



## 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. This indicates to us that Yrs 7-9 will not return to school before September. 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 September we need to be prepared for the possibility that the return to schools may continue to be on a phased basis with blended home learning and education on site. We will know more about this in the coming weeks and I will continue to update families when I can. The information below will hopefully answer some questions you may have whilst also allowing me to update you on some key information. We will be writing to Yr10 families in due course to outline in detail how the provision will work and the steps we are taking to minimise risk to staff and students.

**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 at the point it is safe to do so, likely to be mid-June.

**Will you be open fully before the summer holidays?** As per the announcement and guidance from the Government we believe we will only be opening to Yr10 students for *some* face to face sessions before the summer break. Yrs7-9 will return in September but as yet we are not clear if this will be a full/phased return.

**What about Yr6 induction?** Again we need to follow the advice from Public Health England/DfE. As/if we are open in the latter part of the summer term to Yr10 we will offer an induction opportunity for new intake students. We believe at this stage this will be done remotely as the current guidance states that transition visits will not be allowed. We will write to families regarding this.

**How will you support having increased numbers of students on site in the autumn term?** At present we are too far away from this point to outline plans to you. Please be assured though that we will follow the guidance we are given and any educational provision will minimise risks to staff and students. As we move closer to the start of the autumn term we will let you know what this looks like.

**How will you maintain a safe environment for students & staff who are on site in the summer term?** 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). Revised fire evacuation procedures. Staff adhere to social distancing at all times, PPE to protect staff who are most at risk of transmission due to role (again we defer to PHE advice on this), daily health update to students to reinforce hygiene and PHE guidance. We have included some examples of how classrooms /corridors will look this term to support Yr10 provision (see below)

**How will you support students who are not attending school this term?** We will continue to set work via our online platforms. We will also be keeping in touch with all students through form tutors. We also intend to pilot some pre-recorded sessions for Yr10, if this is successful, we intend to roll this out to Yrs7-9 to support your home learning. We will continue to reward students through ATL certificates, subject certificates and virtual Hot Choc with the Head. Our safeguarding and SEND team are in close contact with vulnerable families. We are also looking at supporting EHCP students with some face to face through the summer term. This will not mean we are following EHCP plans, it will simply allow us to provide some face to face support and contact for families. Our SEND team will be in touch with specific families shortly to outline this provision.

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! If you have questions please direct them to the school the admin email and we will collate them and produce an FAQ document to address queries collectively. Yr10 families will be receiving a letter to specifically outline provision for them.

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



Examples of social distancing measures in classrooms & corridors