



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As promised I am writing to you to provide you with some useful information based on questions raised within our community either by students, staff or families. The information I sent out in our half term letter still continues to apply, but I will highlight some important reminders for you now.

Has the updated guidance changed the way you operate the school?

In simple terms – no. Our thorough risk assessment and careful planning has meant that we are running the school in line with published guidance. I met with all year groups on the first day back to remind students of our expectations, the response from students has been excellent. We understand that, it takes teamwork and cooperation to ensure that the many measures we have taken to support safety are applied fully. I am delighted that our school community has fully embraced the importance of these measures and they are now daily ‘habits’ for everyone.

How will you manage parents evenings?

It is clear that visits to site are not likely to happen for some time. Therefore we have invested in an online platform to run our parents evenings ‘virtually’. This will involve 5 minute discussions with staff at identified points in the year. More details to follow on this. We of course continue to be available for progress conversations at any time in the year, please email/call our admin team so we can facilitate this as required.

Will after school clubs continue?

We will still support homework club and targeted curriculum focused support. Sports clubs will not take place since we have returned in September and will not for the foreseeable future. The only performing arts activities will be focused on Yr11 students who require a performance element for their GCSE in music.

Will breakfast club continue?

Yes – this is an important provision especially for students who use the public bus and arrive at 8am in the morning. This does need to be booked, if your child requires this please book through admin email.

How will you organise mock exams for Yr11?

We believe that internal exams are important – to give Yr11 an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and to undergo an exam experience. We will use appropriate spaces that are well ventilated to do this i.e. the sports hall. Students will be asked to wear masks whilst in their exam (this does not apply to students who are exempt for medical reasons)

What about masks – has anything changed?

Not really – we had already asked students to wear masks whilst moving to lesson, in and around the building, queuing in the canteen or in close communal areas or whilst travelling on the school bus. I am delighted that our students have fully supported this

How will you support students who are isolating?

We will use google classrooms to set work, all parents have been given access to a report for this so you can see what is being set on a weekly basis. Students who do not have ICT access will be supported appropriately. If you are isolating for COVID this will be part of the questions we ask, just to check students are able to complete work at home effectively.

Can we visit school site to attend meetings?

Meetings to site are discouraged – these would only take place in exceptional circumstances i.e. a serious safeguarding issue. We will use our conference call facility / discuss issues via the phone with you.

How long will you maintain the current operations at school i.e. year group bubbles etc?

We are set to review our operations in line with the 2nd Dec lockdown timeline. We will have to consider the wider, long term curriculum impact alongside our safety measures. If we do move to a whole school bubble with year groups in bubbles only for social time / any future enrichment, please be assured we will carefully plan to maximise safety to students and staff. We will of course continue to review the advice and guidance from the DfE and PHE and our LA and act in accordance with this.

I would like to once again thank all of you for your continued support of and trust in the school. Attendance at school has been excellent and current attitude to learning scores demonstrate the real pride students are taking in their learning. These are challenging times but once again Middlewich High School and the Middlewich Community is facing each and every one with courage, resilience and success.

Best wishes,



Headteacher
Middlewich High School
Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All