



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

10th June 2021

Dear families,

I am writing to provide you with some updates as we are currently monitoring the ever changing Local and National situations with regards to COVID-19. I have recently received information from the Local Authority that shows that there has been a significant rise in COVID cases amongst the 12-16 age groups. We have seen evidence of this in local schools and schools across local borders.

I am faced with a pragmatic decision that supports the safety of our students, staff, families and our community. Therefore from Monday 14th June 2021, I will be reintroducing the requirement for our students and staff to wear face coverings. *They will be required to wear them in classrooms, communal areas and corridors. Students who were previously exempt will continue to be so.*

We will keep this decision under review for the remainder of the summer term.

Please ensure that your child is sent into school with a face covering and we will remind students of how to wear them appropriately, remove them and dispose of them should their mask not be reusable. Thank you in advance for your support with this decision.

We are aware of an advice communication from Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to residents living in Northwich and Winsford seeking a PCR test, if this applies to your family, details of what to do next can be found below.

Also as the hot weather is upon us we are very much applying common sense for our staff and students. Whilst full uniform remains a requirement, students will be able to remove their blazers should they wish to do so when moving around school. We also use our discretion in classrooms regarding uniforms. Please be assured we consider the welfare of students and staff at all times.

I also strongly encourage students to bring a filled water bottle with them into school.

Just as a reminder, if your child requires a locker for their sports kit, water bottles etc. Please email finance@mhs.school and they will be able to arrange that, students are required to supply their own padlocks.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the school.

Best wishes,

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

Advice for residents in Northwich and Winsford to seek a PCR test

Over the past 7 days we have seen a large increase in the number of cases of COVID-19 resulting in a number of outbreaks in businesses and schools. The current increase in the number of new cases are more likely to belong to the Variant B.1.671.2 (Delta variant) which is more transmissible than other previous variants. To reduce the spread of the virus, and understand the extent of spread, Cheshire West and Chester Council Public Health Team are now advising all residents in Northwich and Winsford to book a PCR test regardless of whether they have symptoms or not. To book a test you should visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and select 'My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms' or call 119. Lateral Flow Device home tests **should not** be used instead of a PCR test in this situation. We would advise everyone who lives in a household to go along to get a test together, pupils who are under 16 will need to be accompanied by a parent/carer to access a test. If your children are unable or unwilling to be tested it is important that adults in the household are still tested as this will enable us to identify household cases. Please notify the school if you or anyone in your household tests positive.

While waiting for your test result you do not need to self-isolate unless:

- You develop symptoms of COVID-19 - a high temperature, or a new and continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- Someone you live with develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19
- You are contacted by the school or NHS Test and Trace and advised to self-isolate

We would also like to remind all parents and carers to ensure all adults and secondary age pupils living in the household complete twice weekly Lateral Flow Device home tests. These tests should be completed twice a week even if your PCR test is negative. Test kits for secondary age pupils can be collected from their school, adults in the household can collect test kits from a range of locations outlined in the links below.

- Collect home testing kits from a **local community collect site**, locations can be found in this link: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- Collect home testing kits from a **testing site**, locations can be found in this link: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- Ordering home testing kits to be delivered to your home using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Thanks

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