



ALUMNI

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL



Do you remember?

We have some excellent historic photos to share with you on p.14.

Proud of our environment

We have gained an Eco-Schools Award (see p.5).



WELCOME

Dear Alumni,

Just after our last Alumni newsletter was issued in the summer, we were able to celebrate Lymm High's best ever exam results! The A' Level results in particular were the best set of post-16 results the school has ever had. You can read more about our summer of success on page 3.

As we entered the Winter term, *High School Musical* was a particular highlight. This latest school production for upper school students only, received rave reviews. We've included some photos on page 8. Another highlight was the Year 13 trip to Iceland (page 16). Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and thankfully made it back just before the first volcano eruption on the island.

We always mark Remembrance Day with a

2-minute silence and our musicians play the *Last Post*. Students are informed about the significance of this day during Form Time and in assemblies. This year, we were also proud to display a 'hovering bloom of poppies' (see page 7).

We always like hearing from our alumni, and were thrilled when ex-student, and now professional footballer, Nathan Lowe visited Lymm High to inspire current students. You can read his Q&A on pages 18–20. We welcome all alumni 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



BEST EVER EXAM RESULTS

Lymm High celebrated another excellent set of exam results in summer 2023.

In fact, the A' Level results for our Year 13 students were the best set of post-16 results the school has ever had!

Mrs Jennings, Head of Sixth Form, said: "This is the cohort who didn't sit GCSE exams because of Covid, which means they missed out on the benefit of the experience of sitting public exams – so the whole process has been even more nerve-racking than normal. I am so proud of the way they have handled everything and just delighted to see them doing so well."

Despite fears in the press about pressure on university places, nearly all Lymm High Sixth Form students have secured places at their preferred universities. This includes very high numbers heading off to the most prestigious institutions, including Oxbridge, and onto the most competitive courses, such as medicine.

Mr Williams, Headteacher, said: "I'm simply delighted for the students. They have not had an easy time of it, and so to come through and post results like these reflects incredibly well on

them; they really do deserve all their success. I'm also delighted for their teachers, who have worked incredibly hard to navigate all the changes and uncertainty surrounding exams over the last few years.

The impact of Covid on national results over the past three years means that we need to be a little careful making direct comparisons but, taking into account that we have returned to pre-Covid patterns across England, A' Level results today are the best that Lymm High School has ever had. Given that outcomes in the Sixth Form

have been consistently excellent for some years now, this really is quite an achievement, and everyone involved deserves huge congratulations.”

A week after the A' Level results, Year 11 students collected exceptional GCSE results.

As was the case for Year 13, the impact of Covid means that this Year 11 cohort have had to face far more than their fair share of challenges in tackling their GCSE courses.

Mrs Feast, Deputy Headteacher, said: “I am incredibly proud of our Year 11 students and the outcomes that they have achieved. They have been a real pleasure to work with and I wish them all the very best with their next steps.”

Mr Williams, said: “We are delighted to see another set of truly excellent results. Year 11 had a lot to live up to and they certainly haven't let us down!”

The disruption to exams as a result of Covid over the last few years means we need to be a little careful making direct comparisons with previous years (at least until more national data are available) but, whichever way we look at them, this is another great set of results. For example, getting on for 40% of all GCSE grades were at grades 9–7 (i.e. at least grade A) and 35% of individual students scored 9–7 grades in at



least five different subjects. Almost 85% of students picked up 9–4 grades (i.e. C and above) in at least five subjects and 60% gained at least one grade 7.

Overall, Lymm High School continues to perform at a level that very few schools across the country are matching.

PRIZE-WINNING POETRY

Two of our Ukrainian students entered a poetry translation competition called the ‘Stephen Spender Prize’. They had to translate a poem from their own language into English and explain a little bit about the poem, any difficulties they had in translating the poem, and give a little bit of background to the poem/poet.

- Year 9 Sofiia Kladko received a participation certificate for entering the competition.
- Year 11 Taras Shalaiev received a commendation for his poem: ‘*Scary words if they are silent*’.



LYMM HIGH IS AN ECO-SCHOOL



Lymm High has been awarded an International Eco-Schools Award for excellence in improving environmental learning and performance.

This international accreditation recognises the amazing work our Eco-Committee has done in making Lymm High more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in fellow students.

The Eco-Schools programme was established in 1994 and is now delivered in more than 70 countries across the globe. More than 1 million pupils attended an Eco-School in England in 2022–23.

Students at Lymm High first formed an Eco-Committee, then

collaborated with Mr Hayes and our Estates Manager, Mr Hendrie, to conduct an environmental review. To assess how eco-friendly Lymm High was, they reviewed everything from biodiversity within the school grounds to how students and staff travel to school. Building on their findings, students then planned a year of action designed to advance their school's green credentials and improve their local environment.

The Eco-Committee chose three

Eco-Schools' topics to concentrate on: Biodiversity, Energy and Waste.

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Eco Reps built a bug hotel on the school field to increase the variety of local flora and fauna. This was made out of pallets, old bricks, dead leaves and foliage. They also oversaw the planting of an orchard on the school grounds, near Spud Wood, and prepared a flower bed next to one of the school yards ready for wildflowers to be planted.



The Eco-Schools Award can be seen on the wall outside main Reception.

Energy

The three main aims of the Energy Eco Reps were to:

- Reduce energy use
- Reduce energy waste
- Change mindsets

The school's lightbulbs are progressively being replaced with LED ones to reduce overall energy usage. In addition, passive infrared sensors are now operational in Sixth Form areas. The heating system has also been refined and a new pool cover in the Leisure Centre is further helping school to save energy.

Some of the Energy Eco Reps have agreed to be 'Power Rangers' and remind teachers at the end of Period 5 to switch off electrical devices and close windows.

Further plans to reduce energy are also being investigated, and include solar panels, pipework insulation and electric-vehicle charging points.

Waste

The Waste Eco Reps are investigating options for the recycling of food, paper, batteries, plastic bottles and books at school. Ideas for recycling stations around school are being looked into, and teachers will be encouraged to recycle by having dedicated boxes in their classrooms.

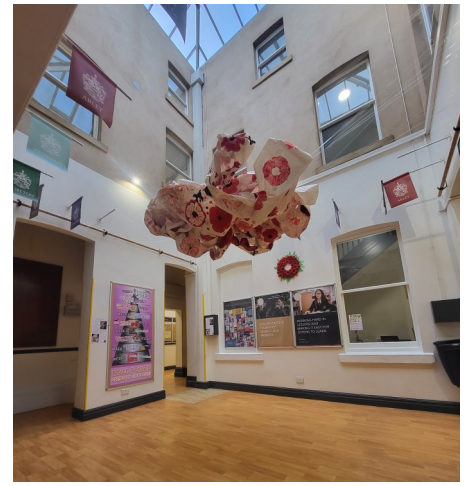
The recycling of school uniform and sport kit is another project for the Waste Eco Reps. Second-hand uniform is now available from the school shop.

Mr Hayes said: "I am so proud

of the students' passion on environmental issues. The maturity and vision they have demonstrated during meetings with Mr Hendrie has been fantastic to see. I am looking forward to seeing what areas they are going to focus on this year."

Eco-Schools England Manager, Adam Flint, said: "The Eco-Schools Green Flag award is an internationally recognised symbol of high environmental standards. The pupils and school staff that earn the award deserve immense credit for their hard work, determination, and creativity. Their passion for protecting our planet is an inspiration to us all."

To learn more about Eco-Schools, [click here](#).



BLOOM OF POPPIES

The Visual Arts & Technology faculty have taken over the ceiling space of the atrium for this year's Remembrance Day installation.

Taking inspiration from local artist Tony Green and his exhibition [Scribble](#) (currently on show at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery until Sunday 3rd March 2024), decorated lengths of paper were suspended within the atrium space.

The paper was scrunched together, folded, and pleated to

create this hovering 'bloom' of poppies.

The form symbolises the idea of the community coming together to honour and remember those who served within the Armed Forces and their sacrifices.

Students across all year groups contributed to the installation by drawing, painting or printing their very own poppy

during the days leading up to the 11th November.

"They worked extremely hard during break and lunchtimes to fill the reams of paper with poppies", said Miss Simms.

The phrase 'Lest we forget' was also written on the reams of paper using a wide range of materials and techniques.

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

For Lymm High's first upper school musical, students and staff worked extremely hard to deliver Disney's *High School Musical*.

The production ran from Tuesday 21st to Friday 24th November.

"Our students have excelled themselves again", said Mrs Richards. As well as confidently appearing on stage, they were also leading the backstage running of the show. "You're a talented bunch of young people", she said. "It has been wonderful watching you all flourish during the process of creating this production."

Despite the corny nature of the show, *High School Musical* does have a very positive and relevant message about being brave enough to stand up for who you are and to fulfil your own dreams and aspirations. It also has a very catchy score, great choreography and lots of basketballs!

Billy Clarke, who plays Ryan, said: "I love the sense of community that you gain from this musical. I want to say a huge thank you to the teachers, it's been another incredible production to be a part of".

All the hard work and effort paid off. The audiences certainly enjoyed watching the performances. Very well done to all staff and students involved. To view the full programme, [click here](#).

Coming next...Lower School Musical.





Thank you to Year 12 Martha Barry for the excellent photography.

MEET THE NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Head of Student Leadership

Lucy Williams

“Alongside my fellow leaders, this year I want to establish a mentorship programme between Years 13 and Years 11 and 12. Peer-to-peer support is beneficial for both the provider and the recipient. It would be particularly helpful regarding the choices on offer post Sixth Form.

I also want to establish stronger links with the local community. There are a wealth of voluntary organisations which would benefit from the support of young people. In return students will gain valuable experience and skills working with a cross-section of society.”



Head of Student Leadership

Grace Robinson

“As Head Student at Lymm, I aspire to reinforce our community values to ensure that every student feels represented and has their voice heard. I aim to promote inclusion and participation in all aspects of school life in order to create an environment that we can all be proud of.

As a student who joined in Year 12, I would like to ensure that the transition period is as supportive as possible, whether this be from GCSEs to A’ Levels or any students joining us from other schools. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to represent our school and I hope to leave behind a legacy of tenacity and hard work, which I am sure we can achieve together.”

Deputy Head Student

Edward Godber



“Throughout this coming year, I aim to continue the excellent work done in promoting super curricular involvement and enhanced social responsibility. Alongside this, I will strive to promote men’s mental health awareness and improvement across the whole school. Ultimately, my main aim will be to aid the Student Leadership Team, whilst also representing the school’s values and ethos.”

Deputy Head Student

Emily Forshaw



“I am excited to be a part of the Student Leadership Team. Over the next year, I hope to engage the school in more environmental initiatives alongside the Eco Reps and help the school become more sustainable. It is important to me that I strengthen Sixth Form as a community and continue to develop its relationship with the rest of the school.”

OPERATION TYNNY

‘Tynny’, our Anglesey-based outdoor learning centre, occupies a very special place in the hearts of many current and past students, teachers, parents and others. Stage 1 of its renovation work has now been completed and included complete renovation of the amphitheatre, replacement of all doors on the external shower block, replacement of the pumps/management system, and replacement of the plant room and girls’ toilet fire doors.

The aim is to reopen Tynny in Spring 2024. We’ll keep you updated!



CHAMPIONS OF CHESS

To celebrate the popularity of Lymm High's Chess Club, a tournament for both staff and students was organised by Mr Soykir. He tells us all about it here.

The Main school hall transformed into a vibrant arena where minds clashed in the timeless dance of pawns and kings. As we navigated the chess board we also navigated the realms of friendship and

shared passion.

The tournament at first exuded a spirit that whispered promises of a tradition in the making. This is the beginning of an annual ritual, a chess tradition, becoming



ing a part of our school's identity. As the games unfolded I couldn't help but wonder who would emerge victorious.

The tournament more than just a strategic battle embodies the ethos of our school's commitment to intellectual pursuit and community engagement. In the grand scheme of our school's story, this chess tournament stands out as a beautiful chapter, a testament to the power of an ancient game to create connections, build bridges and foster a sense of community.

This winter when the world outside may seem cold and indifferent Lymm High School came alive with the warmth of intellectual engagement and the joyous spirit of chess with our new chess boards.

Huge congratulations to Ambrose Lam who was the winner of the tournament. The Year 9 student battled through several rounds to reach the grand final.





YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY

**SUPPORT
OUR LOTTERY
TODAY**

**£1 per
week**

**Weekly
cash prizes**

**£25,000
jackpot**



Splitting the £1.00

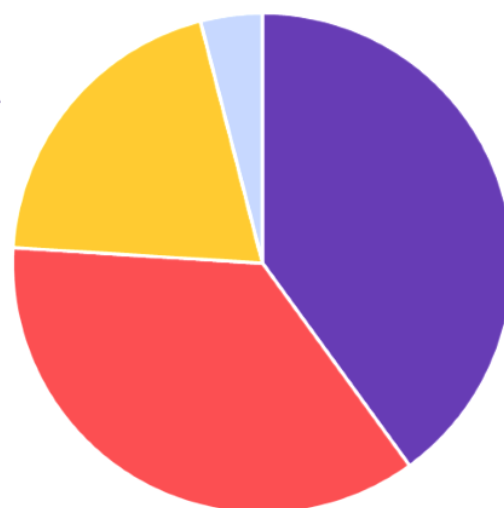
How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Lymm High School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Lymm High School



- 40p** goes to our school
- 36p** goes to cash prizes
- 20p** goes to admin costs
- 4p** goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

= £30 weekly cash prize

= £2,080 a year for our school



Buy A Ticket

GambleAware





DO YOU REMEMBER?

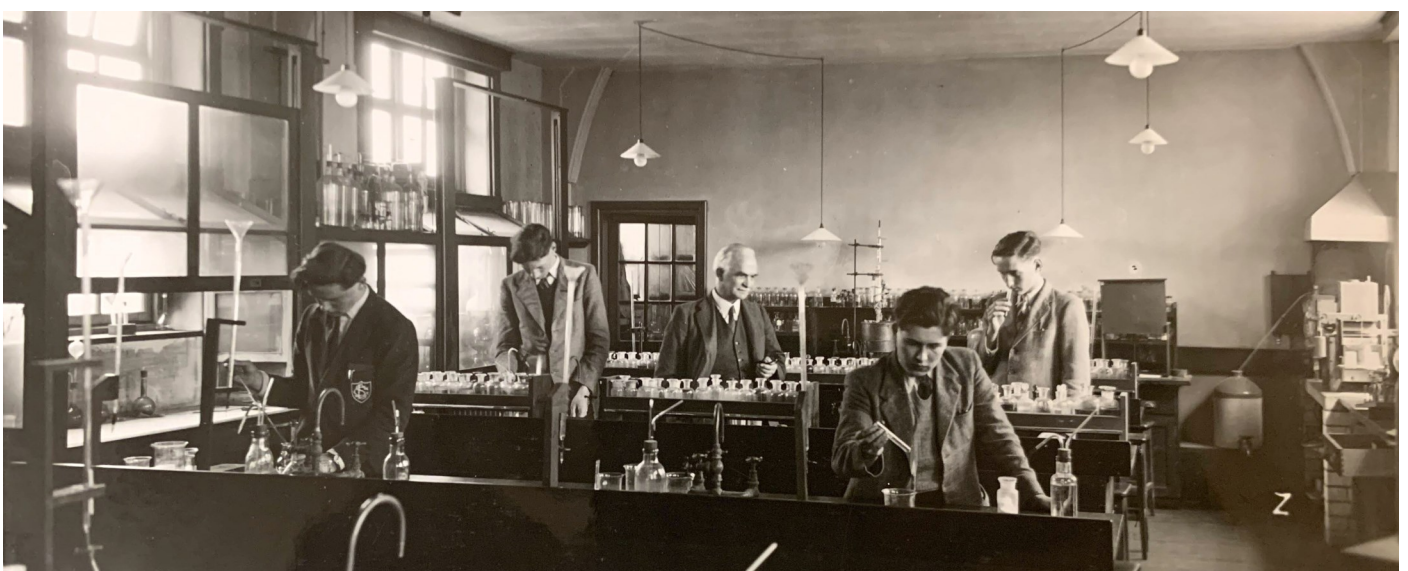
Huge thanks to Dennis Thomason for these photographs!

Did you know there used to be a swimming pool on the Lymm Grammar School site? It was opened in 1956 by the then Headmaster J.R. Canney.





The gymnasium and two labs were completed in 1938.



INCREIBLE ICELAND

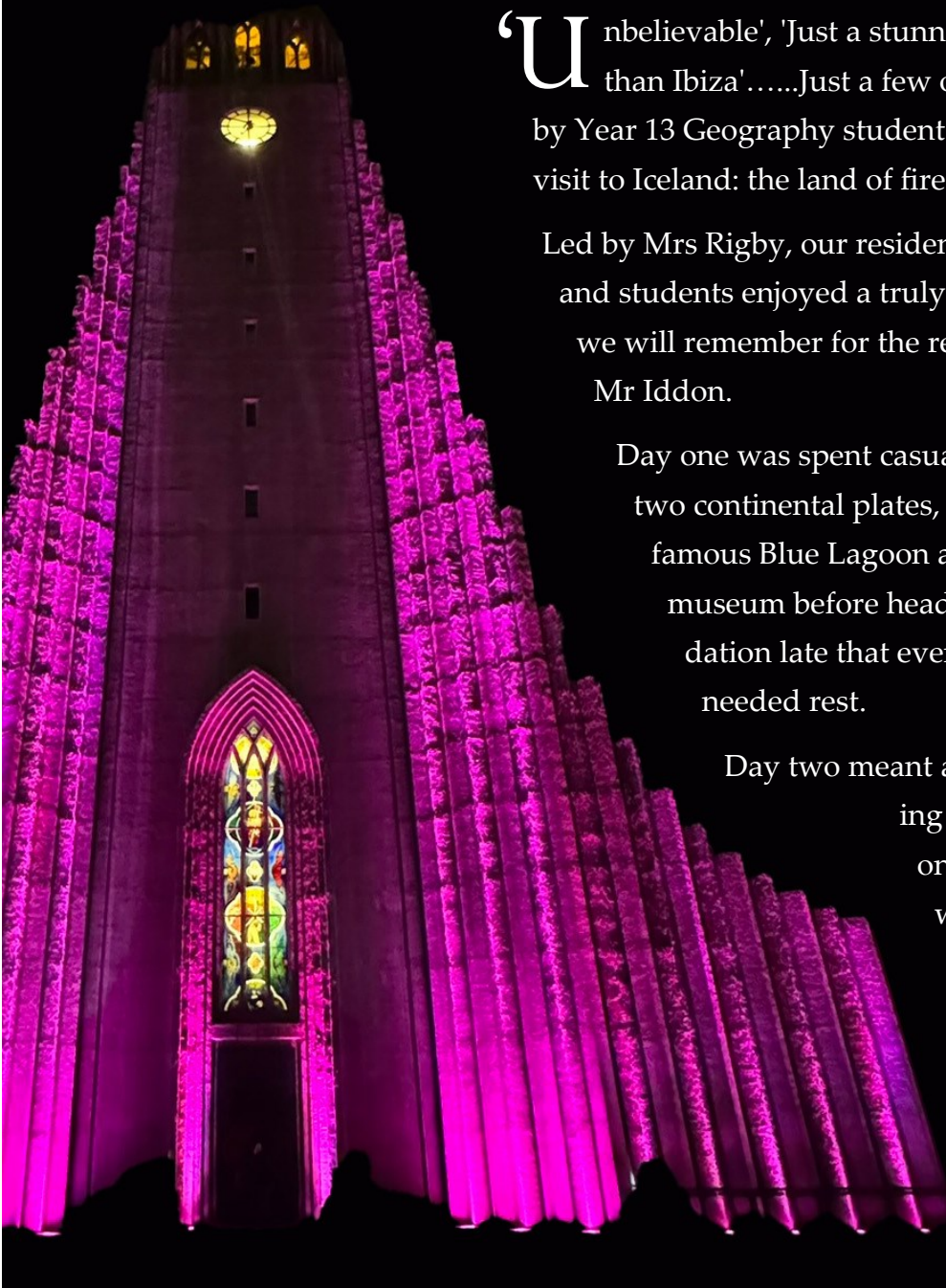
Year 13 students enjoyed a trip of a lifetime during the half-term break.

‘Unbelievable’, ‘Just a stunning place’, ‘Even better than Ibiza’.....Just a few of the comments made by Year 13 Geography students following their recent visit to Iceland: the land of fire and ice.

Led by Mrs Rigby, our resident Icelandic expert, staff and students enjoyed a truly extraordinary trip that we will remember for the rest of our lives, writes Mr Iddon.

Day one was spent casually walking between two continental plates, swimming in the famous Blue Lagoon and visiting the Perlan museum before heading to our accommodation late that evening for a much needed rest.

Day two meant an early start and heading out and up for a trek on a glacier – but there was time for a quick photo opportunity next to a dormant volcano en route.



The trip back to our accommodation included visits to two amazing waterfalls, one of which we were able to walk behind and experience first hand the deafening raw power of the water.

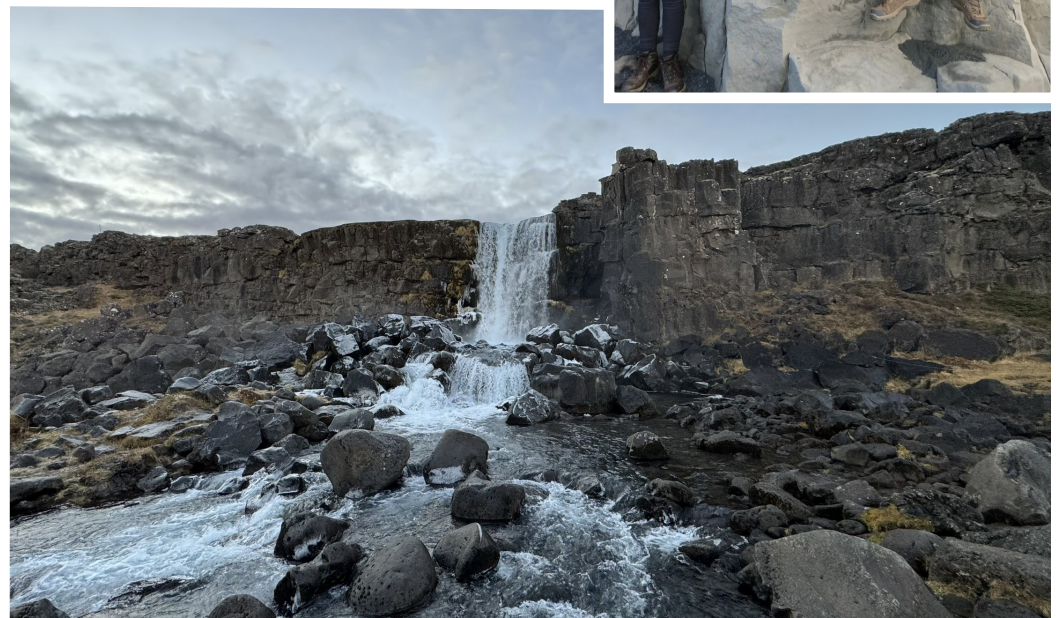
It is too difficult to pick one particular highlight but later that evening we were treated to one of Mother Nature's

true wonders: the Aurora Borealis. The northern lights that Mrs Rigby had ordered turned up as promised to make for an unforgettable experience and the ultimate Instagram photograph for our students!!!

Any tired heads on our final day were quickly blown away with a visit up and

around a volcanic crater, a meeting with a geyser, and a scary encounter with a volcanic beach and some very angry looking waves.

It was truly, an amazing experience and one that will live with us all well into the future. Thank you, Mrs Rigby; we are all extremely grateful.





FOOTBALL GOALS!

Professional footballer Nathan Lowe took time out of his busy schedule to talk to students about playing for Stoke City and getting a call-up to the England team!

The ex-student has been playing for Stoke City for 8 years since he joined their academy, aged 10. He spoke to Lymm High students about the value of education, being punctual, and learning to be confident both on and off the pitch.

Nathan is getting used to being recognised in Stoke and having fans shout out his name. And this is set to continue following his debut appearance for England's Under-19s squad in the three UEFA U19 Euro qualifying matches.



Next to his name on one of Lymm High's Honours Boards.

How did it feel when you got the England call-up?

The England call-up came as a surprise really. I was overwhelmed when I was rung by the Under-19 manager, and he confirmed to me that I would be involved and laid out the plans for the forthcoming week. Only when I turned up to London on the first night did I fully understand the magnitude of the situation and it was a great feeling.

What was the atmosphere like in Montenegro with the England Under-19s squad?

The atmosphere at the games in Montenegro were good, especially the first game against Montenegro; however, I had

played in front of a lot more fans for my club, so it wasn't as daunting as you'd expect. It was weird being able to hear my teammates talk on the pitch as they are normally drowned out by noise from the fans.

How did the rest of the squad receive you into the team?

I was nervous and didn't talk to many people at first but then as the week progressed, I gained confidence and started to put myself out there more. Even now after the camp has ended I still stay in touch with some of the players.

How did it feel when you were told to warm up the first time?

Believe it or not, I wasn't actually that nervous to come on as I had watched the game and just wanted to get on the pitch so when they told me to warm up it didn't really affect me.

Were you nervous walking onto the pitch?

After my first few touches of the ball, I had settled into the game and then from there I realised it was no different from any youth team game, just at a higher standard.

Which was your best game?

I did play a part in all three games of the Euro Qualifiers coming off the bench, getting 30 minutes in the first





(Montenegro), 25 minutes in the second (Wales), and 15 minutes in the third and final game (Austria).

How long have you been at Stoke City?

I've been at Stoke City since the age of 10 and have progressed through the ranks steadily until the age of 16 when I started to kick on and play above my age group consistently.

How did you juggle training and school work?

It was hard trying to balance my school work and football over the years, however I made sure to make time for my studies after training.

What does a standard day now look like?

My standard day now is quite a tricky one as I'm often required by three different age groups (U18, U21 & 1st team). My typical day starts at 8.15am and ends at 4.30pm as that's the scholars report time. However, the 1st team's day is a lot shorter with report at 9.30am and finish at around 1/1.30pm.

I normally train with the 1st team in the morning and then after lunch, we sometimes do gym work. When I get little snippets of time, and for a whole day on Wednesday (when the 1st team are off), I try and box off some education.

I live in 'digs' in Stoke during the week, which is basically me living with two other teammates and a family who gets paid to look after us. Since my family house is only 40 minutes away, I often come back to Lymm mid-week for the night and most weekends.

What's your best memory so far at Stoke?

I have made some great memories in my time at Stoke, with most coming in the last year since I signed as a professional. Naturally, making my debut at 17 in the Championship and the FA Cup against Premier League opposition Brighton are up there; and obviously scoring my first professional goal 12 days after turning 18, to win the game 3-2 in the 89th minute was special. My full debut in the Championship was also a big milestone.

Do you have any fond memories of Lymm High School?

I loved my time at Lymm High School and I have very fond memories from Years 7-11. At the end of Year 11 I was excited

for my new challenge as a full time professional but after a while I started to realise how good I had it at school. That's not to say I'm unhappy with my career choice, I'm definitely not; however, I sometimes do wish I could go back in time and relive all those happy memories.

What were your favourite subjects?

My favourite subjects at school were Business Studies, Maths, French and GCSE PE, mostly because I was alright at them but also because I had a passion and enjoyed studying them. I got decent enough grades in all of the subjects I took for GCSEs but I found it a lot easier to spend hours revising these subjects that I particularly liked.

What football team do you support?

Growing up I was a Manchester United fan because of my family. This was unpopular amongst my friends when we used to live in Hertfordshire but it was much easier to support them when we moved up to Lymm.

Do you play FIFA?

Yes I occasionally play the new FIFA but only for playing with my mates on pro clubs. To be honest I typically prefer shooting games as I enjoy them more and I'm probably better at them.