Colour Run event replaced the usual grounds walk, as staff and students created a fantastic party atmosphere. Starting from the art balcony, it was Arley's Year 7s who got us up and running and were met with a sea of red. As students continued around the course they got covered in green, blue, pink and purple

eventually returning as a wonderful dynamic array of colours.

As students were waiting to set off or for other Halls to finish, Mr Gornall, Ms Moreno and Mr Skilbeck kept the crowds entertained with plenty of music and dancing from the balcony.

It was great to see so many smiles on faces and raise money for our well deserving Hall Charities. The totals raised on the day were:

- Arley: Meningitis Trust = £1167.01
- Dunham: Help For Heroes = £881.06
- Moreton: The Christie Charity = £1049.06
- Tatton: Claire House = £886.35
- Walton: St Rocco's Hospice = £1104.14

It was Moreton who claimed the Inter-Hall charity shield this year.







# IMAGINING PEACE

Lymm High students have recorded a song to help support the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Dr McCombs explains how the track came about.

As the tragic events in Ukraine began to unfold at the end of February Mrs Richards suggested, well actually insisted, that we do something to support the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. So, on March 9th, Mr Gornall and I spent the day with 11 Year 8 Students to record a song, the proceeds of which would go directly to that appeal.

The song we chose was *Imagine* by John Lennon, from 1971, which is very famous for its pacifist message. Lennon is asking us to envisage a place where the things that divide us, like religion

and possessions, did not exist. It is a strong political message wrapped up in a beautiful melody. John Lennon must have realised that the softer approach would allow a wider audience to

*“If you want peace,  
first you must  
imagine it.”*

listen to his message: If you want peace, first you must imagine it.

Recording a song can be a long process, and an arduous one. Mr Gornall was re-

sponsible for the technical side of things – not just recording the sound but making sure it sounded like we were in a beautiful space, not Mr Starkey’s classroom. We made the instrument tracks digitally, with a combination of Mr Gornall and I playing in and programming the sounds in an audio processing software. After that we were ready for the students to sing. They sounded fantastic, which is especially admirable given that they learned the song and its harmonies only 1 hour before they began to record the track.

We're very proud of the track we were able to produce and so we shared the track with our colleagues at World Class Schools, who said: *What a brilliant initiative, and a well-deserved nomination, we're delighted to put your students forward for our character award* (Maria Georgiou, Project Manager, World Class Schools).

We were runners up for that award, and since then the song has been shared across all of the World Class Schools media platforms. It's also been played a number of times on Lymm Radio, who are also really impressed by the song.

There's still time to stream the song on Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube, with money going to the appeal every single time you listen to the track.



## Supplies for Ukraine

When news of the Ukraine attacks broke, staff and students within the school began to consider what support could be offered to those in need. Several students suggested donations of helpful items would be preferable such as clothes, food and medical supplies. We thought the donation of these items would resonate more with students as they could see exactly what support was being given. We contacted several Polish aid organisations in the local area but unfortunately their donation centres were already at capacity. We were then given a contact of a Ukrainian lady who had successfully set up a charity in Manchester. Over the past few months we have developed a relationship with Oksanna and her fabulous charity.



Mr Hayes and Miss Moreno delivered two minibuses filled to the brim with essential supplies.

Oksanna also came into school to film a video with our Sixth Form media students. This video was then shown in assemblies to illustrate to students what had happened to their donations and how our school has been part of a much wider collaboration to support Ukraine.

# GREASE IS THE WORD!



Live productions are back at Lymm High, bigger and better than before!

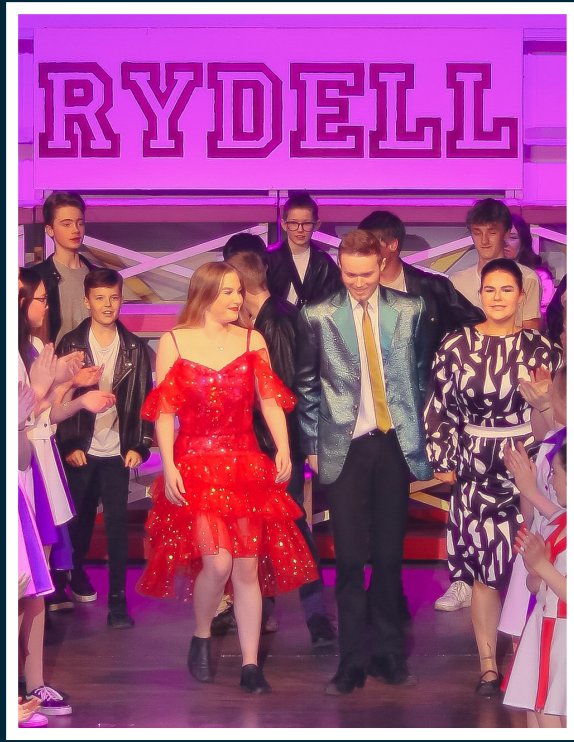
Friends and families were welcomed back to the school hall earlier this year for our latest production '*Grease the Musical*'.

This production was extraordinary in many ways, not least for the timing of the show in the middle of the spring term. Also, for many of our young performers this was their first experience of appearing on the school stage. "There has been an infectious energy and excitement around rehearsals and the cast have been incredibly kind and supportive of each other", said Mrs Richards.

The show is full of fun, energy (and cheese!) and the audience was encouraged to take some of the outdated themes with a pinch of salt. "This raised much debate in rehearsals", said Mrs Richards. "We have, however, had a huge amount of fun putting it together!"

The audience clapped and sang along, and were treated to an American-style diner and PTA Bar during the interval.

The Performing Arts department is now actively rehearsing for the next big production in November: *Beauty and the Beast*.





# PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE UPDATE

There has been a fantastic response from the community to the launch plans for a new centre for the performing arts in Lymm.

Many groups who would use the centre have been getting behind the project. Lymm High Governor Kieran Walshe, who chairs the Lymm Performing Arts Working Group, said: "We've had great support from groups and individuals from the outset and throughout our com-

munity consultation last year, but we were blown away by the response to the launch, on social media and in person."

Funding for the centre is now part of Warrington South's £3.4 million Levelling Up bid to central government. "This bid is crucial to getting this new facili-

ty for Lymm and we are delighted with the support we have had from both the council and from Andy Carter MP, as well as Lymm Parish Council, Lymm Festival and lots of local performance groups", said Kieran.

The result of the Levelling Up bid should be announced in the



next few weeks. If successful, the Lymm Performing Arts Working Group will be seeking funding from other fundraising sources.

The plans for the new centre envisage a purpose-built facility on the Lymm High School site, to be used by all schools and the community. It will have a large, professionally equipped performance hall which can be used for big events such as school productions, dance shows, concerts, Lymm Festival events, music gigs, and even touring companies and shows.

School's last production of the musical *Grease* (see p.12) showcased the talent at Lymm High which will benefit from the project.



### Can you help?

Visit the website at [www.lymmperformingarts.org.uk](http://www.lymmperformingarts.org.uk) where you can:

- Find out more information
- Offer to help with fundraising, and
- Read our [Business Plan](#).

# SUPPORT AS YOU SHOP

Support Lymm High School  
at zero cost to you!

If you shop at Amazon, why not switch to [Amazon Smile](#)? This features the same products at the same prices as the standard Amazon site. The only difference is, when you shop on Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of all eligible products to your chosen charity.

If you'd like to help Lymm High, from your desktop, go to your account and select the option to 'Change your charity'.

Or, from your mobile browser, select 'Change your charity' from the options at the bottom of the page and search for Lymm High School Parent Teacher Association.

Thank you for your support. It is much appreciated.



## WELLBEING CHAMPS

Year 8 students have been appointed as this year's 'Wellbeing Champions'.

Year 8 students were asked to apply for the role at the start of the academic year. This role will help to raise awareness of the importance of pupil wellbeing across the school community, in particular focussing on reducing the stigma around mental health difficulties for young people.

The group will receive training from Warrington Public Health Team and will work alongside staff members Mrs Hunter (Mental Health Lead) and Miss Newton (Mental Health and Wellbeing Manager) to deliver a series of wellbeing campaigns throughout the year.

In previous years, our group has visited local primary schools to raise awareness, this year we hope to similarly work within our local community to support positive wellbeing messages from the transition to high school through to the Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form Wellbeing Reps have also been appointed and will work closely with the lower school team. We look forward to seeing the fantastic work of the team and sharing it through the newsletter

The first event that the team worked on was 'Hello Yellow'. An initiative from the mental health group Young Minds in support of 'World Mental Health Day'. Staff and students were asked to try and swap an item of their uniform and wear something yellow to raise awareness for young people's mental health. The event was a huge success and will now be repeated every year at Lymm High School.





"TO BE ABLE TO EMOTE AND  
EXPRESS MYSELF THROUGH MY  
MUSIC IS MY FAVOURITE **PART**"



**PLAY  
YOUR  
PART**

*Help our campaign to open a new  
community performing arts centre*

*#PlayYourPartLymm*

# SPORTS DAY RESULTS 2022

Sports Day is the biggest sporting event in the school calendar and is looked forward to by staff and students alike.

This year's event was due to take place on Tuesday 19th July, but as we were in the midst of a heatwave with record temperatures, Sports Day was moved to the morning of Thursday 21st July. Thankfully, Sports Day's Field Events had taken place the week before when students took part in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, Discus, Shot Put and Javelin under much cooler conditions.



*Just before we broke up for the summer holidays, Walton was crowned Sports Day winners. Well done to everybody for making the event such a huge success!*





YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9		YEAR 10	
1 <sup>ST</sup>	ARLEY	1 <sup>ST</sup>	WALTON	1 <sup>ST</sup>	MORETON	1 <sup>ST</sup>	WALTON
2 <sup>ND</sup>	WALTON TATTON	2 <sup>ND</sup>	ARLEY	2 <sup>ND</sup>	ARLEY DUNHAM TATTON	2 <sup>ND</sup>	MORETON
	4 <sup>TH</sup>	DUNHAM MORETON	3 <sup>RD</sup>		DUNHAM	3 <sup>RD</sup>	ARLEY
			4 <sup>TH</sup>	MORETON	4 <sup>TH</sup>	DUNHAM	
		5 <sup>TH</sup>	TATTON	5 <sup>TH</sup>	WALTON	5 <sup>TH</sup>	TATTON

**Ben Keeley** broke the boys' 1500m record with a time of 4:42.63.  
A record that has been held since 1990!

1

**JOIN OUR LOTTERY**



2

**BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS**



3

**WIN CASH PRIZES**



**It's As Easy As**



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- The easy way to help us raise funds
- Local cash prizes every week
- Chance to win the £25k jackpot

To start supporting, visit:  
**[yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk)**  
and search for: Lymm