



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL
HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

28th May 2021

Dear families,

I am writing to provide you with some important updates regarding our operations onsite and progress as a school this term. Since our return to face-to-face learning on the 8th March, it has been fantastic to see our students thrive. The last 12 months in education have been exceptional and the response from every member of our community has been just that - exceptional. I am incredibly proud of every single young person in our care; I am grateful for the continued support of families, the fantastic contributions from local businesses and organisations and of course the hard work of staff.

As a school I believe we are on a transformative journey. In spite of the challenges COVID-19 has brought us it has not stopped our progress or our momentum. This year we have completely overhauled our curriculum offer; we have broadened the qualifications our students can take at GCSE and KS3; we have invested in our ICT infrastructure and continued to train and develop staff. I am delighted to see our relationships with our community growing stronger on a daily basis. We continue to listen to students and to our families as we look to improve every aspect of our practice.

At the start of the year we saw the redevelopment of our reception area; I am delighted to inform you that we will end the year with a complete redevelopment of our Resource Provision. The £182k funding we have secured will enable us to refurbish our sensory and physio spaces and to significantly improve our learning environment for students who need an enhanced provision. We will also be implementing a Forest School early in the Autumn term - this will allow us to offer a broader curriculum to support learners with sensory needs.

We have also been successful in our recent AcSEED application. The review concluded that **Middlewich High School** continues to meet the AcSEED criteria for emotional wellbeing and mental health support whilst also demonstrating a strong focus on continuous improvement, and has therefore been re-accredited with The AcSEED Award.

Some staffing news to inform you of now. After 12 years of service to Middlewich High School Alyson Doughty is retiring due to ill health. We would like to thank Alyson for her dedication to our students and wish her all the very best in her retirement. We have also said goodbye to Julie Hawkins who is moving onto a career outside of education; we would like to thank her for her contribution to the school community.

I would like to acknowledge the significant work that has been undertaken by teaching staff to ensure that Yr11 students will leave with the grades that accurately reflect their progress. This process has been undertaken with integrity, it has been robust and rigorous and I have confidence in each and every grade awarded. Over the next three weeks we will complete the QA process and submit our samples to the exam board in mid June. Yr11 have been incredible during this period; they have worked hard, they have conducted themselves respectfully and are a credit to this community. We are very much looking forward to working with them in their final week with us to further prepare them for their post-16 destinations and of course, importantly, to properly celebrate their achievements and recognise their exceptional journey.

I wrote to you previously to remind you of the changes to uniform. From 7th June, students will no longer attend school in their PE kit. In light of this, we will be making lockers available to students that require them. Lockers will be organised in year group areas so new locker numbers will be distributed to students who wish to use them. Please contact our finance team by email at finance@mhs.school if you wish to secure a locker and they will advise you of next steps. As stated previously from September all students with the exception of Yr11 (current Yr10) will be required to wear the new school uniform.

From 7th June we are happy to accommodate students cycling to school. Student safety remains our priority. Parents/ carers must therefore ensure children are provided with a suitable helmet and have road safety awareness. Students should not cycle on the pavements adjacent to school and they should enter school via the main gates near our leisure facility at 8.35am. Having secured their bike in the rack, students must then progress to their year group bubble area without delay.

We will continue to review the use of masks in school - at present there is no reason to change our position on this. Therefore, we will continue to support the use of masks if students wish to wear them. If I receive any other guidance or direction from the LA/PHE I will of course inform you of any changes to this policy. I would like to thank families who continue to support us with LFT testing at home and encourage you to keep doing this. As a school we have not had a confirmed COVID case this term which again reassures us of our COVID management on site and the response of the community to keep each other safe. As always our response to this pandemic is to work together; thank you all for your continued support of the school and for your individual and collective contributions to keeping all of us safe.

In the final half term of the year we are very much looking forward to working closely with our new intake families as part of our transition programme. Whilst we are of course prepared for every scenario we are hopeful we will be able to run a face-to-face open evening event on 8th July, as well as face-to-face transition days. We will be offering tours during June & July for families who are considering joining us in Sept 2022. Information will be going home to new intake families shortly.

This has without doubt been the most challenging 12 months in education that I have known in the 21 years of my own teaching career. It is testament to the excellent work of staff, the continued focus of students and our strong relationships with our community that as a school we continue to move forward and to grow. I do believe that one real positive that has come out of all of this is the strong partnerships we have developed within our community. Our reputation as a school with high expectations, fantastic students and excellence in learning continues to grow. I am incredibly proud to serve this community and thank you all for your support.

Wishing all of you a restful half term where I hope you can recharge and spend precious time with loved ones.

Best wishes,



Heidi Thurland
Headteacher
Middlewich High School
Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All

- For Locker requests please contact our finance team by email at finance@mhs.school