



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

Dear Yr11 students,

I am writing to update you on our plans regarding the grading of your GCSEs and other qualifications. We have carefully reviewed the guidance from Ofqual and the exam boards to secure the best process for you. We are still awaiting some final guidance and materials from exam boards but we are very clear now about how we want to give you the best opportunity to succeed and fulfil your potential. We have three guiding principles for this process: to be thorough, to be fair and to be clear to all of you and your parents/carers.

In every subject, your teachers have devised schedules of what you need to learn, revise and consolidate over the remaining weeks of school to achieve your grades and to prepare you for your post-16 studies. As part of these schedules they have decided which pieces of work or exam papers will be used to measure your on-going performance. They will be clear with you about when you are being assessed for this grade and when you are not.

In addition to this you will have a set of assessments to do in the hall, in exam conditions, for ONE week in May. However, these assessments are only part of your overall performance. Teachers will be using a combination of Trial 1 results, in- class assessments and these formal assessments in May to determine your grade. The formal assessments will only be 45 minutes long and will only assess part of your course; in most cases the formal assessments will assess the learning you have done since returning to school.

Some subjects will use optional new material from the exam boards (exam boards to release at the end of March). Some subjects will also use past papers or exam/ assessment material generated by other recognised providers. Staff will build an evidence base to prove your achievements to the exam boards.

We have set aside time in each subject to moderate your assessments to make sure that all your marks have been arrived at accurately. Furthermore, to ensure that we are fair to each of you, there will be times that your work is marked by different teachers, or marked blind (without your name on the paper).

We have included an additional opportunity for you and your family to meet with teaching staff to discuss your progress. This will take place on Thursday April 22nd via our video conferencing software. This will be an important meeting which will allow you to understand how you are doing and what needs to happen in the final weeks to secure/improve/achieve your grades.

We will continue to provide you with post-16 advice and guidance during this time but obviously, we will not be able to share your final grade with you, so please do not ask us to. We can and we will, however, give you updates on your on-going performance as the weeks proceed. The grades will be submitted to the exam boards on June 18th and subject to change in some cases.

Summary Timeline:

- Ongoing: Learning and in-class assessments
- Easter workshops: April 6th Music, April 7th Art, 3D Art, Textiles (students will be written to in due course)
- April 22nd: Y11 Parent Progress Evening (Remote)
- May 17th-21st Formal Assessment Week
- May 24th – 28th Final week of submitted work and in-class assessment.
- June 7th – 18th Post-16 Enrichment lessons (further info to be provided later in the term); internal QA of evidence

We are now at a key point in your MHS journey, over the next few weeks it is essential that each of you maintain your focus, your high expectations and ambitions. We will take each step together, if you are worried or anxious please talk to us so we can support you. Our staff will work tirelessly to ensure you have the knowledge you need to enable you to be successful in your future careers. We will look carefully at the evidence behind each grade awarded – so the simple message is: Take this opportunity to show us what you can do!

I have every confidence in each of you to succeed and very much look forward to supporting you through your final term in school.

Best wishes

Heidi Thurland



Headteacher Middlewich High School
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