



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

3rd January 2022

Dear families,

I would like to start by wishing all of you a very happy new year. I do hope that you all enjoyed some quality time with friends and family over the Christmas break. On Sunday 2nd January we received updated guidance from the DfE regarding the return to school. In this letter I will provide you with the key information you need to know.

1. **LFD testing prior to return** - As per Government guidance we ask that prior to return **Yrs 11 & 7 students should test at home on the 3rd January and Yrs 8-10 test at home on the 4th January** and report any positive results to our COVID email address. Students with positive results should book a PCR test and should not attend school while awaiting the result (please inform our COVID emergencies email address and we will advise).
2. **On-site Testing.** As communicated with you at the end of term we have been requested by the DfE to LFT test students on site once on our return in the New Year. This means that we will continue with our planned staggered start. Therefore, as previously communicated, on **Tuesday the 4th January ONLY Yr11 & Yr7** will return to school to be tested and to begin learning (The Winsford buses will operate as normal). **All years then return on the 5th January** with Yrs 8, 9 & 10 completing testing during the day.

Live lessons will be taught to Yrs 8, 9 & 10 on the 4th January through google classrooms/gmeet **wherever possible**. Please be aware we do have a number of staff who are absent, we will do all we can to provide live lessons but this may not always be possible if we require staff on site to cover classes for absent staff. In the event of this being required work will be set on google classrooms rather than a live lesson.

Students should follow their timetabled lessons for the day. There will be an opportunity (wherever possible) for them to meet with their form tutor online in their usual form time slot.

3. **LFD weekly testing** - We strongly encourage all students and staff to test twice a week throughout the term, Monday & Thursday morning. Any positive tests should be reported into our COVID emergencies email address and our team will advise you on next steps.
4. **Face Masks** - Updated Government guidance now states that **face masks must be worn in classrooms and communal areas** i.e. corridors/indoor social areas (unless eating). Therefore, we are asking all students to bring their own face mask to school (unless exempt). Face coverings will be key in helping to reduce transmission. We noted at the end of term that a large number of students are relying on school to provide these on a daily basis. We have a very limited supply, it is essential that families provide face masks, school should only provide these in **exceptional** circumstances. We thank you for your support with this. This will be reviewed on 26th Jan by the Government.

5. **Vaccination Update** - Please be aware we have been informed that there will be a second round of vaccinations to provide students with a first/second dose. MHS is scheduled for the 10th Feb. We will provide more information in due course regarding this.
6. **Planned January Exams to take place** - All planned January exams will take place e.g. BTEC/OCR National qualifications. We will advise Yr11 students appropriately regarding this.
7. **Changes to isolation advice** - Please be aware when you report a case to us we always provide advice to families relevant to your specific context (no two cases seem to be the same in our experience!). However, the current advice is as follows:

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

- Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period.
- Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.
- If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

- People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Under these circumstances they can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result.
- If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- Please be aware it is **essential** that you inform us of a household case so that we can give you the correct advice.

Please be aware that we will need to have classroom windows open regularly through the day so please ensure your child attends school with an appropriate coat to wear. We have a small supply of second-hand coats available at school should you require support with this.

As we approach the start of term please be assured that myself and my staff will do all we can to ensure high quality education and care for our students. We have faced many challenges together over the last two years. I have no doubt we will be more than a match for any we face this term as long as we work together in partnership.

Kind regards

Heidi Thurland



Headteacher Middlewich High School
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covidemergencies@mhs.school - to report positive LFD/PCR/to ask advice on household isolation etc.

admin@mhs.school – for any other school query.