



ALUMNI

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL



Hall Together

Read about our Main Hall refurbishment campaign (see p.4).

Remembering Tynny

A past member of staff reminisces about Ty'n-y-Felin (see p.14).



WELCOME

Dear Alumni,

Several of you may remember our proposed multi-million pound Performing Arts Centre that we had hoped to construct on our site. Regrettably with the increase in building costs, and the narrowing of available Government capital funding, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel this project. However, we are undeterred to improve what opportunities exist for our students, so we have created a Plan B – this involves new accommodation for a standalone drama studio and the refurbishment of our Main Hall. The name given to this Main Hall redevelopment project is 'Hall Together'. You can read more about our exciting plans on p.4.

We have a fabulous team in the Performing Arts faculty, working with lots of incredibly talented students, and it would be wonderful if we could help support them with better

facilities to showcase their work.

We always like hearing from our alumni, and extend an invitation for any 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.

It is thanks to one of our Alumni getting in touch that we were reminded that it is 40 years since our school in its present form was established by the merger of Lymm Oughtington High School and Lymm County High School. My sincere thanks to David Nicholson for this nugget of information and for sending us his speech from a very important ceremony from 1995 (see p.10).

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams
Headteacher

YEAR GROUP PHOTOS ARE BACK!

As can be seen from our front cover, this year we reinstated the whole year group photos that many of our Alumni know and love.

After carefully constructing the scaffolding, Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form students were captured in their year groups to mark their start, end or continuing journeys at Lymm High School.

We have a selection of old year group photos on display within our Boardroom. These date from 1920, 1929, 1946, 1971 and 1979. It is with great thanks that we recently received a year group photo from 1966 (see p.8).



With thanks to Tom Dykes for getting in touch about Dennis Thomason's photographs from our Winter 2023/24 newsletter.

Mr Dykes has noted the names of Staff and the subjects they taught on one of the photographs. He thinks he is 95% accurate.

Do you agree? Please let us know if you can fill in any gaps or have any corrections.



DO YOU REMEMBER?

Huge thanks to Dennis Thomason for these photographs!

I was a student at Lymm Grammar School from 1954-1962, when I left to study dentistry at Birmingham University. I think the photograph was taken at the Grammar School Road site before the School moved to Oughtrington Hall in 1956/1957. I can remember a few of these faces and the subjects they taught.

- ① Mr Johnson - Geography ⑤ Mr Humman - French ⑨ Mr Cauncey - Head ⑬ Miss Willan - Maths
- ② Mr Parker - Maths ⑥ Miss Atkinson - French ⑩ Mr Saunders - Art
- ④ Dr Wootenden - Music ⑧ Mr Savory - Chemistry ⑭ Mr Osborne - Woodwork
- ⑦ Mr Little - Physics ⑪ Mr Fairs PE + Latin ⑯ Mr Newman - Biology
- ⑫ - Common Room

Mr Little was head of Lymm School. Mr Humman became Senior Master.



HALL TOGETHER

The modernisation of our Main Hall has started and shall occur over a year in phases.

As mentioned on p.2, our Hall refurbishment project is the Plan B to our now cancelled Performing Arts Centre.

The project, termed 'Hall Together', will involve a redesigned stage area, updated artwork, a new trophy cabinet, and enhanced audiovisual and lighting equipment. The picture above gives an impression of what the main stage area should look like.

Stage 1 is already underway and includes floor and stage renovation, painting, a curtains upgrade and new fire doors. Lymm High's PTA have kindly given us £12,000 to help kick-off the renovations and more fundraising is planned.

Stage 2 of the Hall Together project will be determined by how much is generated from our community fundraising programme and what school can afford from its own resources. It will (hopefully) encompass replacement seating, sound access improvements, and professional theatre lights and a rig.

So far we have raised money via a ParentPay push amongst our parents and carers, a Doughnut sale to our students on the last day of last term, and by participating at the High Legh's Afternoon Teas event. All future PTA funds raised will be ring-fenced for the Hall Together project.

The next fundraising project will be our community raffle, which we aim to launch in the Autumn. Prizes will include a cash lump sum, a Hot Air balloon ride for two people, and a family photo session. Our Alumni are welcome to purchase tickets. We will be in touch after launch!

In the spring of 2026, we are planning an exciting Community Fun Run initiative, which we very much hope you will support. More information on all the individual events will follow in due course.

As well as overhauling the Main Hall, we also now have planning permission for a Drama Studio, which means that construction can begin over the summer holidays in readiness for the new school year in September. This will be a new building based at the rear of the existing Performing Arts block and will consist of a 100m² perfor-



mance space, the equivalent in size of two standard classrooms. An impression of how this will look is shown above.

As well as much-needed funds, we welcome any help with electrics, audiovisual expertise, painting & decorating and soft furnishings. If this is something you could help with, please contact

Simon Marsden on

smarsden@lymmhigh.org.uk



Lymm High PTA Chairs, Kerry Spink & Clare Martin, with Headteacher Gwyn Williams & Chief Operating Officer Simon Marsden.

BRITISH LIONS TEST SQUAD SELECTION



Lymm High School is bursting with pride this summer as former student Alex Mitchell has been named in the British & Irish Lions Test squad for the highly anticipated match on Saturday 19th July.

This is a tremendous achievement and a proud moment for the entire school community, as Alex continues to make waves on the international rugby stage.

Alex, who attended Lymm High and played for Lymm RFC during his formative years, has been steadily rising through the rugby ranks. From early signs of talent on the school pitch to representing Northampton Saints and earning his England cap, his journey is a testament to hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport.

Head of Rugby at Lymm High, Mr Lee Pickles, reflected on Alex's success: "Alex always stood out as an exceptional talent from a young age. His vision, skill, and com-

posure on the field were clear even back then, and it's no surprise to see him reaching this level. We're incredibly proud of him – he's an inspiration to all our young players at Lymm."

Staff members who taught and coached Alex recall his humble nature, strong work ethic and team spirit – qualities that have clearly carried him to the top.

As the Lions prepare for their crucial Test match, we will be watching closely, cheering Alex on from afar. His success not only puts Lymm on the rugby map but also inspires the next generation of athletes at the school. We wish Alex and the British & Irish Lions the very best of luck this weekend!

WIGAN WARRIORS SIGNING

Finlay Yeomans has been part of Wigan Warriors youth programme for 4 years.

In December 2024, he signed a full-time professional contract for 3 years with Wigan, who very pragmatically allowed the Year 13 student to complete his A' Levels before joining the first team group.

In February, Fin made his first team debut in a pre-season friendly against Oldham and backed that up



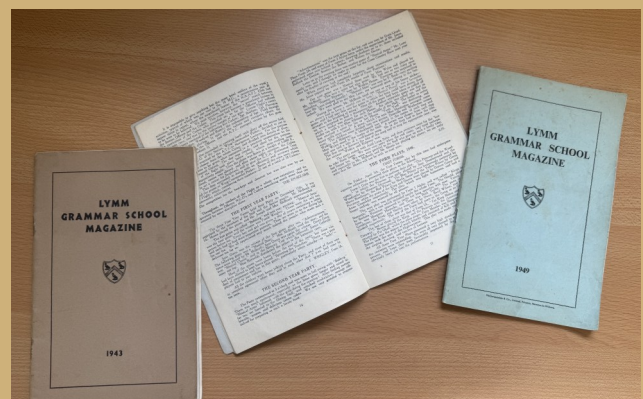
Finlay signing his contract with Matt Peet, Wigan's head coach.

against Leeds Rhinos the following week. He is hoping that with a lot of hard work he might get some

Super League experience in the next 2 years and is excited about the opportunity ahead.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Lymm High produced yearbooks in the early 2000s. We have a copy of one from 2003, but wonder if any more were created after this date? We also have some fantastic Lymm Grammar magazines dating from 1943, 1946 and 1949: again with thanks to Philip Taylor (see also p.9).



David Thomason KPM

Lymm High School: 1991–2000



Ex-student David Thomason, taken in Northern Ireland, at the launch of the country's new stalking law.

- Awarded the King's Police Medal for distinguished service in the King's Birthday Honours on 14th June 2025.
- Inaugural recipient of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust Griffin Award (2024).
- Awarded the inaugural National College of Policing Award for Partnerships (2019)
- Recipient of an Association of Chief Police Officers Presidential Commendation for work on tackling stalking.

I left Lymm High Sixth Form in 2000 and studied German and Linguistics at the University of Sheffield. I am fluent in German and hold a postgraduate research qualification in evidence-informed practice with Liverpool John Moores University, looking into the implementation

and effectiveness of Stalking Protection Orders.

I joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2004 and am now a Detective Sergeant, specialising in the policing of stalking.

I created and lead the day-to-day operation of the Harm Reduction Unit at Cheshire Constabulary; a collaborative and integrated risk management service between police, the NHS and the Probation Service.

The Harm Reduction Unit builds on the success of its predecessor, the Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit, which I also created and developed having spent over 18 years working at local, national and international levels to tackle stalking.

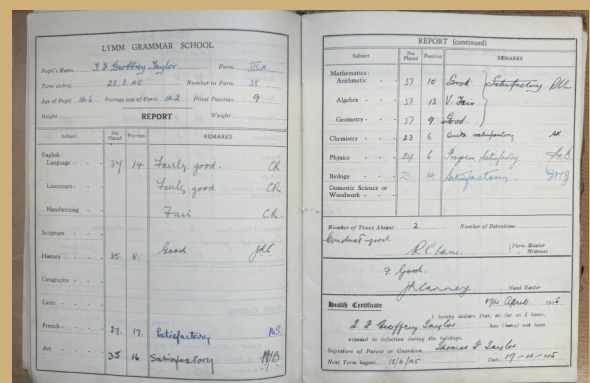
I am a former trustee of the charity Protection Against Stalking, which led the successful campaign for stalking law reform in England and Wales in 2012. I have trained thousands of professionals around the world in the policing of stalking and was previously a Staff Officer to the national police stalking lead. I have worked operationally as a detective in public protection for the majority of my service.

David's media appearances include:

- *Granada Reports: Launch of Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit (ITV)*
- *Murdered by my Stalker: Alice Ruggles (Channel 5)*
- *Green Eyed Killers (Crime and Investigation)*
- *Stacey Dooley: Stalkers (BBC)*
- *Stalked (BBC Radio 4)*
- *Tonight: The Truth About Stalking (ITV)*
- *My Lover My Killer: s2e1 (Netflix)*
- *Laura Whitmore Investigates - Cyberstalking: s1e3 (ITV)*
- *BBC Breakfast: Stalking Advocates (BBC)*
- *BBC Breakfast (Live): Stalking Super Complaint*
- *BBC Crimewatch Live: Series 21:8 (BBC)*

DO YOU REMEMBER?

With thanks to Philip Taylor for sending us his father's Report Book. Thomas Francis Geoffrey Taylor was at Lymm Grammar School from 1941–49.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

This is the vote of thanks that David Nicholson, one of our past Chair of Governors, proposed during the official opening ceremony of the new Lymm High buildings in July 1995. The story behind Terry Waite's involvement in the ceremony is in itself interesting. The plaque that was unveiled on that occasion can still be seen behind the Main Reception in A Block at Lymm High School.

OPENING CEREMONY VOTE OF THANKS

In February 1987, a conference for Warrington Sixth Formers was to be held at Lymm High School.

In January 1987, Terry Waite left the UK to go to Beirut to take part in further discussions in order to secure the release of British and American hostages.

One of the main participants of the Sixth Form conference was to be Terry Waite. Terry's return ticket should have had him back in the UK in good time for the Sixth Form conference.

Unfortunately Terry's plane did not take off for another 1763 days (5 years in real time). And what happened in between is well documented history.

During the time that Terry was waiting for his return flight, 11-year-olds became 16-year-olds and grew up from being children to become young people.

Those who attended the conference as 17 and 18-year-olds were now out of university and in their first jobs, some married with children of their own.

During this same period plans were in hand



to bring Lymm High School on to a single site here at Oughtrington.

The school as we as we know it now was formed in 1985 from the merger of Lymm Oughtrington High School and Lymm County High School.



In fact 1995, is the 10th anniversary of Lymm High School and therefore another reason to celebrate.

The headteacher at the time, Alun Watkins, with us today, had a vision for the school he wanted to see. The governing body, chaired by Bill Hall, also with us today, shared this vision and they worked together with the various bodies and authorities to ensure that the vision was fulfilled.

Today is a celebration of a dream fulfilled and a day on which we give thanks to all those who played such a significant part. As I said a few minutes ago Terry did have plans to be with us in 1987 but the conference had to go ahead without him.

Terry we're delighted that you could make it today and even though it is 8 years on I think it is even more appropriate that you should be here now than it was then.

You spent many years of your life trying to bring people together and therefore apart from the fact that you are making up for the occasion that you couldn't attend I think it is fitting that you are our guest of honour, here to officially open our school and help us bring it together on this beautiful site.

Of course Terry and this part of the country are no strangers to each other.

Terry lived down the road in Thelwall where his dad was the village Bobby and as a lad he himself attended Stockton Heath school. His mother is still a Lymm resident and therefore this is very much a homecoming. Apart from thanking Terry today for his presence my task is to thank all the many other people who have played such a major part in bringing the school to its present position.

A LOOK BACK

I've mentioned Alun Watkins and Bill Hall as being two people who had a significant influence. There are of course others to whom we are indebted.

I recall in the 1950s when I was at Lymm the construction of the so called 'Fifties Block'. Architecturally not a pretty sight. Therefore along with many others I was delighted to see the imaginative plans for the new building emanating from the County architects department and to that department and the local authority we are grateful.

It is sad that one of the prime movers behind the plans, Mr Teece, passed away before he could see his plans come to fruition. Over the 3 to 4 years that the building programme was in progress we had to learn to come to terms with living with two separate building contractors Messrs Pochin and Moss and to them we offer our thanks for the professional manner in which they conducted the building process.

There are one or two relatively minor prob-

lems still to be finalised, not least is the drive, but we are confident that they can be resolved through the good offices of the appropriate authorities.

There are two bodies of people without which a school has no meaning and they are the pupils and staff.

Some pupils will have passed through Lymm High School with memories of it as always resembling a building site and to all pupils we say a big thank you for their forbearance and for ensuring that their contribution has brought the school its continued success.

Not least the magnificent performance of those today.

That success would not be possible without the driving force behind the pupils and that driving force is of course staff.

I would like to say a particular thank you to the staff whose task in recent years has not been made easy by:

- *Building programmes*
- *A split site school*

DO YOU REMEMBER?



With thanks to Matthew Reid for sending us this school photo from 1966 that belonged to his mu

- More secretaries of state than the proverbial hot dinners. And not to mention:
- A new Head
- And a new Chair of governors.

To all the staff, teaching and none-teaching I would like to use this opportunity to say a very big thank you.

This is perhaps a good opportunity to recognise the rather special efforts of the catering staff for their contribution today.

Having mentioned pupils and teachers what about the other party with a particular interest in the children and that is the parents.

We have a particularly active PTA at Lymm and their involvement cannot be overestimated.

Although we now have one of the finest school buildings in Cheshire of which we are justifiably proud we are not without our problems and as many of you will know we have an immediate and urgent requirement for at least six more classrooms in order to cope with the 1500 children in our care and

that is not considering how many more above that number might wish to come to Lymm High school in the future.

We have therefore set up a working party to look in to the options for further expanding the school and we envisage the building of another £1.5 million block within the next 2 to 3 years.

Funding of course is a problem but one of the working group briefs is to consider all funding options.

You may wish to make a note in your diary for 1998 when all being well we would hope to have another opening ceremony. Today we have all helped to write yet another page in the history of Lymm High school

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for being here and I trust that you will enjoy the rest of your day.

Thank you.

David Nicholson,
Chair of governors
July 1995



m, Linda Reid née Platt. Linda attended Lymm Grammar School from 1965–1970.



REMEMBERING TYNNY

Alumnus Peter Birchall, wrote to us about the major refurbishment of Ty'n-y-Felin' in the late 1970s. Peter worked at Lymm Grammar/High School for 36 years. He set up the French Exchange in 1969, which lasted some 25 years and contributed to the towns of Lymm and Meung-sur-Loire being, and remaining, twinned.

I was delighted to learn that Lymm High School's outdoor centre on Holy Island is to undergo a programme of repairs and refurbishment. As a member of LGS/LHS Staff from 1962 to 1998 I spent many summers on week-long summer camps or weekend working parties and for many years was managing this unique school asset.

In 1978, following the retirement of Ron Fairs, I replaced him as Second Master and

Deputy Head alongside Senior Mistress Heulwen Smith and Senior Master John Bradbury, who under Headmaster Bill Crowther were responsible respectively for girls' and boys' welfare and discipline.

Whilst still teaching French and Russian, I had a mixed portfolio of management responsibilities which included internal and external examinations and Ty'n-y-Felin.

By 1978 the site was in desperate need of repairs and refurbishment. The roofs of the farmhouse and outbuildings were sagging precariously and the two 'dormitories', ex Manchester Corporation pre-fab dwellings, needed repairs and redecoration inside and out. The large Recreation Hut, used for indoor eating and games, needed re-roofing.

I cancelled the next summer's camps and embarked on a programme of serious fundraising. Each Tutor Group and their Form Teacher was asked to run events or activities to raise money (e.g., sales of cakes or crafts at break or lunchtimes, sponsored swims in the pool or other outside events), and appeals were made to the PTA for support in cash or kind. The Form raising the greatest amount per capita would be rewarded by a free residential weekend at 'Tynny'. Eventually around £4000 was raised, to go towards the cost of materials

and running work camps throughout the summer.

With the support and assistance of staff, Sixth Formers, parents and governors, repairs and improvements were carried out throughout the summer holidays and on weekends during the autumn and winter of 1978.

David 'Dai' Thomason, a Lymm builder whose firm had recently gone into liquidation, gave unstinting professional support throughout the works. Teachers Dennis Oakes and Fred Totton made major contributions. Head of History Derrick Kay, who acted as my Secretary in organising summer holiday camps, bravely came to Holy Island by taxi from his home in Altrincham, in his best raincoat and brogues, spent a few days chain-smoking and in some distress at the dirt and disorder of the building site, before asking to be taken to Holyhead station to take the train back to civilisation.



A LOOK BACK

Headmaster Bill Crowther became highly skilled at wheeling brimming barrowloads of ready-mixed concrete, and countless Sixth Formers and old students honed their woodworking, building and decorating skills.

Small armies of parents came and camped in tents or caravans to provide a week's or fortnight's help. Chairman of Governors Bill Hall, with his wife Ninette, came several times in their caravan, usually with a case of morale-boosting claret, to play their part at work or in the kitchen. It was a memorably bonding experience for all concerned.

I spent the whole 7 weeks there, with my two sons Neil (12) and Michael (10), organising works and materials, supplies and catering, no doubt inspired by the example of George 'Gus' Hunnam, my mentor at LGS and 'founding Father' of Ty'n-y-Felin.

There was no telephone on site, and mobiles didn't exist, so I must pay tribute to my Wife Ann and daughters Nicola and Nina, back home in Grappenhall, for enduring my prolonged absence.

The farmhouse and kitchen were completely re-roofed, and new window-frames installed and glazed. The toilet-block was also completely re-roofed, framework and slating, the Recreation Hut re-felted and the Dormitories repainted, weather-proofed and decorated.

You will understand why I remain, 45 years later, so grateful to the armies of volunteers who made that project possible and ensured the survival of this jewel in the School's crown, and why I wish every success of those about to undertake the next round of works.



SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

**£1 per
week**

**Weekly
cash prizes**

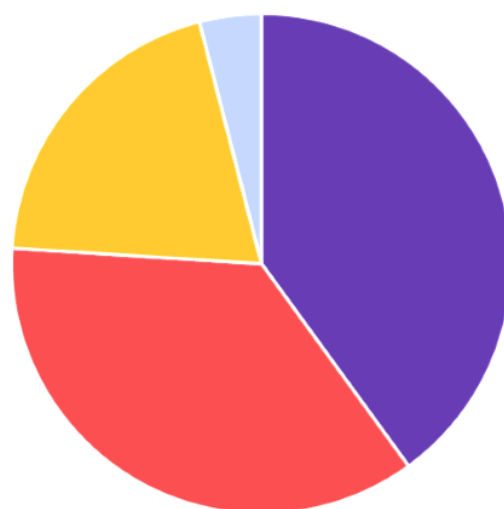
**£25,000
jackpot**



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**



Splitting the £1.00



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

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

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

= £30 weekly cash prize

= £2,080 a year for our school



Buy A Ticket

GambleAware





THE ART OF ARTICULATION

The Visual Arts department chose to take part in the prestigious Articulation competition, an event run in collaboration with the National Gallery.

The Articulation competition encourages young people to engage with art in a meaningful and reflective way by preparing a 10-minute presentation on a piece of artwork of their choice. The competition is designed to promote public speaking skills and help students develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the artwork they select.

Over the past few months, A' Level Fine Art students worked hard in preparation for the heats, which were held in school. The students researched and practised their

presentations before taking part in the internal competition. After a rigorous selection process, Isabella Tither in Year 12 was chosen as the winner of our in-school heats and was given the honour of representing Lymm High School at the Articulation regional finals.

On Wednesday 26th February, Isabella, along with three other students who had taken part in the competition, travelled with the Visual Arts department to the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester for the regional finals. The day started with a guid-

ed tour of the stunning gallery, where the group had the opportunity to explore the beautiful spaces and see the exciting Turner exhibition currently on display. Following the tour, it was time for the finalists to deliver their presentations. Isabella did an absolutely outstanding job. Her public speaking skills were remarkable, and her passion for the painting she had chosen, *The Execution of Lady Jane Grey* by Paul Delaroche (1833), truly shone through. Isabella's deep understanding of the piece, combined with her engaging delivery, captivated both the audience and the judges. She did herself and the school proud.

Although Isabella did not win the competition, her performance at the regional finals was nothing short of inspiring. She demonstrated immense talent, dedication, and a true love for art, and she is a winner in the eyes of the Visual Arts department.



“We are incredibly proud of her achievements and the hard work she put into the competition”, said Miss Simms. “The Articulation competition was an incredible opportunity for all the students involved, and we hope it will inspire others across the school to take part in the competition next time it comes around.”



VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST

© KAREN KODISH



In April, the History faculty arranged for theatre company *Voices of the Holocaust* to visit Lymm High School.

The actors performed their play '*Kindness: A Legacy of the Holocaust*' to Year 9 students. The company came and transformed the Main Hall into a theatre with a full set, costumes and lighting rig!

The production is a ground-breaking testimony-based play that humanises the story of Susan Pollack, a Hungarian Holocaust survivor. By witnessing the narrative unfold before their eyes on stage, it was hoped that students would become active participants in a journey of empathy and enlightenment, fostering personal growth and deepening their historical understanding of the Holocaust.

The company performed a very powerful play for 1 hour and then hosted a post-performance question-and-answer session to further enrich students' experience, providing them with a platform for reflection and dialogue.

"Students in Year 9 have been studying the Holocaust over the past half term, so this provided an excellent extra-curricular opportunity for them to engage with testimonies of survivors and to develop their understanding of the Holocaust further", writes Miss Howard.

The play showed Susan's early life as a child being brought up in a Jewish family in Hun-

gary and then showed how Anti-Semitism and persecution escalated over time until she and her family were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The play then showed true stories of Susan and other survivors and how they managed to survive the camp through acts of kindness. The play ended with the liberation of the camps by the Allies and described how different characters went on to live in different countries across the world as they tried to rebuild their lives.

The Director of the play, Cate Hollis, then ran a Drama Workshop in the afternoon with Year 9 students who have chosen GCSE drama next year. Working with a range of stimuli – music, props, poetry and paintings – students were taken through a variety of processes to begin shaping a thought-provoking performance.



Students had a very valuable experience working with a real theatre director and the Drama teachers were full of praise for their participation in the workshop.



PIANO MAN'S PAIN AND PROGRESS

In March, Daniel Wilsher came in to school to talk to our Year 7–9 students about his journey with mental health.

easier than I did”, says Daniel.

Holding a heavy backpack up with one arm, a Year 7 student helped Daniel illustrate how the burden of emotion can weigh heavy over time. Fellow student Luke was invited to the front to spar with Daniel to illustrate another pertinent point. The students were engaged throughout and listened intently.

Daniel Wilsher is known to many as a finalist on Channel 4's hit show *'The Piano'*. He is also an award-winning mental health speaker and entrepreneur. He is the founder of Damaged Goods Co., co-founder of LivEdX Learning Ltd, and has worked with hundreds of schools across the UK.

At Lymm High, Daniel took students on a journey through his life while exploring ways they can take action to create hope in

their own lives. He recalled his upbringing, involving the loss of his father at an early age, his battle with drugs and alcohol, bouts of depression and anxiety, and how therapy helped him.

“It is my aim to ignite and inspire a fierce curiosity in the inner workings of whoever hears my story, while providing practical tools to help regulate emotion in times of need, helping them deal with life's inevitable ebbs and flows a little



JOIN US FOR A **FAMILY FUN DAY**

LYMM LEISURE CENTRE

SUNDAY 27TH JULY

11:00-16:00

Sports taster sessions
Bouncy castles • face painting
Free swimming
Fairground rides
Food stalls
and more!





Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend an insightful workshop led by Police Constable Stu Campion, a member of Cheshire Police's Cyber Crime Team.

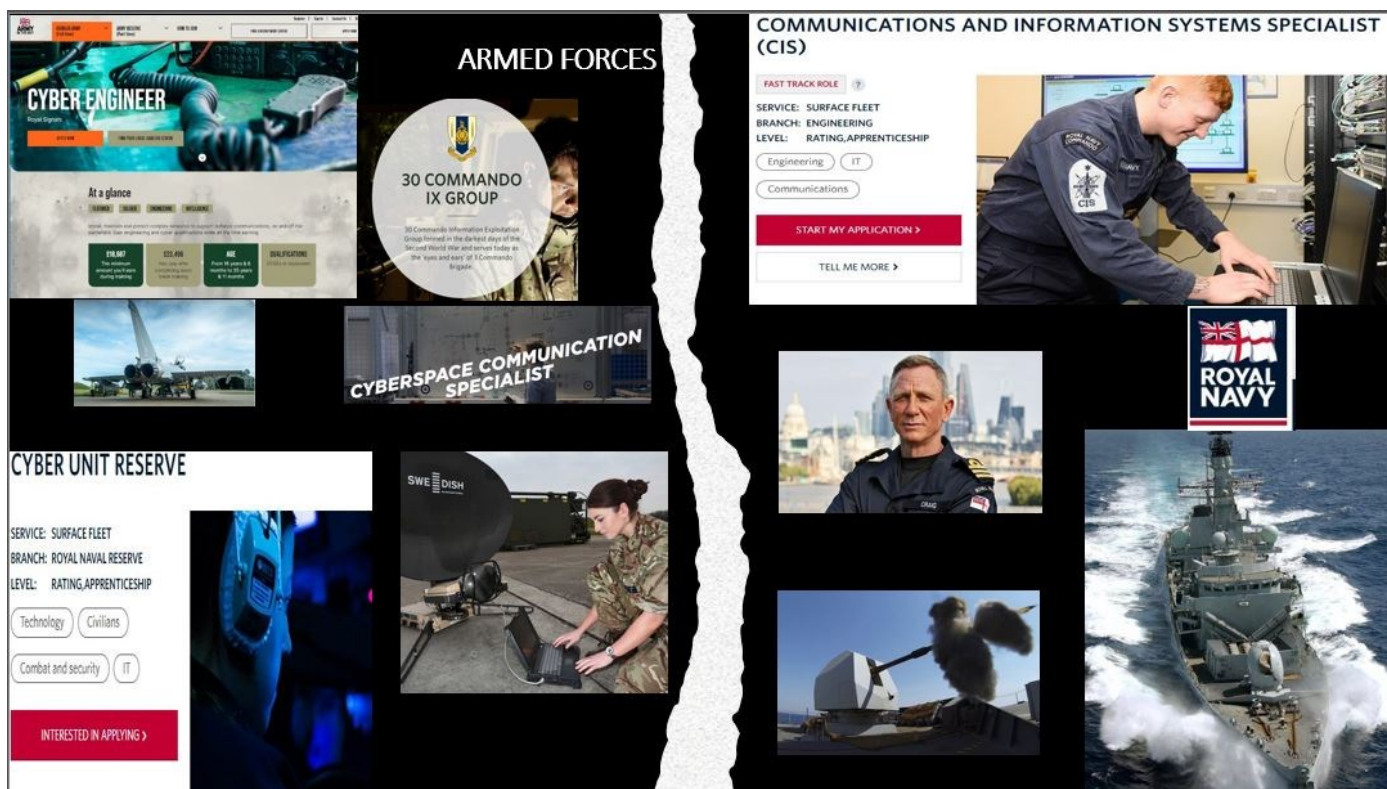
As the force's Cyber Crime Prevent Officer, PC Campion works with young people to raise awareness of cyber security, the legal implications of online behaviour, and the importance of making responsible choices in the digital world.

The session, part of the *Cyber Choices* programme run by Cheshire Police, focused on two key pieces of legislation: the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the Online Safety Act 2023. Students learned how these laws aim to protect

individuals and businesses from cyber crime, while also helping those with an interest in IT, programming, and ethical hacking to understand the boundaries of legal and ethical behaviour. A highlight of the workshop

was PC Campion's demonstration of how cyber crime investigations work. He explained how officers trace online activity, track offenders and record evidence, giving students a fascinating behind-the-scenes





look at the digital forensics process. To bring the process to life, students watched a real video of Cheshire Police officers searching a suspect's home. The footage showed how evidence – such as computers and smartphones – is carefully collected, logged and analysed to build a strong case.

The workshop tied directly into the school's GCSE Computer Science and IT courses, where students develop programming, problem-solving and digital literacy skills. PC Campion showed how these skills could lead to exciting careers in cybersecurity, ethical hacking or digital investigations.

Students were captivated by the real-world examples and the chance to see how their classroom learning applies to protecting people from cyber threats. The session also stressed the importance of using their skills responsibly, with PC Campion highlighting

the growing need for ethical hackers and cybersecurity experts in today's world.

PC Campion said, "It was a pleasure to spend time with such well behaved students, they are a credit to the school." The workshop not only deepened students' understanding of the digital world, it also inspired them to think about how they can use their skills to make a positive difference in the future.

CYBER CHOICES

HACKING IT LEGAL

- For further information on the Cyber Choices programme, [click here](#).



YEAR 8 DOMINATE AT PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Lymm High School had the honour of participating in the annual Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition called Youth Speaks.

This is a prestigious event that challenges students to demonstrate their eloquence, critical thinking and presentation skills. This is our second year entering the competition, and following our victory at last year's district final, we were eager to impress once again.

Two teams of Year 8 students each took on a unique and thought-provoking topic. Competing against other schools, such as

Great Sankey High School and Newman High School, our students showed exceptional maturity and professionalism in what is a very formal event. Each team was assigned specific roles, including a Chairperson, Speaker, and Proposer of Vote of Thanks, in line with their skill sets.

The first team, consisting of Lauren Caton, Ella Hibbert and Dolly Tasker, took to the stage with a compelling presentation on



the role of slang in society. They raised the thought-provoking question: Does slang create communities or destroy young minds? Their insightful discussion and well-researched arguments captivated the audience, and their assured, polished performance won the admiration of their peers, teachers, and even the Mayor of Warrington, who praised their eloquence and maturity. Despite their outstanding performance, the team secured a well-deserved second place.

Meanwhile, the second team, made up of Ted Cullen, Maggie Andrews and Lily-Rose Milby, tackled the impact of advertising on young people. Their strong, well-structured arguments and confident delivery earned them first place, and they progressed to the regional finals in March.

They came runners up in the North and East of England Youth Speaks Final. “They were really unlucky not to win it as they were absolutely flawless”, said Mr Hayes. “They gave such a wonderful account of themselves and represented Lymm High with distinction.”

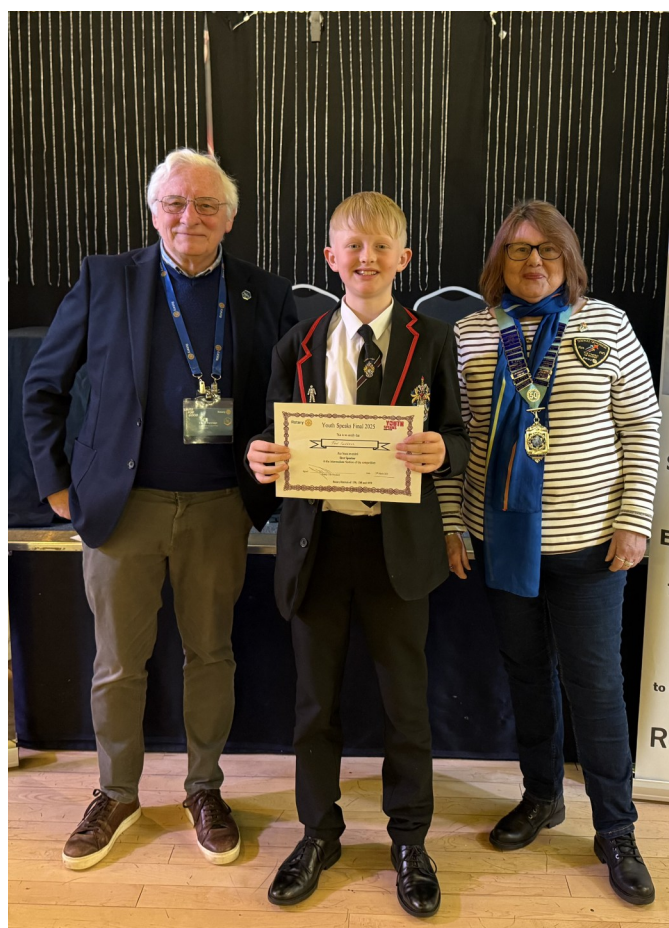
It was a real team effort with all three Year 8 students saving their best performances

for the big stage. Some individual awards were also presented at the end, and Ted was voted the best speaker in the entire age category for Year 7–9: a fantastic achievement!

Mr Hayes and Mrs Feast, who attended the event, were thoroughly impressed by the professionalism and maturity shown by our Year 8 students. They were especially proud of the compliments they received from teachers at other schools, event organisers and the Mayor, all of whom were impressed by the exceptional quality of speeches delivered by our teams.

“We are immensely proud of our students and their achievements”, said Mr Hayes.

“The future of public speaking is bright at our school!”



YOUTH IN PARLIAMENT

Year 9 student spends the day at the Houses of Parliament.

As the Member of Youth Parliament for Warrington, Ella Donnelly was invited to visit Westminster in February. Her day started with a tour of Parliament, receiving a talk from Sir Lindsay Hoyle – the Speaker of the House of Commons – and then meeting other Members of Youth Parliament from across the UK and UK Territories. Ella took an active part in four debates, which were televised live on *Parliament TV*. What a fantastic experience. Well done Ella!

