



# ALUMNI

## LYMM HIGH SCHOOL



### Tynny is back!

Student residentials at Ty'n-y-Felin are back up and running (see p.3).

### Afritwin

Lymm has partnered up with a school in Kenya (see p.18).





# WELCOME

Dear Alumni,

You will be pleased to hear that Lymm High's Ty'n-y-Felin outdoor education centre is now open again for visitors. Known affectionately as 'Tynny', the doors to this Anglesey-based centre were closed in 2019. With the Covid pandemic putting a halt to all trips during 2020 and 2021, the centre fell into disrepair. Since December 2022, our Estates Manager and Site Staff have been busy undertaking renovations, which include a complete overhaul of the amphitheatre, dormitory makeovers and a kitchen upgrade.

We have already had multiple school trips to Tynny (see pages 4–7). It's great seeing the centre back in operation. It holds a special place in the hearts of many current and past teachers, students, parents, Alumni, Governors and Trustees.

If you have any memories of your time at Tynny, please let us know at [alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk). We'd love to hear your stories!

It's not only residential trips to Tynny that are back in full force. As you'll see in this issue, we have held several successful trips over the last few months, including Berlin, the Battlefields, a thought-provoking tour of Poland, and half-term skiing.

We always like hearing from our alumni, and extend an invitation for any to come back and visit at any time (see p.9). 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



# TY'N-Y-FELIN IS BACK!

The outdoor education centre was officially opened on Wednesday 24th April.



It was a beautiful sunny day when Tynny Trustee and Alumni Rachel Davies was asked to cut the ribbon and officially reopen the centre.

Tynny Trustees, Headteacher Mr Williams, and other VIPs attended the reopening ceremony. Guests were given a tour of the refurbished building and were invited to walk down to the creek.

As well as updated facilities, Tynny now has its very own logo (as can be seen above) and staff and students (and Alumni!) can purchase Tynny-branded merchandise, including mugs, soft toys and T-shirts.

The opening ceremony coincided with our Year 12 Biology fieldtrip (see overleaf) so our Sixth Formers also enjoyed the celebratory cake and buffet!





# BIOLOGY FIELDTRIP



Year 12 biologists enjoyed 3 sun-filled days in Anglesey completing their required ecology practical, writes Mr O'Flynn.

On arrival, students and staff were greeted by a heartwarming grand reopening, complete with ribbon cutting and cake! After more than enough cake to last the week, students got stuck into their biology work.

Students and staff enjoyed 3 days of fieldwork under the sun. From going down to the creek on Wednesday to look at species distribution to wandering over the sand dunes to learn about succession and exploring the rock pools to understand species diversity on Thursday, there was plenty of work to undertake.

Friday saw my personal highlight of the trip, a visit to RSPB South Stack. Here boasted huge cliffs, a spectacular lighthouse, free ice cream and eight thousand cawing sea birds, including the elusive puffin. Even for the less ornithologically enthused it was quite a spectacle watching thousands of birds take flight to avoid an incoming seal.

It wasn't all sun-soaking and ice cream though, there was the serious matter of competitive rounders to take care of, though my class





batted well, butterfingers and fading light meant we crumbled at the end. The students couldn't have conducted themselves better

and were so good at getting on with things themselves, it felt more like a holiday than a school trip!





# ART RESIDENTIAL

Year 10 Fine Art students created a body of work that took inspiration from the beautiful landscapes that surround Ty'n-y-Felin.



The group of 26 students started straight away on their miniature projects. Workshops ran throughout the day with Mrs Taylor and Mrs Collins from the Visual Arts department. Both teachers ran workshops that approached the theme 'Open Air' in different ways, yet they both focussed on the glorious surroundings. Students spent valuable time outdoors, gathering primary research through photography and quick-timed sketches that they developed through their body of work, exploring a wide range of

materials and processes.

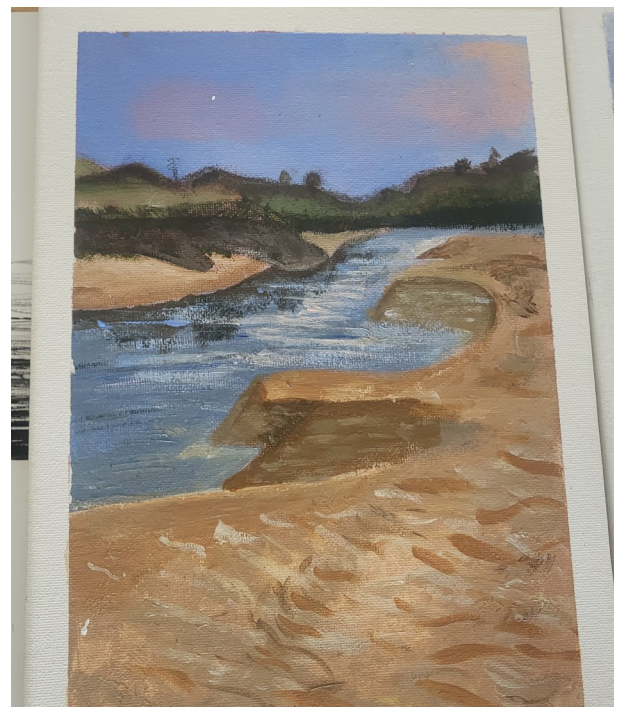
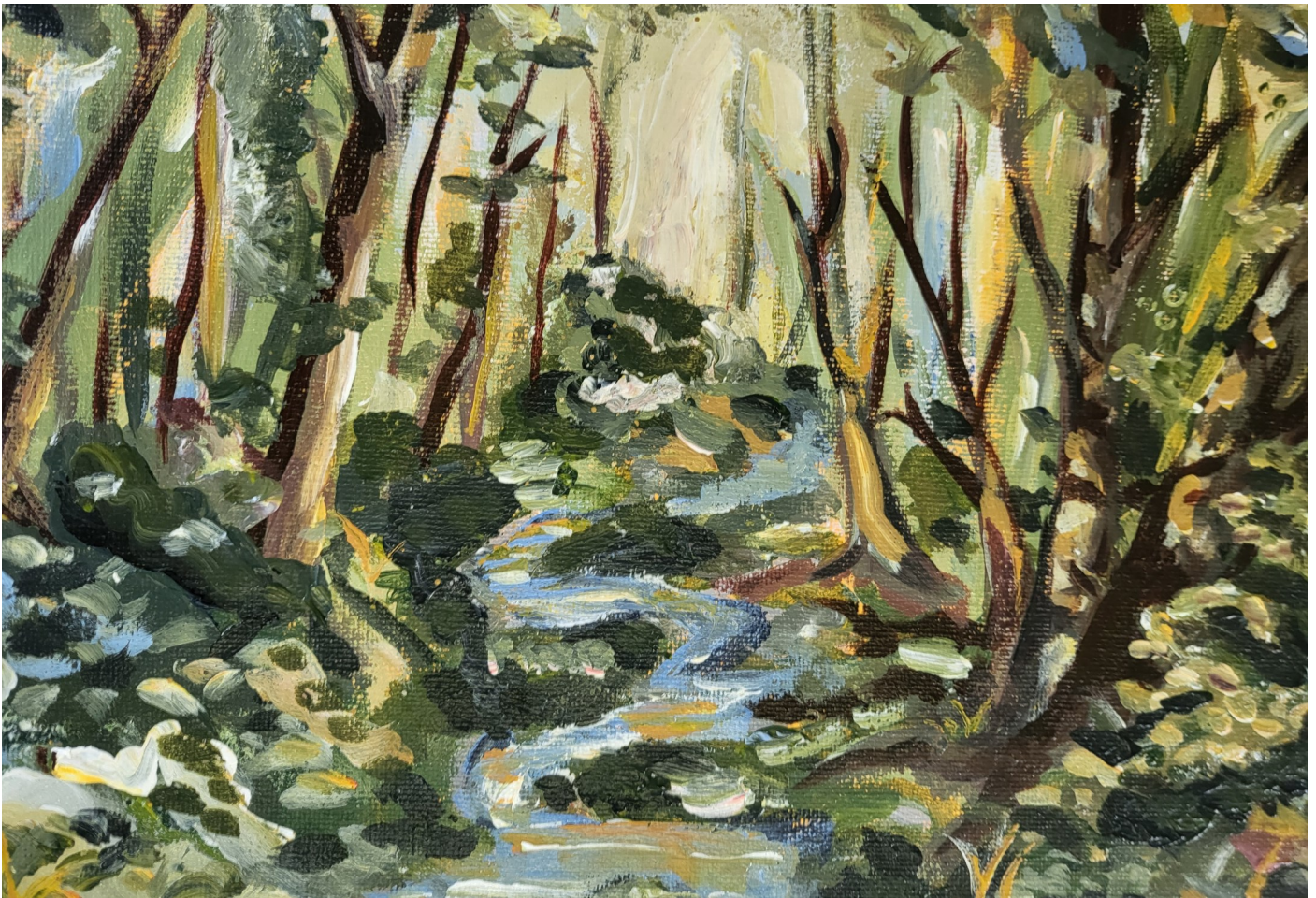
Miss Simms said, "It was amazing to see how much work students were able to produce over the 3 days at Ty'n-y-Felin. They all came away with an exciting body of work which will support their GCSE coursework projects".

Students and staff had a fantastic time. Particular highlights included exploring the creek at low tide, toasting marshmallows on the campfire, and seeing all of the students' work together in a miniature exhibition at the

very end of the trip.

"The trip was a huge success, and students created some really beautiful outcomes", said Miss Simms. "We have documented the trip and their work on our faculty Instagram (@lymmhighartsandtech)."







## GLEN SUMMERS



It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing of Glen Summers, aged 56 years, in March 2024. Glen attended Lymm High from 1979–1984 and then Sixth Form to 1986 doing 'A' levels. Glen was accepted by Worcester College at Oxford University to study Physics and then went on to do a PhD in semiconductor physics, to become Dr Glen Summers.

Glen relocated to Canary Wharf, working for Dow Jones, Barclays Capital and RBS. He eventually went self employed as a computer analyst. He loved the outdoors and over the years did a number of epic walks, Thames path, run 5ks, 10ks all over the country, climbed a few mountains, and visited USA and Japan.

Glen will be greatly missed by his family and friends, old and new.



## QUIET REFLECTION

Following our students' endeavours in the gardens of St. Mary's Church last July, the Curate has sent us some photos of how the outside area is looking now.

On Founders' Day 2023, several students were selected to represent Lymm High in this eco-community project. The aim of the garden tidy-up was to help the church in being able to offer a calming and peaceful green space where the community can come together for reflection and a moment of quiet.

As you can see from these photos, we certainly think this aim has been achieved.







## LYMM HIGH PAST MEETS PRESENT

Mr Williams recently showed a group of ex-students around Lymm High School. Some of the visitors came to Lymm Grammar School as long ago as 1948!

Students enjoyed reminiscing about their school days and seeing the changes since their time at Lymm. Some of the Alumni had travelled as far as

Australia and were delighted to squeeze in an impromptu tour.

“Thanks again to Mr Williams for showing us around and talking about the new extensions and hopes for the future”, said Gillian Roberts.

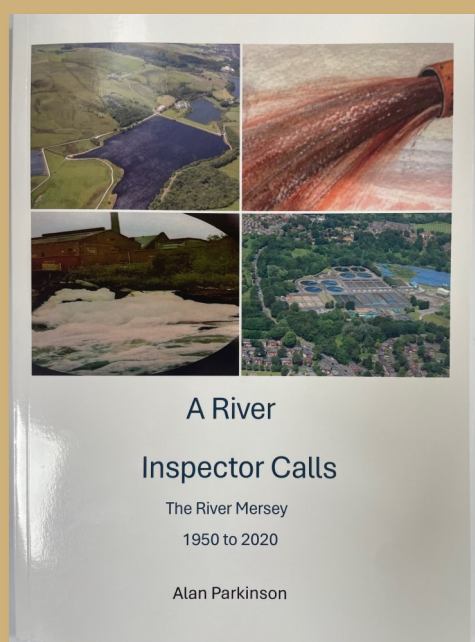
“Everyone was most appreciative.”

## RIVER MERSEY REMEMBERED

Alan Parkinson popped into Lymm High to drop off a copy of his latest book: *A River Inspector Calls*. Mr Parkinson's children, Chris and Zena, attended Lymm High School.

The book includes accounts of events of Mr Parkinson's time as a River Inspector and focuses on the River Mersey from 1950–2020. “The chronicle of the events that took place to restore the most polluted river system in the country, gives an insight into the changing attitudes to river pollution, and the general environment, that were unfolding”, writes Mr Parkinson.

The Geography department are thrilled to have a copy of the book, which covers local river Bollin and fieldtrip favourite Goyt.







## WINNING AT CIVIL ENGINEERING

Year 12 Lara McDonald's work was highly commended in the ICE CityZen Award.

The CityZen Award is a two-stage competition from the Institution of Civil Engineers that aims to promote engineering problem-solving. In the first part, students play the online CityZen game, which involves overcoming a series of civil-engineering-inspired challenges. Students must consider budgetary restrictions and community needs.

In the second stage, students apply their learning from the game by putting together a video proposal to suggest a civil engineering solution for a problem in their local area. Almost 1500 young people

from throughout the UK took part in the competition.

Sixth Former Lara's proposal was to remediate a brown-field site in Warrington (*did you know Warrington is the most contaminated town in the UK?*). The proposal discovered that by cleaning up this old industrial site, developers would have the space to build new and affordable housing in the area.

The judges were so impressed with Lara's proposal that they added a special 'highly commended' category to the list of CityZen winners.

Lara and her teacher Miss

Farmer were invited to attend a VIP lunch with the ICE's President Anusha Shah and have a tour of the organisation's prestigious headquarters at One Great George Street in Westminster.

You can view Lara's project on bioremediation of a contaminated brownfield site by [clicking here](#).





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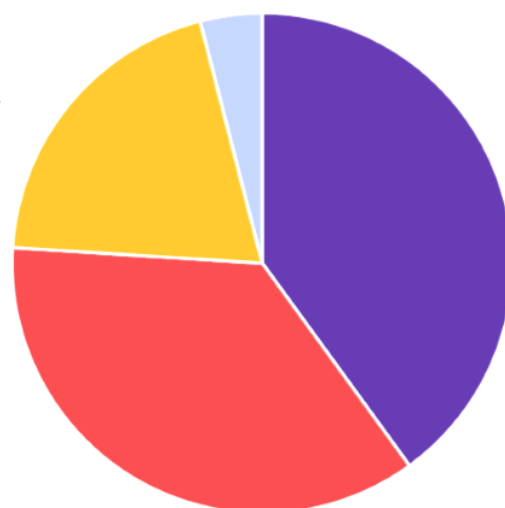
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# INSPIRING AUTHORS

The English department were delighted to welcome best-selling author Sophie Anderson into school to give a talk to Year 7 students.

Sophie wrote *The House with Chicken Legs*, which students have been studying since October and this offered them the chance to hear first-hand from the writer.

It was a real privilege to get to hear from the author herself about what inspired her to write the novel and her journey with creative writing.

Year 7 represented the school brilliantly and listened attentively to Sophie's talk, which also included some information about how the publishing process works.

At the end of the session, students were able to ask any

burning questions that they had about the novel or becoming a writer. Sophie provided advice to aspiring authors, and gave her own opinions on the characters in her book.

"The students came up with some fascinating questions and clearly gained a lot of insight from the answers provided", said Miss Melia.

Students were then invited to bring their own copies of the book into school to be signed by Sophie.

"During the book signing it was wonderful to see our students sharing their love of reading with one another, as well as



hearing them discuss their hopes to pursue writing as a career", said Miss Melia.

She certainly has inspired some of our students to keep following their creative writing passions, and we hope to welcome her back to Lymm High School.





A Year 12 student is photographing the sights around Grappenhall and Thelwall.

Over the past few months, Sixth Former Martha Barry has been helping Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council renew its website. The Council was in need of updated photographs to better showcase its local historic and beautiful villages.

Lymm High's teacher of Art and Photography, Mrs Collins, nominated the student.

"Martha has fully embraced this project and is an enthusiastic and able photographer. We're confident that this experience will help her achieve the A' Level grade in Photography that she is aspiring towards", says the Council.

To date, Martha has taken some beautiful photographs of key landmarks within both villages which are featured on the [new-look website](#). More images will be added as we move through the Spring and Summer seasons.

"We would like to acknowledge and thank Martha for her time and fabulous photography so far."





# FUN ON THE SLOPES

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With delays, an airport shuffle, minimal sleep and 50 teenagers what could possibly go wrong with this half-term ski trip?



Wow, let me tell you, this trip to Italy was an absolute rollercoaster ride! Picture this: cancelled flight, a change of airport, a never-ending day, and a rendezvous at a ski shop with 50 teenagers who were less than thrilled about the early morning start. I braced myself for a rocky journey ahead – little did I know how wrong I'd be, writes Miss Crowder.

After a night of minimal shut-eye and some seriously grumpy faces, those same 50 kids bounced back like energised puppies the next morning, raring to hit the slopes of Piancavallo. As for the staff? Well, let's just say we were still rubbing the sleep from our eyes.

But boy, did we hit the ground running! I couldn't believe the strides students made



since their days on the Chill Factore slopes. From potential floor-dwellers to ski pros in the making, the progress was jaw-dropping – seriously!

Yet, amidst all the skiing triumphs, the real highlights of the trip were the moments we shared as a group. Whether we were stuffing ourselves silly with pizza (seriously, it seemed bottomless), clinging to dear life on the alpine coaster (who knew death-defying could be so thrilling?), sneaking in a torchlit descent (risk assessment? What risk assessment?), or clumsily twirling on the ice rink (some of us were more graceful on skis than on ice), every memory was a high-light reel.

This trip, hands down, was the absolute best. I count myself lucky to have had such a fantastic bunch of students, even if they were a tad grumpy at 7.00 am, every morning!

A massive shoutout to the students and

parents who put their trust in me for this adventure, and major kudos to Mr Johnson, Ms Dixon, Ms Ashford, and Mr Dickinson for jumping on board and sacrificing their half-term break to make it all happen!





# MAGISTRATES IN THE MAKING



On Thursday 21st March, a group of students participated in the Young Magistrates competition, writes Year 8 Ben Shaw.

This event was held online with eight schools from the UK competing. The students had been preparing for this event since January.

The case we considered was about a taxi driver called Chris Wheeler who was assaulted by his drunken passenger (Jo Goodwin). We were trying to prove that Jo Goodwin committed actual bodily harm towards Chris Wheeler. The format we used was a magistrate court with six magistrates, an usher, a legal adviser, two defence and prosecution lawyers, the

defendant and four witnesses.

The trial was split into two rounds. In the first round we defended against another school. It was very close and the lead magistrate had the casting vote. Unfortunately, they voted guilty; however, this did not matter as the competition is based on the team's level of presentation not the verdict of the case.

In the second half we prosecuted against Jack Hunt School in Peterborough. We prosecuted professionally but the magistrates came up with

the verdict of not guilty. The case was very close but if the case was under the crime of common assault rather than actual bodily harm we would probably have prosecuted successfully.

The students enjoyed the day thoroughly and some were inspired to pursue a career in the field of law.

"They came second in their heat and I'm very proud of their hard work and determination", said Miss Dockerill.



# CATERING TRIP TO YORKSHIRE

On Friday 22nd March, BTEC Hospitality & Catering students set off to explore what the food industry has to offer in Leeds and Harrogate.

The first stop was a visit to Leeds Kirkgate market, one of Europe's largest indoor markets and a fresh food paradise. The market has been at the heart of the Leeds retail scene since 1857 and is home to some of the most characterful traders in the city, with businesses spanning generations and representing a wide range of nationalities.

Students spent time exploring the various stalls within the market and discovering the wide range of produce on offer alongside street food vendors and 'greasy spoon' cafés.



The group headed to Harrogate in the afternoon to visit the world famous Bettys Tea Rooms. Bettys Café Tea Rooms serves traditional meals, with influences from both Switzerland and Yorkshire, and offers exceptional food service. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed sampling some of the delicious treats on offer.

"The trip was a huge success", writes Miss Simms. "It was a fantastic opportunity for catering students to sample and see the latest methods, fashions and trends in the food world outside of the school environment."



# AFRICA CALLING

Lymm High is delighted to be launching a partnership with a school in Kenya.

Social responsibility is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to develop a sense of kindness, tolerance, integrity, and empathy to shape our students into socially responsible citizens at school and in their lives beyond Lymm High.

Therefore, we are proud to announce the launch of our very own Afritwin: a long-term partnership with a school in Africa that we are incredibly lucky to now embrace as part of our own community, writes Miss Tunstall.

Our mission is to work, collaborate and grow with a school



where we can make a real change. To achieve this, our

partnership has been established through the help of African Adventures: a unique travel company partnered with over 20 schools in developing areas of Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar. Through careful consideration, they have skilfully matched the strengths of our school with St Trizah: a school that is still in its early stages of growth.

In a developing area of the country, St Trizah is a school in Kenya, which provides a free







education and daily meals to 220 students between the ages of 3 and 17, from pre-primary to secondary level. The school was founded in 2009 by Yuvenalis Mokua and has 15 classrooms. St Trizah used to provide an education to both day and boarding students, but after it relocated to a new plot of land, the boarding school closed, and St Trizah now operates solely as a day school.

This exciting, long-term partnership will involve a variety of events, activities and continued support all year round for many years to come. We aim to build a long-lasting connection where we learn about St Trizah and their culture, whilst fundraising to make an invaluable difference to a community across the world beyond our school walls.

Education is a powerful tool that can transform lives and communities. Unfortunately, many children in Kenya face significant barriers to accessing quality education. By fundraising for St Trizah and spreading awareness at Lymm, we can contribute to breaking down these barriers and providing opportunities for countless children to learn, grow and build better futures.

**“Our unique school trip to Africa will give our students the opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom and develop new skills, whilst contributing to real change in a developing community.”**

dren to learn, grow and build better futures.

For students currently in Years 10–12, a trip to visit St Trizah is running for 13 nights from 13th July 2025. This exciting opportunity will allow us to see the true impact of our fundraising, embrace the community and immerse ourselves in their culture.

Whilst on the trip, students will partake in teaching English to the students, coaching sports, and building much needed classrooms and facilities. Beyond the volunteering, there are also opportunities to see the natural beauty of Kenya, learn the local dialect and take cooking classes in Kenyan cuisine.

For more information on this collaboration, [click here](#).





# PROBING POLAND

Year 9 undertook a History and Religious Studies trip to Krakow and Auschwitz.

The group flew to Krakow from Manchester and arrived at their city centre hotel late on Thursday evening on the 14th March.

On the following morning a coach transfer took them to Auschwitz-Birkenau where they split into two groups. They were then given a guided tour of the concentration camps.

The purpose of the trip was to deepen the students' understanding of the Holocaust. They gained a valuable insight into history to support their Year 9 studies, in particular the

module on Weimar and Nazi Germany.

"The students were absolutely fantastic", said the trip leader Mr Barnett. "They listened well and clearly appreciated the gravity of where we were. You could tell they were affected by it."

The next stop was the Wieliczka Salt Mine. At 800 years old, this is one of the oldest salt mines in the world and features chambers, sculptures, salt chandeliers, and an entire chapel carved from rock salt.

The trip spent 2 hours in the salt mines and had a guided

tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Apparently, the tunnels are long enough to stretch from Krakow to Warsaw!

"Amazingly, in the 2 hours we were there, we explored only 1% of the tunnels!", said Mr Barnett.

After the mines visit, the staff and students had some free time in Krakow's beautiful old square. It was then back to the hotel, dinner and straight to bed. Everyone was exhausted!

Miss McMullen, Pastoral Support Manager, said: "It really was an amazing trip."





WELCOME  
TO ALL

# Family FUN DAY



SUNDAY, 28  
JULY 2024



OPEN  
10:00AM-16:00PM



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# PAYING RESPECT AT THE BATTLEFIELDS

On Thursday 6th June, over 100 Year 8 students visited Belgium to explore a variety of locations commemorating WW1.

Exploring the Battlefields in Belgium was extremely moving and memorable for all who went, writes Miss Larkin. Particularly for the students who found family members at cemeteries and memorials. One student, whilst reflecting on the trip, said: "Seeing the memorials made me appreciate my life more, as these men had gone out and died for me to have this freedom and peaceful life".

It was extremely powerful and emotional, especially when we explored the German Langemark Military Cemetery where

44,000 German soldiers are buried, and seeing the stark contrast to British memorials. As part of Germany's reparations, the graves are lying down flat and stone coloured, unlike the British graves which are stood up 'pointing to Heaven' and pristine white.

Everyone on the trip was very enthusiastic and found the museums and memorials fascinating, asking many questions, which were expertly answered by our accompanying historians Mr Wilde and Miss Yates. All the students were brilliantly be-

haved and showed great respect to those who had fallen. We hope this trip stays with the students for a long time.

We asked Year 8 Emma Thornton to give her reflections on the trip, and she summarised it perfectly.

The overnight ferry to Rotterdam was an incredible experience, says Emma. Shared cabins, the views of the sea and all-night laughter with friends made for a tired but excited coach journey the next morning from Rotterdam to Ypres. Our first destination was the Tyne



Cot Memorial and Cemetery where we all placed a cross to show our respect to the fallen. We then explored the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum where we saw first-hand artifacts from World War I (WW1) ranging from uniforms to guns and flamethrowers, and even a section of tree in which pieces of shrapnel had been 'frozen in time' and grown out in it.

Next stop was the Menin Gate, a memorial to the missing. The monument was so impressive because of its vast size and the meaning it held. Two other students and I were given the honour of participating in the Last

Post ceremony, laying a wreath under the names of those who had died in battle. The day concluded with a trip to a proper Belgian chocolatier, and lots of sweet delights were purchased for the family....and a few for ourselves!

Day 3 of the trip was probably my favourite. We headed for Hill 62 and experienced some of the actual trenches and tunnels from the war. This experience made the war 'very real,' understanding what the soldiers must have gone through.

We also visited a specific cemetery to allow one of our students to pay her respects to a



family member buried there.

The overnight ferry and coach took us homeward bound on day 4, having had an amazing time full of WW1 history, memories-made and a little bit of chocolate!

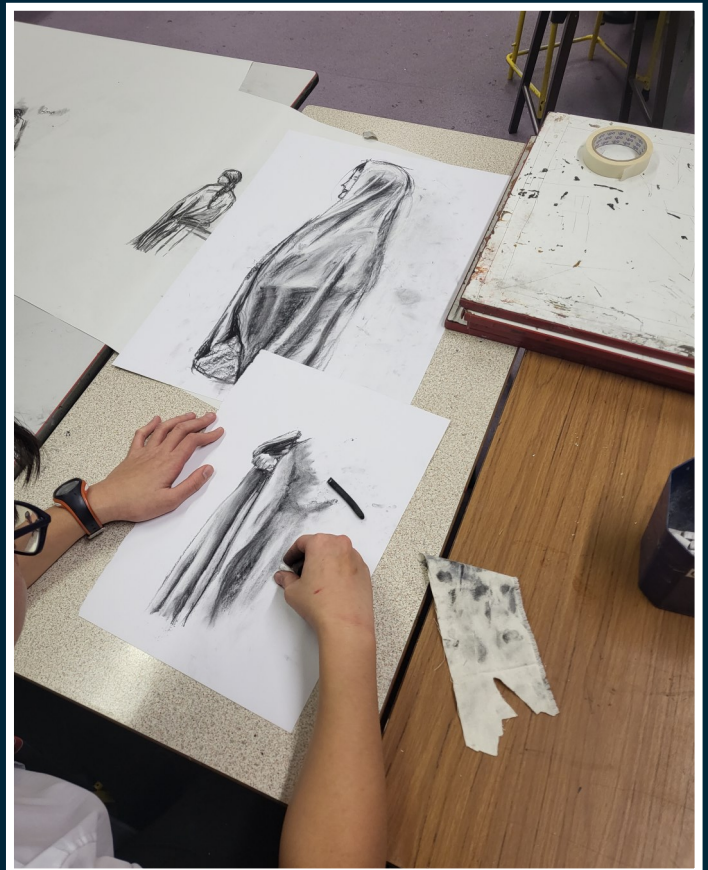




# LIFE DRAWING WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 12th December, the Visual Arts department welcomed artist Brian Raymond from Creative Art Courses Manchester into Lymm High to run an after-school life drawing workshop.

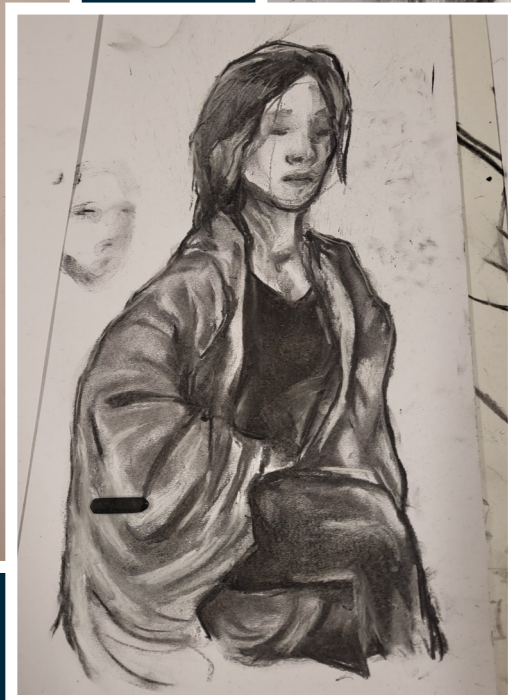
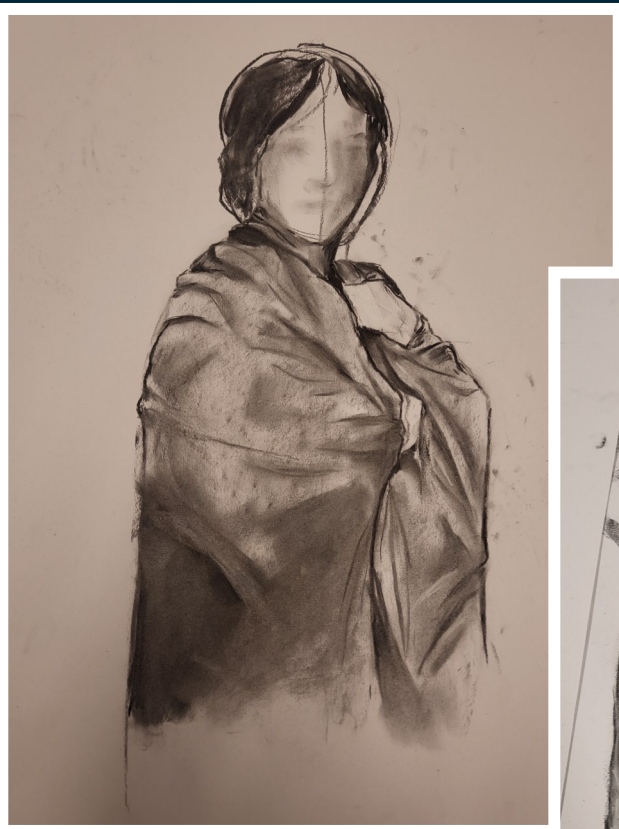
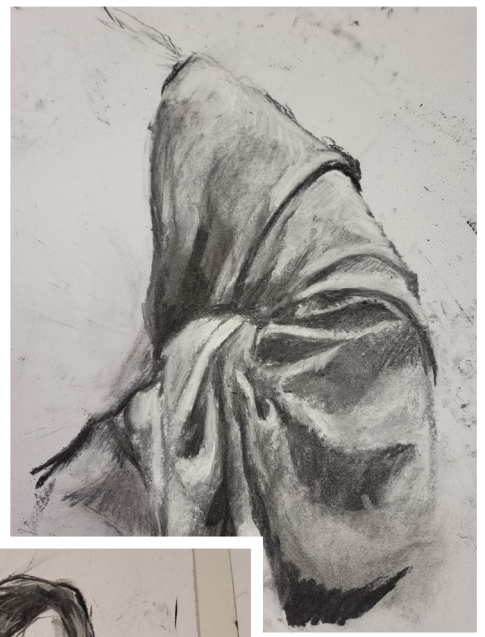
The workshop focussed on observing the way that fabric drapes over the human body. The artist gave students great insight into the different ways that fabric drapes and how, with the careful application of tone, this draping can be represented through drawing.



The 2-hour workshop was a great challenge for the GCSE and A' level students who attended. Their levels of concentration whilst completing each of their 10–15-minute drawings were very impressive. They used only a stick of charcoal and a piece of fabric to blend, which for some students was a brand new material and way of working.

Miss Simms said: "All students who attended the life drawing workshop from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 produced some amazing observational drawings. All students thoroughly made the most of the time that they had working with a practising artist from outside of the school environment. They asked questions and showed keen interest in his knowledge and experiences."







# FROM *Paris* TO

Following the success of last year's trip to Paris, the Visual Arts & Technology faculty spent 4, fun-filled days exploring the city of Berlin between Thursday 8th and Sunday 11th February.

The trip was open to students in Years 12 and 13 studying Fine Art, 3D Design, Catering & Hospitality, Photography or Fashion. It offered students a chance to experience Berlin's history and exciting culture through a wide range of visits and experiences. From traditional food markets to Art galleries and architectural places of interest, there was something for everyone on this trip, which made it such a great success.

As part of their A' level courses, it is vital that students collect primary research from first-hand experiences. Visiting Berlin was the perfect location for students to do so. They spent lots of time taking notes, drawing from observation, and photographing throughout the whole trip to support their current projects. Miss Simms said, "We had a fantastic time exploring all that Berlin has to offer. It was an honour to take the 28 Sixth Form students, who all represented Lymm High School perfectly".





# Berlin

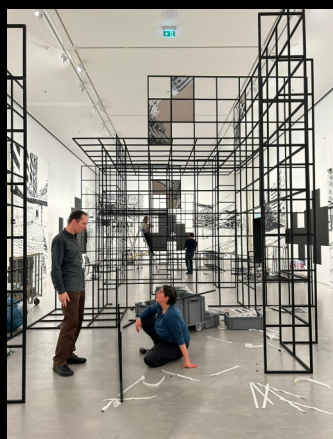
All students fully engaged in the visits that were offered to them and made the most of their time, getting as much out of the trip as possible.

A particular highlight of the trip included a guided tour to the Jewish Museum designed by Architect Daniel Libeskind. Both students and staff found it fascinating to learn about the design of the building and the concept behind each tiny detail within it.

Another highlight was the Ritter Sport Colourful Chocolate World. Students learnt about the production of chocolate from start to finish and even became chocolate makers, designing their own flavours and packaging to take away with them.



Jamie Y-Ward





# ELECTION FEVER

## Year 12 Students shine in national debate on BBC Radio 5 Live.

Sixth Formers Charlotte Masters, Elizabeth Nelson, Martha Parkinson and Hazel Lockwood recently participated in the Nicki Campbell Radio 5 Live debate on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June: an event organised as part of the run-up to the general election. The debate provided a dynamic platform for our students to voice their opinions on several critical topics, including mobile phone usage, the impact of social media, and the involvement of under-18s in politics, encompassing national service and the voting age.

One of the hot topics tackled during the 'Teen 24' debate was the issue of mobile phone usage among young people. Our students presented well-researched arguments, highlighting both the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phone use in educational settings. They discussed how mobile phones can be valuable tools for learning, providing access to educational resources and enabling communication. However, they also addressed concerns about potential distractions and the need for balanced regulation to ensure phones do not hinder academic performance.

The debate on the impact of social media was particularly vibrant, with students expressing diverse perspectives. They acknowledged social media's role in connecting people, fostering creativity, and raising awareness about important issues. Conversely, they also delved into the darker side, discussing issues like cyberbullying, misinformation, and the pressure to conform to unrealistic stand-



ards. The students emphasised the importance of digital literacy and mental health support to navigate the complexities of social media.

The involvement of under-18s in politics sparked a passionate discussion among our Year 12 participants. They explored the idea of lowering the voting age, arguing that younger individuals should have a say in decisions that affect their future. The debate also covered the concept of national service, with students weighing the potential benefits of fostering a sense of civic duty and community engagement against the challenges and ethical considerations of mandatory service.

"Participating in the Nicki Campbell Radio 5 Live debate was an invaluable experience for our Year 12 students", says Mr Finnigan who accompanied the students. "It not only allowed them to engage with pressing societal issues but also honed their public speaking and critical thinking skills. The feedback from the debate moderators and listeners was overwhelmingly positive, praising our students for their articulate and thoughtful contributions."

You can listen to the broadcast by [clicking here](#).