



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

Dear families,

I am writing to you to acknowledge the incredible support and hard work of the Middlewich community. The last 20 months in education and in society have been exceptional. None of us could have foreseen the steps we would need to take to protect our community or the ways we would need to adapt to ensure our children's education and futures continue to be secured. I have lost count of the number of guidance documents I have read or the risk assessments that have been drafted (and re-drafted!) and shared with you. One thing I do know is that we could not have got through this period without each other. The support and trust shown to me in times of challenging decision making has been incredible. I must thank all of you for the part you have played in keeping us safe and protecting the education of our young people. This year I have once again been impressed by the tenacity, courage, resilience, determination and ambition of our community to keep going and to continue to progress individually and collectively. I am incredibly proud of all of you, it has been an honour to lead the school through this period.

COVID Update - Following guidance from the DfE & PHE we now know that from the 19th July the Government intends to move to stage 4 in the COVID roadmap. At this point we understand that in September we will need to test students twice on their return to school. The schedule for return is as follows:

| 03.09.21 - No Pupils to remain on site | 06.09.21 - Only Year 7 on site | 07.09.21 - All students on site | 08.09.21 - All students on site | 09.09.21 - All students on site |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Yr 7 8.50am - 10.10am 1st Test | Yr 8 8.50am - 10.10am 1st Test | | Yr 7 8.50am - 10.10am 2nd Test | Yr 8 8.50am - 10.10am 2nd Test |
| Yr 11 11.10am - 12.30pm 1st Test | Yr 9 11.10am - 12.30pm 1st Test | Yr 10 11.10am - 12.30pm 2nd Test | Yr 11 11.10am - 12.30pm 2nd Test | Yr 9 11.10am - 12.30pm 2nd Test |
| Yr 10 1.30pm - 3.00pm 1st Test | | | | |

We have consent for testing already however if since providing us with consent you now wish to withdraw this please email our covid emergency email to let us know **before the 2nd Sept**. Our New Yr 7 students will be asked for consent prior to testing. The rules on masks in schools are not yet clear so I will update you with any expectations regarding this before we start back in September. If there is one thing I have learned from COVID it is that things can change rapidly so I won't overload you with information at this stage regarding our return to school and how we will operate. I am hopeful that we will run a full curriculum to include our usual enrichment programme of after school clubs and some school visits within the UK. I sincerely hope that next year we have significantly less disruption to student's education although I do anticipate there may be some. In terms of Yr11 (current Yr10) there is a consultation underway at present regarding exams. I will let you know the outcome of this as soon as I am able and we will plan our Yr11 curriculum accordingly. In terms of students having to isolate from September we understand that the NHS will take over contact tracing and that a positive result will only result in that individual isolating from school initially (NHS will identify close contacts not school). Once again this may change so I will let you know more on our return to school.

Academy Update - At the Full Governing Body meeting on the 11th July the resolution was passed that following due diligence the Governors resolved to join the Sir John Brunner Foundation. We anticipate that we will be converting to Academy status with the Sir John Brunner Foundation from the 1st September 2021. I will update you on this on our return.

Uniform - A final reminder from me that from September all students *with the exception of Yr11* will need to be in the new school uniform. Students who are purchasing the uniform *for the first time* will receive a free tie and house badge which will be given to them on their first day, therefore in September Yrs 7,9&10 will receive a free tie and a house badge. In terms of ordering uniforms the cut-off date for ordering to ensure uniform arrives in time for September is 02/08/2021. We do have a small amount of old uniform in stock for Yr11 students who need replacement uniforms, this would be free of charge, however sizes are limited, for more information contact our finance team. Please be aware that skirts should be at knee length, if students have outgrown these and we do not have an appropriate size they may purchase the new skirt or of course choose to wear black trousers as an alternative.

I must recognise how supportive parents are at observing our school uniform policy. Our students wear their uniform with pride and represent our school community exceptionally well. Our uniform policy is extremely clear and it supports students' acceptance of high standards of compliance, which is the knowledge they need relevant for when they start work where dress codes and safety policies are in place. Please therefore continue to support us and ensure;

- Skirts are an appropriate length and the school badge is on show at waist level.
- Piercings are restricted to one stud in each ear lobe.
- Nails are an appropriate safe length (Neutral Colour and no acrylic)
- Shirts are white
- Excellence badges awarded are worn with pride on the blazer lapel

If you need to replace shoes over the summer months, please support us by first viewing the school website for the shoes we expect all students to wear in line with our school uniform policy.

Visit www.mhs.school Parent Zone, Uniform, School shoes.

IT access- During this year we have provided laptops and Chromebooks to students to support their home learning. Students should retain these devices for use in the next academic year. Please remember that this equipment is on loan and should be looked after responsibly. We may need to recall devices in order to install updates and will contact you directly if this is the case. All wifi dongles must be returned to school as soon as possible in order to have their wifi access updated. They will no longer work after the end of the school year. If your child requires support with their IT access for home learning please contact us.

Equipment - It is essential that students come to school prepared and ready to learn. Therefore the start of term is a great time to replenish pencil cases! We have a stock of calculators at school. Students need to have the Casio-FX-83GT model as this supports the calculations required in the Maths and Science curriculum. These are available for £10 from school or available from Amazon. Please contact our finance team to order a calculator.

Students are expected to have the following equipment every day:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Blue/Black Pen | ● Reading Book |
| ● Green Pen | ● Pencil |
| ● Whiteboard Pen | ● Scientific Calculator (We |
| ● Lockers Padlock | recommend Casio FX-83GTX |
| ● Filled water bottle | Classwiz |
| ● Ruler | |

Reading - I have been delighted to see the evidence of our culture of reading often and how it is widely embedding across the school. We have seen every form read books together and I have been delighted to award some students with their 'millionaire' word awards. On Thursday 15th July we were excited to formally open our new library which has been redesigned and replenished with new and varied reading material. It has been wonderful to see our library helpers taking books to forms, encouraging their peers to keep reading. All students have been introduced to our new online library called SORA. There is a variety of classic, contemporary fiction and non-fiction including study guides and Spanish titles available. Please encourage your child to keep up their fantastic efforts in reading this summer.

Safeguarding - it is extremely important that you know how to stay safe over the summer and how to access support. Accompanying this letter is a flyer which signposts you to additional support, as well as advice to parents and students on a range of issues.

Student leadership - We have been delighted to appoint a large number of prefects in Yr10, in September we will complete our election of our senior leadership team for our Head Boy and Head Girl as well as deputies. Further information will be circulated in September when we return. I must pass on my congratulations to students who have been successful in their appointment as prefects - well done!

Staffing updates - Since I last wrote to you a number of staffing changes have happened which need to make you aware of. The following staff are moving on to new posts and opportunities, we would like to thank them for their service to the school and wish them well in their futures:

Diane Mansfield, Mike Taylor, Maureen Voudrey, Vicky Chisholm, Gillian Preece, Rebecca Dale, Caroline Cooper and Janine Kirk.

I must take time to acknowledge Maureen for 28 years of service to this community. She has been a highly valued member of staff within the Creative Arts team and we will miss her! A huge thank you on behalf of us all has been extended to Maureen and we wish her well in her new ventures.

We have also made some exciting new appointments ready for September and we are delighted to welcome Charlene Bennett (English), Jess Salameh (PE), David Maxstead (Yr8&9 Pastoral Lead) and Lyndsey Abbott (Assistant Head i/c Science & STEM), Jane Tarbuck (Learning Practitioner within the Resource Provision), Abbie Lancaster (Yr7 Pastoral Lead) and Hayley Rose (Maths).

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - The DfE has decreed that schools are able to set an extra day off school next year due to it being the Queen's Platinum Jubilee during the May Half term. The Governors have taken the decision that this will take place on Friday the 3rd December 2021. Students and staff will not be required to attend school on this date.

School day - In September following the induction week as above, we anticipate that we will not require a staggered start, we will still use the different entrances and exits for students as this has been a good way of managing students onto site safely.

The School day will begin with lesson one at 8.40am, this means students are straight into learning when they arrive at school. It is essential that students are on time to school so they do not miss any valuable learning time.

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| Lesson 1 8.40-9.40 |
| Lesson 2 9.40-10.40 |
| Break 10.40-11.00 |
| Lesson 3 11.00-12.00 |
| Lesson 4 12.00-13.00 |
| Lunch Yr 7,8 & 9 13.00-13.30 Form Yr 11 & 10 13.00-13.30 |
| Lunch Yr 11 & 10 13.30-14.00 Form Yr 7,8 & 9 13.30-14.00 |
| Lesson 5 14.00-15.00 |

Enrichment Clubs (optional) 15.00-16.00 (menu to be released in Sept)

As I reflect on this year I am delighted to look back on a school that has thrived and moved forward in spite of COVID. We have not allowed a pandemic to shift our ambition for excellence in our classrooms and in our curriculum. Our young people continue to do us credit for their conduct and their personal achievements. I do hope that all of you take a little time out to reflect proudly on your many achievements this year.

Wishing you all a safe, happy & restful summer break.

Best wishes,



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

Useful emails:

- finance@mhs.school (calculator enquiries)
- covidemergencies@mhs.school (withdrawal of consent for testing)
- admin@mhs.school (uniform/general enquiries)