



## MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dear parent/guardian,

Following the Prime Minister's briefing on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May it is clear that over the next few weeks, schools across the country will be starting to open their doors. The Prime Minister & the Department for Education have advised that it is the intention of the DfE to enable students taking examination subjects to be the first to return before the summer holidays. We understand that opening the school to current Yr10 students before the summer break is conditional on the infection rate not increasing as a result of relaxing some of the lockdown measures. This means that the situation may well change again in the coming weeks. In this letter I have outlined a detailed plan that I hope will enable you to make an informed decision about sending your child to school in the summer term.

Over the past few weeks myself, the senior team, teaching staff and the Governing Body have been meeting regularly to plan how we might be able to open the school to yr10. As a school it is our express aim to ensure that we offer the safest provision possible to ensure that risk to staff and students is minimised. We have carefully consulted with staff, Governors, Unions and Public Health England (PHE) to find the safest way to open our school. Extensive planning is underway to ensure that this is the case. We recognise that social distancing within schools is going to be a challenge, however we have carefully thought through some solutions to this which I will share with you now. I hope this reassures you that we are doing everything we can to offer a safe provision.

**Site Work** – From the 18<sup>th</sup> May building work will begin to complete the reception areas, improve toilet facilities, DT classroom access and to address issues with the school roof. The school will be **closed fully on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> May**. We aim to be open for keyworker provision on 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May but this is subject to risk assessment. From the **25<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June** the school will be **closed fully** to allow for the site to be managed safely. We will **risk assess the site on the 5<sup>th</sup> June** with a view to re-opening to keyworkers students on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> June, we will only re-open if it is safe to do so. During this time we will also be extensively remodelling classrooms and working spaces so that we can support a Yr10 provision.

**What is the expectation for face to face provision?** It is not an expectation that Yr10 are fully back in school. We believe we need to firstly induct students to ensure they are confident in the safety measures we have taken. After this the DfE have asked schools to provide face to face provision to support home learning. We are planning to offer some face to face sessions in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. I have outlined a summary of the provision at the end of this letter so you can have confidence in the way we are safely managing a return to school for staff and students. Please note that any plans are subject to change as a result of changed guidance from the DfE/PHE – we will communicate with you throughout.

**How will the provision work for Yr10?** Having risk assessed the site and reviewed staffing we believe that in the first instance we will operate the school as follows:

- We will only open to Yr10 students on a one day *half day provision* for a four week period on a Tuesday & Thursday from Wk beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July (see table at the end of this letter – one group on each day). This means students will only attend for one half day session per week during the identified period.

- We will run a full school cleaning programme on the days students do not attend and at the end of each half day session thus maximising safety for staff and students
- We will not be offering a breakfast club or homework club
- Any students who would normally catch the school bus will be able to do so. Students will have a designated seat spaced apart from other students. Face covering is optional not mandatory. We have been advised that the rules for school transport are the same as public transport and use is at your own risk. **Conduct on the bus must be safe and respectful at all time. You must advise us if you do not wish your child to use their place on the school bus, you will be responsible for transport arrangements should you choose not to take up the place on the school bus.**
- Class sizes will be between 10-12 pupils per class
- Classes/corridors/site will be clearly marked out for social distancing & hygiene advice clearly communicated
- In the first week of opening we will operate an induction programme to make students familiar with new ways of working, expectations and to ensure our students are supported after a lengthy break from school
- Students will not be required to wear blazers or ties
- Students will be expected to wash their hands/use sanitiser at regular intervals
- We will be offering a take home sandwich which must be pre-ordered (we will do this each morning). This will be brought to the classroom and given to students before dismissal.
- Students must not bring bikes or scooters to school
- Students will have to sit at an allocated desk in an allocated classroom and remain in the same classroom for the duration of the half day session.
- Students will be expected to socially distance at all times in school, clear markings will be in place to manage corridor movement. Classes will be dismissed at staggered times to reduce congestion as students leave the site
- Staff will not be able to be closer than 2m to any students or other staff. Students will need to demonstrate independence in the classroom, we will make greater use of whiteboards for checking understanding. We will not be marking student books, feedback to students will be given on-line or as whole class feedback when they are in school
- Students will have a personal stationery pack provided which they do not take home
- We will be running our resource provision for Yr10 students/vulnerable SEND students during this time in the resource provision/SEND areas of the school. We will not be running 1-1 TA support in lessons as this is unworkable with social distancing. Our TA staff will be working in the resource provision to support SEND students. We will write separately to EHCP families to explain how their provision will work.
- We will be running support for keyworkers also during this time in a different area of the school
- If a member of staff is unable to run the curriculum session due to illness we will utilise ICT spaces for students to complete work.
- Punctuality is important, students MUST be on site by 10.00am on their allocated day to enable us to start quickly
- Students will not be able to access water fountains in school so will need to bring a water bottle to school with them
- We expect that student conduct is excellent at all times, unsafe behaviour will not be tolerated

**What will the curriculum, look like?** We are intending to deliver core support for Maths, English & Science workshops. Options subjects and additional core learning will continue to be delivered through our home learning platform.

**What will the times of the school day be during this period before the summer holidays?**

- 10.00-13.15 with staggered dismissal from classrooms Tuesday & Thursday each week from the date the face to face provision begins
- Year groups/cohorts will access the school from specific entrances
- Keyworker students will be on site from 8.30-15.00 each day

This enables us to allow staff and students to arrive at staggered times enabling us to manage the provision more safely.

**What areas of the school will you use?** We will be using Science, English & Maths classrooms for Yr10. We will identify specific entrances for students to use.

**Can parents/carers come onto site?** Visitors will not be allowed onto site, parents/carers must not come to reception you will need to arrange how to speak to us via the admin email/main office line. **The school car park will be closed as we are using this as an evacuation area if required. Please drop your child off in Jacks car park not the leisure centre as we need to carefully manage movement on and around the school site.** Students should take care when crossing roads.

**How will you manage behaviour?** We will continue to apply our behaviour policy, we continue to expect the highest standards of behaviour and excellent attitude to learning from all our students

**Will my child have the same teacher?** We will have to reorganise the year group and classes will be taught in mixed attainment. This may mean that your child has a different teacher, staff absence may also mean your child has a different teacher in school.

**Will home learning continue to be set?** Yes – this may well be follow up / preview work; taught sessions may well focus on checking student understanding and addressing misconceptions / teaching new knowledge. We will also begin a trial of some pre-recorded lessons for Yr10 from the 1st June to support them while the site is being prepared.

**What if a student becomes unwell?** Any students who display symptoms when they are in school will be isolated and sent home. As students will only be sitting at one desk we will quickly be able to clean any area efficiently. If your child is displaying symptoms or someone in the family home has symptoms please adhere to the self-isolation protocol, inform the school and stay at home according to PHE advice. We will advise students if they have come into contact with a student or member of staff with COVID 19 and will inform families of the PHE advice we receive.

**Will students/staff have to wear PPE?** The Government have advised that members of the public should wear face masks when using public transport. Therefore students using the school bus will be expected to wear face coverings, these will not be provided by the school however. We will act on the guidance from the DfE regarding PPE for staff and apply this appropriately. As a school we will ensure at least a 2m distance in classrooms between staff and students as well as handwashing facilities throughout the site.

**Will the teachers be wearing suits?** At this point in time in order to protect staff we are asking them to wear clothing that can be quickly and easily washed so we are relaxing our dress code for staff initially. Students will have a relaxed dress code also where they wear a school shirt and trousers /

skirt with school shoes. These are easily washable and also enable us to safeguard students more effectively.

**How will you maintain a safe environment?** Increased handwashing areas & hygiene in school, very limited and controlled movement of students, reduced students in classrooms with a 2m distance adhered to, refinement of school uniform in line with PHE advice (e.g. no blazers/ties). Staff adhere to social distancing at all times, PPE to protect staff who are most at risk of transmission (again we defer to PHE advice on this), daily health update to students to reinforce hygiene and PHE guidance.

**What date will face to face provision in school begin?** We have to do extensive work on the school site and ensure staff are fully trained to ensure that we minimise risk to everyone. This requires planning time, this means that assuming it is considered safe by the government to open schools the start date for Yr10 will be Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> June. In the first instance we will run a Tuesday & Thursday provision until Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will keep this under close review according to the level of risk/staffing capacity available.

**What if I don't want my child to attend?** As a school we have to follow the statutory advice from the DfE regarding attendance at present we understand the DfE is strongly advising parents to send their children to school but will not fine them if they choose not to. We do believe that Yr10 students will benefit from some schooling prior to the summer break and if we do open I would encourage you to send your child to school. Please be assured we are taking steps to minimise risk to all students and staff. Schools opening is conditional, if the infection rate increases this decision will be reviewed. We will review the provision carefully on a weekly basis, if we feel we need to revise the provision due to updated advice or concerns we will do so.

In order to support our planning can you **please let us know if you do NOT intend to send your child into school by Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May by contacting our admin email.** We will assume if we do not hear off you that you are happy for your child to return. We also ask that if your child usually uses the school bus that you **let us know if you will NOT be requiring** a place on the school bus.

It is clear that the strength of our home school partnership has never been more important. We will face all challenges together, calmly, focused on finding solutions and we will find them! I will write to you in due course with further information appropriate to year groups. If you have questions please direct them to the school admin email and we will collate them and produce an FAQ document to address queries collectively. **Each student will shortly receive a letter which tells them which room they will attend and the entrance they should use, it will also include bus information.**

Once again I must pass on my thanks to all of you for your excellent work at home and your continued support of the school during a difficult period in our history.

Regards



Heidi Thurland  
Headteacher  
Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All

Wk1 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Wk2 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Wk3 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Wk4 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Wk5 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Wk7 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Wk8 13 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Site closed for building work. Site prep.</b>  Pre-recorded sessions Yr10 core trial starts to support transition to school provision	Keyworkers <b>Staff training &amp; induction</b> <b>Site prep</b>  Pre-recorded face to face sessions for Yr10 core to support transition to school provision	Yr10 INDUCTION & WELFARE ½ yr group each day over two days: ½ Tuesday ½ Thursday	Yr10 MATHS ½ yr group each day over two days: ½ Tuesday ½ Thursday	Yr10 ENGLISH ½ yr group each day over two days: ½ Tuesday ½ Thursday	Yr10 SCIENCE ½ yr group each day over two days: ½ Tuesday ½ Thursday	Yr6 only <b>Induction (TBC)</b> <b>Virtual school recognition event</b> *unless direction over yr10 changes
						<b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>School Closes Fully</b>

This is open to review throughout this period either due to PHE/DfE direction or capacity/resources within school meet guidelines. Risk assessment will be continuous and we will keep you informed of any changes.



Examples of social distancing measures in classrooms & corridors