



## MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - BELONG

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear families,

I am pleased to write to you with some mid-term updates. I would like to start by once again thanking our community for their hard work. We really value and appreciate the support of our families and we very much enjoy working with you.

**Curriculum** - Included with this letter is an overview of the topics being studied this term. We have listened to families who have asked us for this information to be communicated. We appreciate this helps you understand what knowledge students are learning and this helps you support their learning. We do hope this simple summary is useful to you and provides further evidence of us responding to feedback from our community.

**Attendance & Punctuality** - Attendance continues to be a high priority for us as a school, research shows that students with high attendance, 97% and above, have a much higher success rate at achieving their targets. During our rewards assembly before Christmas, ten Amazon vouchers were drawn for students who achieved 100% attendance as well as certificates. This term a key focus for our community will be on improving punctuality standards; both to school and lesson. We are refining systems to ensure that we continue to drive excellence and so will be contacting home any child who is late more than once over the week. If there is any reason/barrier preventing your child from attending school on time, please can you contact your child's Educational support worker or Achievement Leads so that we can look to support your child.

**Achievements & Attitudes** - As well as attendance we were extremely proud of our students' achievements and success and attitude to learning, with our Gold and Silver badges. We have strengthened our rewards system to ensure students receive regular recognition including 'Breakfast with the Head', postcards for students who have demonstrated excellence and recognition at the end of every lesson for students who have achieved Excellent learning. We continue to listen to student voice for rewards that they would like to see. We recognise that whilst the vast majority of our students show excellence in learning and make a positive contribution to our school and community, a minority can at times impact the learning of others and for this reason will be further developing the use of our behaviour support room. We will utilise this important resource to ensure students who need support with self-regulation are able to do so in a way that gives them time to regulate and reflect on their behaviour without disrupting the learning of others.

**Personal Development** - We will continue to support the character development of our students through our personal development curriculum. We continue to raise aspirations through a strong careers' enrichment programme. This term we have begun our first University pathway through our ASPIRE programme which our first cohort of Yr9 & 10 students have begun. We are excited to see how this challenges and inspires them to outstanding futures.

I am delighted that our program of parental engagement has also begun this half term with a fantastic Yr9 options evening where families were invited to school to meet staff and discuss GCSE

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pathways. We really enjoyed meeting you all face to face - the first time we have been able to do so since Yr7! Following this we have very much enjoyed talking to families in Yr9 at their progress evening. Later this half term we look forward to speaking to Yr10 families at their progress evening on Thursday 2nd Feb.

**Enrichment & Support for Learning** - Yr11 are about to begin their second set of practice exams, we know how crucial these are in building confidence and enabling our staff to understand what knowledge needs to be secured in the coming weeks prior to the GCSE series beginning May. There are many opportunities for students to take advantage of to support exam readiness. School led tutoring is in place and also after school and lunchtime interventions. We strongly encourage students to access as many of these sessions as possible. We have included the enrichment information with this letter so that you can see what is on offer. Students in Yrs7-10 can also enjoy taking part in enrichment opportunities - we would love to see more of you attending these activities during and after school. We have also recognised excellence in academic achievement and progress through excellence assemblies with certificates awarded to all years again over the last 2 weeks.

On January 24th we will be taking a cohort of students to Winsford Academy to take part in the anti-bullying ambassador training run by the national charity The Diana Award. This will be an important event, we look forward to seeing what our students learn and how we can then implement this at MHS.

**Recruitment** - I am pleased to inform you we have enjoyed a successful recruitment period with three new staff who will be starting with us once their notice periods are served. We will welcome Mrs Johnson Educational Support Worker, Mrs Matthews Learning Practitioner, Mr Wilson Second in Science who takes up post after May half term. We are excited to see our new Science team take shape and drive significant improvement in student outcomes.

**National Strike Action** - We are currently reviewing the implications of the planned strike action on the 1st Feb and will write to you on Friday 27th Jan with further information.

Finally, as I am sure you are aware we enjoyed our Ofsted inspection just before Christmas. The report will be published soon. We are delighted that the Ofsted team recognised the excellent work, high expectations and aspirations of staff and students and that leaders are taking the appropriate steps to continue to raise standards and address behaviour and attitudes in school. We look forward to the report being published in due course.

I will write to you again at the end of the half term with some further updates. Working with this community continues to be my greatest privilege.

Kind regards,  
Heidi Thurland



Headteacher  
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