



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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HEIDI THURLAND B.A Hons *Headteacher*

Dear families,

I am writing to thank each and every one of you for your hard work over the past two weeks. In a very uncertain time the community has come together and shown just how amazing you all are. I know that you are all coping with lots of different situations in your families and I know that you are working hard to ensure home learning is completed to the best of your ability. We know the pressures that you are facing, as parents and carers ourselves we are facing them too! We are also learning, so I am grateful for your patience and your constructive feedback if things are not quite working as they should.

I have been delighted to see some really positive comments in the local community social media. I would ask though, if you think the school deserves criticism that in the first instance you contact me to see if we know about a given situation or are resolving it before you comment publicly. We are working really hard to support families, we are also supporting social care and the police service where we are made aware of antisocial behaviour. By working together we inevitably find solutions and I really thank you for your part in this.

As we move towards the Easter break, a break like no other perhaps, there is some information I want to make you aware of as a follow up to questions you have asked me this week.

Free School Meals – it has taken some time but we finally have some clarity from the DfE regarding this. All FSM families will receive vouchers to the value of £15 per week for each child (£3 per meal). My finance team are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that all families receive these vouchers in a timely fashion. The government unfortunately has not made provision for families during holiday time. As a school we had already made provision for this so the vouchers you have already received will cover you over Easter. As a Headteacher I am fighting with other Headteachers nationally for this decision by the Government to be reviewed. Whatever happens as a school we will continue to prioritise your wellbeing regardless of funding. I would advocate however that you write to your MP to let them know you are unhappy with the decision as it stands.

Easter Work – Staff will not be setting work over Easter. I have asked them to check that their current scheduling is adjusted so that it does not ask for submissions over Easter. We have never used show my homework in this way so please be patient with us! If you get a notification to complete work over Easter – ignore it. Some of you may choose to complete work because it helps give you a structure – that is also fine. Here are a couple of fun Easter challenges which you might want to take part in:

1. Design a new House mascot for each House (Kinderton, Bostock, Ravenscroft, Stanthorne & Newton). Send your designs in by Friday 17th April via twitter/facebook messages/admin email.
2. If you have a pack of cards – how tall can you build your house of cards? Or what kind of sculpture can you create out of your cards? Take a picture & let us know!

3. Lego challenge – can create a funny Easter scene? A fairground? A Lego city sculpture? Send us your pics of your creations – funnier/crazier the better!
4. Domino run – can you create the longest or most interesting domino run – video your domino run in action and send it in!!



Post-Easter Home Schooling

Many families have been doing so well and creating a good routine for home schooling. We are loving your photos and enthusiasm! We have listened to some of your concerns about managing the amount of work being set and we will move to a reduced timetable after Easter. We hope this will support you as parents to get the right balance for your children.

Below is a suggested schedule for Key Stage 3 and Year 10. Year 10 will need to navigate their options and manage which ones to do when. Staff will set work for the week, either on a Monday or on the day suggested in the timetable. You can use this schedule if you wish/adapt it as you wish in your homes after Easter. Please do not worry if you need to adapt – you know your own homes and how things are working in your family.

Post Easter – Suggested timetable for Key Stage 3

Suggested times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30mins	English (including reading time)	English (including reading time)	IT	English (including reading time)	English (including reading time)
30mins	Maths	Maths	Science	Maths	Maths
30mins	Science	Languages	Creative (art, cooking, product design, gardening, music)	Languages	Science
45mins	Creative (art, cooking, product design, gardening, music)	History	RE	Geography	Creative (art, cooking, product design, gardening, music)
Recommended Daily	Physical activity (Joe Wicks, MHS PE challenge, walk, cycle, dance)	Physical activity (Joe Wicks, MHS PE challenge, walk, cycle, dance)	Physical activity (Joe Wicks, MHS PE challenge, walk, cycle, dance)	Physical activity (Joe Wicks, MHS PE challenge, walk, cycle, dance)	Physical activity (Joe Wicks, MHS PE challenge, walk, cycle, dance)

*The PE department and the Arts department will set a task on Monday that you are welcome to do in any of the Physical activity or Creative slots, respectively. Otherwise feel free to explore some other types of related activities you want.

Suggested times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30mins	English (inc reading)	English (inc reading)	RE	English (inc reading)	English (inc reading)
30mins	Maths	Maths	Core PE	Maths	Maths
45mins	Science	Possible Options: French Spanish Geography	Science	Possible Options: Art Geography History	Science
45mins	Possible Options: Business Comp Science History Product Design Art	Possible Options: Textiles Music iMedia	Possible Options: iMedia French, Comp Science	Possible Options: Spanish Music Business Product Design PE	Possible Options: French Textiles Spanish
Recommended daily: Physical activity (Joe Wicks, MHS PE challenge, walk, cycle, dance)					

Marking Work – Staff will not be marking every piece of work, they will provide feedback at different points. We have also asked staff to start including exemplars of work so that you can see what an acceptable standard of work looks like. Keep sending us photos of work that we can showcase/tell us about things your children have done / that you are proud of.

Rewards – I will be continuing with virtual Hot Choc Friday (you might have to provide the biscuits though!), I will be making calls to families who have been nominated to congratulate them. Mr Edwards is also going to be awarding certificates and gold badges to students to recognise work – if you receive one send us a picture!

Contacting you – We have a statutory obligation to keep in touch with vulnerable students and also our EHCP students. We make regular calls/emails to support these families. Over the course of the next few weeks we will be in touch with families in different ways: letters from me, emails from form tutors to check in, calls from the senior team to check in if we feel there may be a need to do so. These forms of contact are all supportive – if you need us message/email and we will get in touch. Teaching staff will not use their personal email/social media and any phone numbers will be withheld as part of our usual safeguarding practice.

Finally thank you for all your messages of support – once again a reminder of the wonderful community we have the privilege of serving. To all of you who are keeping our society going due to your work responsibilities thank you – you are amazing.

Best wishes I hope you have an enjoyable Easter,

Heidi Thurland
Headteacher
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