



# MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

KING EDWARD STREET, MIDDLEWICH, CHESHIRE CW10 9BU

Telephone: (01606) 288170

E-mail: Admin@middlewichhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

HEIDI THURLAND B.A Hons *Headteacher*

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Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you of some key information regarding the school day, end of term and start of term arrangements as well as an update on plans to improve the school site.

Since my appointment in April I have spent time assessing the school systems and processes to ensure we are developing excellence in our learning culture. After half term we became a 'phone free' school during learning time. My thanks to all students and families who have supported us with this. It has been pleasing to see students communicating with each other – the canteen is now alive with conversation and laughter which is lovely. We have also noted a significant decrease in antisocial incidents with social media.

We continue to promote our values of respect, resilience, readiness for learning and safety. The introduction of our attitude to learning system is enabling us to recognise many, many students for their overwhelmingly positive contribution to the school. We also recently appointed a significant number of new school prefects and will shortly be appointing a new Head Boy and Head Girl. Every week I send praise letters home to students who have been nominated by staff for their contribution to the school or for their work ethic. Without doubt my favourite time of the week is 3pm every Friday when I have the honour of enjoying a hot chocolate with students who have demonstrated excellence in learning.

I am delighted to inform you that the school has been granted funding to complete extensive work to improve the reception area, toilet area in Art, access to Art classrooms and office areas at the front of school. The plans are now at the final stage for approval with a view to works starting at the beginning of the summer holidays and due for completion towards the end of September; I will confirm more when I have more details.

In addition to this, I have listened to parents regarding our school day and the timing of breaks; I have noted that the current structure and timings of the school day could be improved in order to ensure learning is more focused. As a result, I wish to invite your views on two proposals regarding the structure and timing of the school day. Firstly, for September 2019 I am proposing we structure the day slightly differently. The re-ordered school day will enable us to move breaks slightly earlier in the day; again this may not seem like a big difference but I know it will help our students concentrate better. I would like to move to an earlier finish by Sept 2020 but must allow a 12-month consultation period for this to take place. Both proposals are included in this letter.

My reasons for finishing the day earlier are also rooted in student safety. I recognise that a later finish means in winter students may be walking home in the dark. Also we currently finish at the same time as many of the local primaries and this results in increased traffic congestion in and around the school area, which is potentially a safety hazard. I am also considering the well-being of my staff. By finishing earlier, we can complete essential training and also enable them to make their journeys home at a reasonable time. I encourage you to look at the proposed models overleaf and if you have feedback please email it into my PA / by letter by July 15th. Consultation for Sept 2020 will run until June 18th 2020.

Finally, I wish to inform you of our end and start of term arrangements. We finish the term on the 24th July, we will finish the school day at 12.20 for students. When we return to school in September we will structure the first week back as follows:

- 2nd Sept Staff INSET
- 3rd Sept Yr7 arrive 8.50am. Yr11 arrive 11.00am.
- 4th Sept Yrs7, 8 & 11 arrive 8.50am. Yrs 9 & 10 arrive 10.00am.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sept onwards all Years on site for 8.50am start

If your child catches the school bus, they can leave at the usual time and we will support them in the school until everyone else arrives. Staggering the start to the year in this way will enable us to complete an effective induction for all students, which will ensure we begin the year focused on achieving excellence in everything we do.

I have greatly enjoyed my first half term working for you; my thanks to all of you for your support.

Regards

Heidi Thurland

Headteacher

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Proposal 1: Sept 2019	Proposal 2: Sept 2020 *earlier start, earlier finish
Form 8.50-8.55	Form 8.40-8.45
Lesson 1 8.55-9.55	Lesson 1 8.45-9.45
Lesson 2 9.55-10.55	Lesson 2 9.45-10.45
Break 10.55-11.15	Break 10.45-11.05
Lesson 3 11.15-12.15	Lesson 3 11.05-12.05
Lesson 4 12.15-1.15	Lesson 4 12.05-1.05
Lunch 1.15-1.50	Lunch 1.05-1.40
Form 1.50-2.15	Form 1.40-2.00
Lesson 5 2.15-3.15	Lesson 5 2.00-3.00

Email : [head@middlewichhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@middlewichhigh.cheshire.sch.uk)