



**LYMM**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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**Child labour,**  
p.6

Year 9 enjoyed their 'Take your child to work day'.

**Chess Champ,**  
p.16

Was it a student or member of staff who won this year's tournament?

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: DECEMBER 2024 · WWW.LYMMHIGH.ORG.UK



# WINTER WONDERLAND

Lymm High's school grounds look amazing all year round.

Despite the snow and icy weather we are facing now, December was a warm and vibrant end to a long term. The final month of 2024 was jam-packed with events,

competitions, trips and fundraising.

The spirit of Christmas was very much alive thanks to the generous response to our

shoe box appeal (p.24), our involvement in the community Christmas tree festival (p.4) and the very festive charity staff karaoke (p.23).

# STUDENT WINS CREATIVE WRITING AWARD.... AGAIN!

Jack Waring has been awarded the Cheshire Prize for Literature for the second year running.

The Year 7 student went to Chester University on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November to pick up his award for the short story category. He also won the award in 2022. To win the prize one year is fantastic, but to win it 2 years running is an amazing achievement!

The story he wrote this year has been published in the 2024 Anthology *Passages of Time*, which features



shortlisted entries (stories, poems and scripts that all follow the theme of time) from the 2023 Cheshire Prize for Literature.

The Prize was inaugurated in 2003 as the High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature. It is administered by the University of Chester. Details of the prize are available at [www.chester.ac.uk/about/events/cheshire-prize](http://www.chester.ac.uk/about/events/cheshire-prize).

"It was extremely heart-warming to hear of Jack's

recent accomplishment", says Miss Taylor. "As a Head of Year, I feel a sense of pride for all students within my year group who go above and beyond the way that Jack has done by entering this competition. I think it's really important to celebrate these successes, and hope that he continues to pursue his passion for writing over the coming years."

A budding author in the making. Well done Jack!

# CYBER SCIENTISTS

A group of Year 8 girls participated in the CyberFirst MEGA Event at the iconic Jodrell Bank Observatory on Tuesday 10th December. They were taking part in a cyber security day, which involved interactive challenges and hacking tasks.



Around 300 girls from schools across the North West took part in the event, which included tackling a series of space-themed cybersecurity and codebreaking challenges.

## 15 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINNER

Well done to Year 9 Naomi Marsh who had an early Christmas treat by winning an Apple iPad on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. All students were entered into the draw just by attending school every day for the 15 school days in December. The Prize Draw took place on the last day of term.



# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Lymm High School Art Ambassadors brought a touch of creativity and sustainability to the annual St. Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

With the theme of 'Christmas Old and New', the Art Ambassadors decided to craft a tree that embraced both tradition and innovation, using eco-friendly materials to create handmade decorations.

The students chose to incorporate materials from their own recycling bins at home, transforming everyday items that might have otherwise been discarded into beautiful, eye-catching ornaments. This clever use of 'old' materials, such as cardboard, fabric scraps and plastic, brought a fresh, new life to what would usually be overlooked.



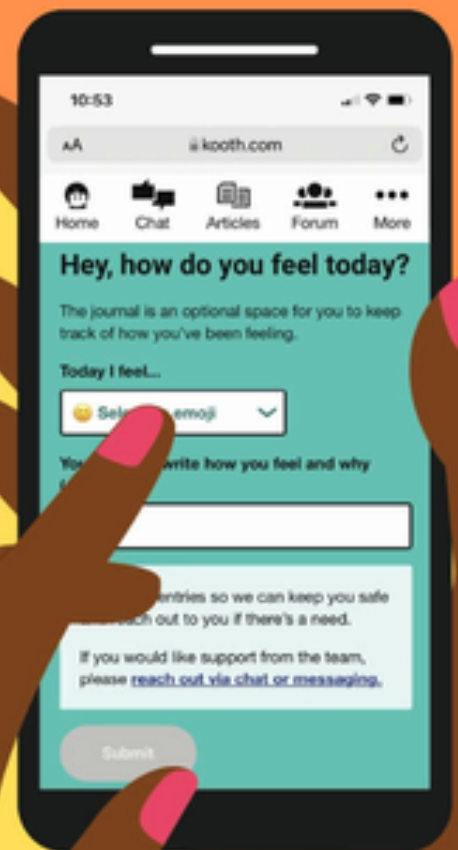
The Visual Arts department has proudly taken part in the Christmas Tree Festival every year. It was a wonderful start to the festive period, showcasing the incredible talent of our students and the school's commitment to sustainability.

"A huge congratulations to our Art Ambassadors for their hard work and creativity – their efforts have been amazing", said Miss Simms.

Lymm High's brass band also took part in the festival. St. Mary's Church Warden George Bainton, told us: "They were really great, and it's always a pleasure to have them come along and entertain us!"



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# YEAR 9 AT WORK

To support Lymm High's Careers Education, Year 9 had the opportunity to experience the world of work on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The aim of Lymm High's 'Take your child to work day' was to provide students with the opportunity to engage with employers in a meaningful way and experience the world of work first hand. Students either went to work with family or friends, or remained in school and benefitted from workshops and talks from a range of employers, including:

- **Altum** – delivered a 'Dragon's Den' style class focusing on one of five business sectors (gaming design, fashion brand, content creation, car company or pop-up café).
- **Department for Education** – ran two

different policy-oriented workshops (the basics of government action and how it affects their lives, followed by a debate on the banning of disposable vapes).

- **Flight Planning** – set a group task to plan a flight scenario, highlighting the wide range of jobs available in aviation beyond the standard pilot and engineers.
- **Cavendish Nuclear** – delivered a workshop to develop a comprehensive business case for a new nuclear power station.

Students who went out on placement were

Edward Nicholls and Thomas Beck had a day of work experience at the **Department for Education**. The boys spent the day with senior policy officials within the Breakfast Clubs team, looking at how it intends to roll out the new Government's ambitious manifesto commitment to have a Breakfast Club in all 17,000 primary schools in England.

The boys were set the task of researching the reaction to this policy announcement on social media, and produced a presentation which they delivered to eight senior policy officials.

"I've had great feedback from my colleagues about how well they did and how quick they were to pick this up and present it to the team", said mum Kay Nicholls. "The boys really were a credit to Lymm and I was really proud of them!"



asked to complete a booklet containing a number of activities. These included finding out what the business does, how many people the company employs, what happens if someone has an accident at work, what the perks are for working for that company, and the skills and qualifications needed. Students were also given the opportunity to 'quiz the boss'.

All of these activities helped to make the day as meaningful as possible and gave Year 9 students a worthwhile insight into the world of work. Whether the students went to an external workplace or stayed in school, they all:

- gained an insight into the skills required for a particular job
- increased their awareness of their own skills and strengths
- increased their motivation to do well in school
- gained useful experience for their CV
- appreciated the skills needed to succeed in a job.

Below is a selection of what some of our Year 9 students got up to on their external placements.

Henry Scammell went to work with his dad, John, working in John's electrical business **Electek**. They were working on a house renovation in Lymm.

Henry helped with installing the new consumer unit and conducting some testing. He learned how Maths is essential to being an electrician, and also realised how hard dad works! When asked what the best part of the day was, Henry said "lunch"!



Sam Hamilton accompanied mum, Heather, to **Thelwall Infant School**.

As well as meeting the Headteacher Mrs Rostron, Sam spent time with the Administrative Assistant learning about school admin, managing budgets and placing orders.

Next, he spent time with the Nursery Team playing with the children and helping with the Christmas Performance practice. He also got resources ready for lessons, collected toast for the children's snacks and helped with the Nursery lunches.



Rory Boland visited **Health Innovation North West Coast** (part of the NHS) with mum, Laura. The organisation is based at the Science and Technology Park in Daresbury so Rory firstly had a tour of the site and learnt about the work carried out there. Next was a visit to the Innovation hub at Alder Hey hospital where Rory got to try some exciting health innovations.

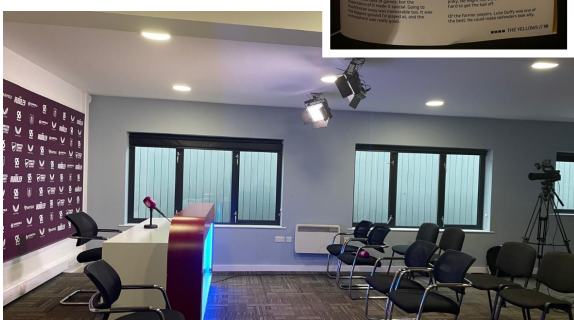
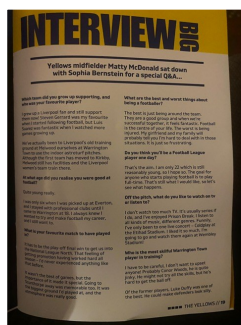
“I’m really lucky to work in such a dynamic field that makes a difference to patients. It was great to be able to show Rory some of what we do”, said Laura.



*Rory holding a life-like 3D printed brain, and exploring a heart with virtual reality.*

Sophia Bernstein joined dad, Joe (a sports journalist), at a press conference at **Burnley Football Club**. Sophia took the photo below to show the setting.

As well as asking the Manager a question at the press conference, Sophia interviewed Warrington Town midfielder **Matty McDonald**. The interview has now been published in the match programme.



Emma Thornton accompanied mum, Claire, to sports school **UCFB** at the Etihad Stadium. Emma learnt about the range of careers available in a sports business capacity. And also the importance of being organised and well prepared in the workplace environment.



“Emma observed me presenting my course at an Open Day and also delivering a lecture to Level 5 undergraduate students”, said Claire. “Emma was very well behaved and was extremely proactive in asking questions to all staff members about the organisation.”





Jake Bradley accompanied his dad, Andrew, to the **Resulting IT** headquarters in Warrington. Jake got to spend time with various teams and started to learn about HR, Marketing, Coding, Partnerships, Finance & Operations and AI.

Jake really enjoyed the day, especially the grilled chicken for lunch!



Ben Shaw spent the day at the **Maxillofacial 3D Imaging Lab** and the Prosthetics Lab at Liverpool University. "This is an image of a Plaster of Paris mould of my hand and a moving bicycle chain", he told us. The bicycle chain is used to demonstrate the accuracy of the 3D printer and plaster mould is used for the initial sizing of prosthetics for patients who have lost part of their body. Ben said he really enjoyed the day.

Omer Feix accompanied mum, Petra, to her place of work in Trafford Park. Omer shadowed several teams throughout the day to learn about what **CHEP** does. The company is a global leader in sustainably moving goods. He had a tour of the office and the opportunity to 'quiz the boss'.



Blake Reeves accompanied mum, Liz, to her work at **Hays Travel**.



Finley Clare spent his work experience day at **Manchester University** with the gas engineering team. He really enjoyed it, and it was a fantastic opportunity for him to have a taste of working life.



Sophie Wilkinson worked with her Dad at **S&G Response Ltd**, Accident and Management Repair Services.

Leo Callaghan came to **Warrington and Vale Counselling** department where he was able to sit in with a level 4 class who was learning about online and telephone counselling as part of their fitness to practice.

He was able to talk to some learners who shared their experiences of coming back into education as an adult learner.



Kobe Hughes went to work with Mum at **Salford City Academy**.



Lara Proctor went to work with Dad at **Markovitz Ltd**, Builders Merchants in Appleton Thorn.

Louisa Laughton worked with her sister Jessica as a **dog walker/pet sitter**.



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# BRAVO AWARD

Recognising outstanding effort and achievement in both academics and school sports.



This award is for students who go above and beyond in their lessons or demonstrate exceptional skill and sportsmanship on the field. Teachers and coaches nominate students who have shown excellence, perseverance and dedication, making them stand out as role models for their peers.

Winning students receive a certificate in honour of their accomplishment, and, as an extra special treat, are invited to join Mr Williams for breakfast and hot chocolate.

This event takes place twice each half term, offering a moment for students to celebrate their hard work in a relaxed setting while being personally recognised by the Headteacher.

The Bravo Award recipients for last half term are listed below. The students received their breakfast treat on Friday 13th December.

- **Isaam Sami – 7AH**  
Isaam is a pleasure to teach. He completes a great deal of out-of-school independent learning and just loves maths. Well done on a fantastic term!
- **Lara Proctor – 9MH**  
The passion Lara shows for language learning is fantastic. She goes out of her way to push herself and learn more outside class. She currently has an impressive streak on Duolingo! The hard work she puts in is clear in her assessment results and her classwork. She is a model student and definitely a linguist of the future! Well done.
- **Darcy Heath – 8AH**  
Darcy has shown incredible kindness for those in need this term and been a great example of a socially responsible Lymm student. She knitted hats with her Nan and donated them to Manchester Street Angels for the homeless this Christmas.
- **Heidi Clark – 7AH**  
Heidi showed great kindness as she raised money for Alder Hey through the creation and selling of homemade items.
- **Megan Riley – 7AH**  
Megan is another student who raised money for Alder Hey through the crea-



tion and selling of homemade items. She has been incredibly thoughtful with her time and effort put into this initiative to help those in need.

- **Beau Cooper – 7AH**

Beau helped to sell items for Alder Hey charities in the weeks leading up to Christmas. She gave up her lunchtimes to help her classmates and teachers to raise money for this fantastic cause. Thank you and well done Beau!

- **Isabelle Barnes – 10AL**

Isabelle is a fantastic linguist and has been a pleasure to teach this term. She consistently completed excellent work in French and German. Congratulations on a great term!

- **Erin Yearsley-Ward – 9MH**

Erin has represented Cheshire at Football U14 level this term, which is a fantastic achievement. Well done Erin! (see also p.27)

- **Lulu Horner – 9TH**

Lulu has made a fantastic contribution to the PE department in school through representing the Year 9 Netball team and her work as a sports leader.

- **Stanley Kinsey – 7WH**

Stanley has made an outstanding contribution to Lymm sport this term. He represents the school hockey and rugby teams and has been one of the standout players. He leads by example and also looks out for others in his



team. Well done on a great term of sport Stan!

- **Viktor Vychodil – 7WH**

Viktor is a great Captain of the Year 7 football team. He leads by example, is always kind, develops others and is a great role model to other students.

- **Sienna Coulter – 8TL**

Sienna has been nominated for English. She has been putting in a tremendous amount of effort into class and homework. She is growing in confidence and contributing much more frequently. Well done, Sienna!

- **Max Harter – 8DH**

Max has been nominated for English. He has been working so hard in the *Romeo and Juliet* topic by always offering to read and enthusiastically engage with the lessons.

We are incredibly proud of all our 'Bravo' recipients and their hard work. Keep an eye out for the next round of Bravo Award winners next half term!



## DARING TO DEIFY

Two of our Year 10 students feature in a new documentary series about accessible sport.

Featuring personal stories and inspiring encounters with individuals who dare to defy sporting expectations, the 3-part series on Prime Video, is presented by Paralympic Gold medallist Richard Whitehead MBE and broadcaster Adele Roberts.

Oscar and Seb Spink who live with facioscapulo-humeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) were able to show Adele Roberts that their condition hasn't stopped them enjoying sport and playing for Manchester City in the Wheelchair Football Association's Championship League.

The identical twins have been using electric powerchairs to get around since they were 10 years old and have developed a passion for powerchair football. They are now in their second season playing for Manchester City. Mum Kerry said: "It's great that they're enjoying themselves, but for me the most important thing has been seeing how sport has enabled them to build relationships and be part of a team. Ensuring sport is accessible and inclusive for everyone is so important. I hope this documentary makes people realise that."

*Dare to Defy* is available on Prime Video.



# PTA QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

**DELICIOUS BURRITOS BY WRAPSCALLION  
PAY BAR - RAFFLE WITH GREAT PRIZES**

Sixth Form Lower Hexagon  
7pm bar opens, 7.30pm quiz starts  
Tables of 6-8  
Tickets on Parent Pay from January

**£13**  
ticket includes  
burrito

Bring your friends and brain power for an unforgettable night of trivia!



In November and December, Lymm hosted its second internal chess tournament, bringing together students and teachers in an exciting display of strategy and skill, writes Mr Soykir.

# CHESS CHAMPION

The reigning champion, Ambrose Lam, once again proved his mastery of the board, retaining his title against fierce competition.

In a nail-biting final, Year 10 Ambrose faced off against science teacher, Mr Blackburn. The match began with an unexpected twist, Ambrose lost the first game to Mr Blackburn, who played a bold and aggressive opening. The audience, a mix of students and teachers

watching the live broadcast, held their breath as the second game commenced.

Ambrose, known for his calm and analytical approach, regrouped and delivered an extraordinary performance in the next two games. His precise moves and strategic planning turned the tide, culminating in a stunning comeback to secure his victory once again. The final move was met with applause from everyone watching, solidifying Ambrose's legacy as our chess champion.

The tournament has become an annual tradition, sparking enthusiasm and preparation for next year's competition. The buzz around the Chess Club is palpable, with students and teachers alike already devising strategies and brushing up on their skills.

Who will rise to challenge Ambrose next year? The countdown has begun!





# Worried about how you're feeling?



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information on getting the support  
you need and practical tips from  
young people just like you.

**YOUNGMINDS**

# 3D DESIGN EXHIBITION

On Monday 16th December, Year 12 3D Design students showcased their incredible work in an exhibition.

The event, which took place at lunchtime, was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff across the school to come together and admire the fantastic projects the Year 12 students have been working on during their first term on the course.

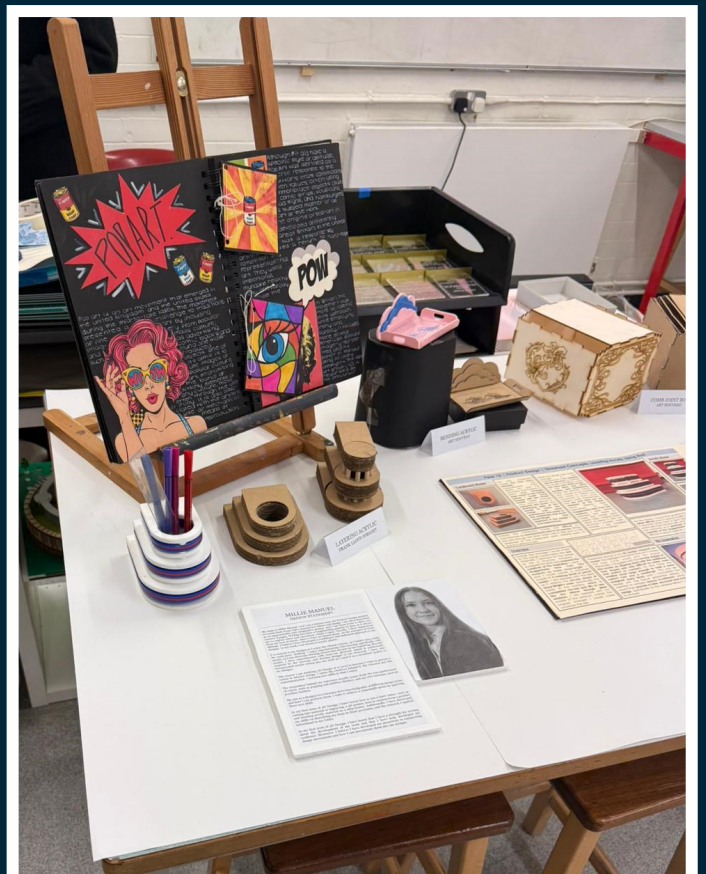
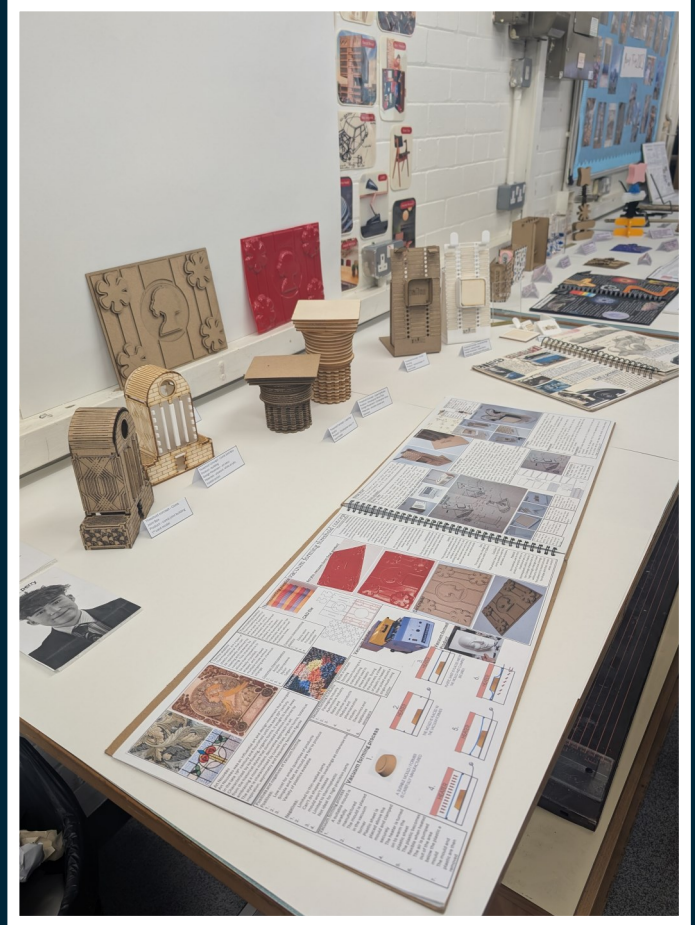
The Sixth Form students were present throughout the event, sharing their creative journeys and explaining the process behind their work. They were more than happy to answer questions, offering insights into their design thinking, material choices, and the techniques they have learned so far.

The exhibition was a resounding success, with a great turnout from both students and staff. Visitors were impressed by the quality of the work on display.

Some students also displayed the trophies they had won for their work, awarded by the Design & Technology department staff. Bronwen's layered acrylic table received 'Best piece', Lara's claw clip model took the 'Innovative Design' award, Gabby and Abi won 'Best Collection' and 'Best Sketchbook', respectively, and Hope took home the 'Contribution to Faculty' award. "All incredibly well deserved", said Miss Massey.



A huge congratulations to all of the Year 12 3D Design students for their hard work in curating the exhibition. We can't wait to see what they will create in the terms ahead!



# CHAPTERS

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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On Tuesday 17th December, Year 13 Hospitality and Catering students put their culinary skills to the test, preparing and serving an outstanding lunch for staff and parents.



The special Christmas lunch, served in school's dedicated Chapters restaurant, included a delicious three-course meal, and was a true celebration of the students' hard work, talent and dedication.

The lunch began with an impressive selection of starters that catered to a variety of tastes. Guests had the choice of leek and potato soup,

served with a crusty bread roll, indulgent port and chicken liver pâté, a flavourful goat's cheese and cranberry tartlet, or a festive prawn cocktail in Marie Rose sauce. Each dish was beautifully presented and set the tone for the delightful meal that was to follow.

For the main course, diners were treated to the ultimate Christmas feast. The tradi-

tional turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings, was a firm favourite, but there were also some exciting alternatives on the menu, such as a smoked salmon and vodka-infused risotto. Butternut squash and beetroot Wellington was the vegetarian option. Every dish was bursting with flavour and served with perfect timing, showcasing the groups' exceptional



praise for the meal, with many commenting on the high standard of the food and the great service.

Mr Dore said: "The Christmas event brought the curtain down perfectly on what has been an extremely busy 2024 for our Year 13 Hospitality and Catering students, and they certainly didn't disappoint. From meticulously planning their menu, sourcing and costing local produce, to delivering a professional event showcasing their talent and skills to an incredibly high standard is a credit to their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to their subject. They should be extremely proud of themselves. We certainly are."

cooking and organisational skills.

No festive meal would be complete without something sweet, and the students did not disappoint. Desserts included Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, a chocolate truffle and honeycomb torte, and a Black Forest cheesecake.

The service was seamless from start to finish, thanks to the hard work of the students and Mr Dore, who worked as a team to ensure everything ran smoothly. The restaurant itself was beautifully decorated with Christmas decorations, adding an extra layer of holiday cheer to the event. Staff and parents were full of



# MOTIVATIONAL MO BRO'S



The Sixth Form and staff team have managed to raise a huge £1455 for charity.

**T**he money will go to the Movember men's health charity, which raises awareness of testicular cancer, prostate cancer and men's suicide.

Mr Hawker-Green initially set the fundraising target at £500. He thanked the staff taking part (Mr O'Flynn, Mr Johnson, Mr Dobson, Mr Broadhurst, Mr Barrett and Mr Starkey), saying: "Honestly cannot thank you all enough for taking part in this – it means so much to me personally and so many of the young men in our school will appreciate you joining in".

If you'd still like to make a donation, please [click here](#).

## SAVE THE CHILDREN

The Staff Karaoke (right) and Wear Something Christmassy on the Thursday before we broke up managed to raise £949.57 for Save the Children. Thank you to everyone who donated.



**Save the  
Children**



# STAFF KARAOKE





# INCREDIBLE RESPONSE TO SHOE BOX APPEAL

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This year's Christmas shoe box appeal has been nothing short of amazing!

**T**hanks to the generosity and kindness of our students, a grand total of 135 shoe boxes were filled with thoughtful gifts and donated to those in need this festive season.

Working in partnership with the Manchester Street Angels, we were able to spread some much-needed cheer to a variety of people – including homeless individuals, children, elderly residents and even dogs! From warm hats, socks, and toiletries to toys, books, and treats for furry friends, every box was packed with love and kindness.

Our students went above and beyond to make this initiative a success. Whether it was gathering donations, carefully wrapping each box,

or spreading the word, it was clear that the spirit of giving was alive and well at Lymm High.

This year's effort is a true reflection of the compassion and community spirit that thrives within our school. Each shoe box represents a little bit of hope, joy, and support for those who need it most. A massive thank you to all of our students who contributed and to the staff who helped coordinate this wonderful cause. Your contributions have made a real difference!

We are so proud of everyone involved, and we look forward to continuing our work with Manchester Street Angels in the future.



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**TELL US:** This is a **CONFIDENTIAL** way to help **YOU** or a **FRIEND** or **SOMEONE** access support.



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**BE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND TELL US IF YOU SEE ANY BULLYING**

Be socially responsible and **TELL US** if you witness anyone being unkind

**BOOM!**



**TRUST US, DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF - TELL US!**



# SILVER SUCCESS

Amber Vause-Walsh (right) competed in the British Ice Skating championships on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**T**he Year 8 student competed with her Altrincham synchronised ice skating team called the 'Rockers'. The team won silver in the Trophy d'Ecosse competition held at Dumfries Ice Bowl in Scotland.

Amber is thrilled all their hard work, dedication and teamwork resulted in the silver med-

al at this prestigious ice skating competition.

The team are now gearing up for two more competitions of the season in January where both UK and international teams will compete.

We wish you the best of luck Amber.

## ERIN DEBUTS FOR CHESHIRE COUNTY

Year 9 Erin Yearsley-Ward had her debut playing for Cheshire on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

In the game against Greater Manchester, Erin got her first assist within minutes of play starting. It was a tough game and Cheshire unfortunately lost 6-1.

Erin works extremely hard at Liverpool Football Club and this is yet another step forward in her achieving her dreams. We look forward to hearing further success on Erin's journey.



# GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE

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 Under 13s - Year 8  
 Under 14s - Year 9  
 Under 15s - Year 10  
 Under 16s - Year 11  
 Under 18s - Years 12 & 13

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**MONDAY - 8PM - 9PM (15S, 16S & 18S)**



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# INDOOR HOCKEY TEAM DEBUT WINS FIRST PLACE

Hockey trials were held to select a Year 7 team.



“We selected nine girls from the trial who went through to represent the school and compete in the Tier 2 Year 7 Indoor North Hockey Tournament on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at The Grange School”, says Mrs Harrison. This was the first time the girls have played indoor hockey and they won all three games: 2–0, 2–0 and 4–1. Lymm High ended up winning the tournament and bringing home 1st place medals. What a tremendous start for the new team! Well done to Jess Moore, Ivy Smith, Chloe Williams, Lucy Welsby, Sophie Williams, Lisa Thornton, Kate Shaw, Annika Farquharson and Penny Gent.



## UPCOMING DATES

**Wednesday 15th  
January**  
KS3 Celebration  
Evening

**Thursday 23rd January**  
Year 11 Parents'  
Evening

**Thursday 30th January**  
Year 9 Choices  
Evening

**Friday 7th February**  
PTA Quiz  
(see p.15)

**Thursday 13th February**  
Year 9 Parents'  
Evening

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday  
21<sup>st</sup> February**  
February half term

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