



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

Dear parent/guardian,

I am writing to share with you some of the design principles we are planning for in order to re-open the school fully to students in September. I appreciate as a parent myself that you may be anxious and have many questions about how we will be able to educate students safely. I know you will be keen to understand how the curriculum may be adapted and importantly, how we will address gaps in learning across year groups. In this letter, I will outline our thinking; however, we will write to you again in August with more details as we anticipate further changes to the guidance during the summer break - I have learned through this period that plans need to be flexible and that guidance changes quickly and regularly. I must thank you all once again, for your continued patience and trust in the way we are managing this situation.

Curriculum

There has been a great deal of speculation that the curriculum will need to be cut for students, or that students will only be receiving a core curriculum (Maths, English & Science). After careful thought and deliberation, it is our express aim that the return to school is as 'normal' as it can be. We do not believe that "hothousing" core subjects is the way to address progress as this simply creates gaps elsewhere. We also believe that numeracy and literacy can and should be taught through a broad curriculum not just through the specific subjects. Therefore, our promise to you regarding curriculum delivery is as follows:

- A subject specialist will teach your child wherever possible. All core subjects are taught by specialist subject teachers
- Your child will receive the KS4 options they chose and will continue to study these for as long as possible – ideally to exam completion
- We will continue to follow a broad KS3 curriculum with at least 90% of subjects offered. We will adapt the technology & science curriculum to accommodate the teaching spaces utilised
- Students will still take part in PE, they will need to wear their PE kit on the day they have PE. We will write to you in August with further detail
- Uniform – School uniform applies as normal. If any further guidance comes out that requires us to adapt this we will let you know in August

Social distancing & Hygiene

The published guidance states that schools must abide by four statutory elements in their planning. The rest of the guidance is intended to be implemented in the way the school feels is safest for their setting. We have planned for as normal a return as possible as we believe this will enable us to address lost learning and manage any student anxiety much more effectively. We have invested in our pastoral team to increase our capacity to support student welfare and progress.

Statutory Expectations for all Schools (Excerpt from DfE guidance):

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
4. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
6. Where necessary, wear appropriate PPE

Numbers 1 - 4 must be in place in all settings, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and settings must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances i.e. first aid support.

Response to any infection:

7. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
8. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting's community.
9. Contain any outbreak by following local Health Protection Team advice.

Numbers 7 - 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

MHS Specific Planning:

- Students will be taught in year group 'bubbles'. Students will spend their social times in their bubbles within zoned areas of the school. Students will move in zones in the school which will minimise movement around school or between students
- Year groups will have toilets specifically allocated for their sole use
- Handwashing/sanitiser will be a regular part of our daily routine. Sanitiser stations are in place at every classroom and social space
- Staff will socially distance from each other and from students, wearing PPE where appropriate; we will adapt our teaching to ensure we can still provide quality feedback to students and support students in class. Seating arrangements will be in rows – the majority of our classrooms are already set up in this way in any case
- We will operate a split lunch to reduce pressure on spaces at social time
- Yr7 will arrive from 8.30am; all other year groups will arrive at 8.40. All year groups will have identified entrances and exits to use. We will stagger the exit at the end of the day to ensure safe movement off site. We will write to you in August with these details
- Students who use a public bus and need to arrive earlier or leave later can access breakfast and homework clubs – these places must be booked in advance (we will let you know how to do this in August)
- Students who use the school bus can do so as normal. We are agreeing the safest way to manage the school bus. We anticipate students wearing face coverings and sitting in a labelled seat and behaving safely at all times. We will send out more guidance in August, in line with the most up to date guidance at the time. We will be auditing use of public transport next week

- The first week of school will be carefully managed to ensure we safely induct all students to school. The school start dates for specific year groups are below. We will write to you in August with more detail about the induction sessions. You will see that we have ensured that our new intake students will receive their transition programme

Bubble Zones are under discussion but to help you visualise how the school will run please see the table below for our initial thinking:

Year Group	Zone	Allocated Toilets	Identified Entrance (8.30 for Yr7 all others 8.40)
7	Y7 – 16, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 (English)	Canteen	Drama Studio
8	10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15 (Maths/MFL)	Exam Office Toilets	Drama Studio
9	7, 9, 19, 20, Conference Room & part Drama Studio (Humanities)	Drama Studio & Conference Room Toilets	Reception
10	Ar1, Ar2, DT1, 17, 25 & 5 (Technology)	New DT Toilets	Arches Gates
11	Sc1-6 (Science Block)	PE Changing Rooms	Science Gates
SEND Resource Provision	Resource Provision & Room 22	Science	

Social time is also under review again the table overleaf demonstrates how this might work.

Food distribution points will be in place for all year groups allowing them to access hot snacks and sandwiches/drinks

Wet breaks will be managed within form rooms/zoned areas

Social Time	Time	Yr Group	Area
Morning Break	15 Mins 10.45-11.00	All	7 - Canteen 8 - Sportshall 9 – Drama Studio 10 – DT1 Yard 11 – Tennis Courts
Lunch A	30 Mins 13.00-13.30	7&11	Canteen / Arches
Lunch B	30 Mins 13.30-14.00	8,9,10	Canteen / Drama St / Sci Yard

Proposed September Student & Staff Induction Timetable:

Day	Focus	Yr Group Attending	Home Learning
Tuesday 1st Sept	Staff Induction & Planning	N/A	N/A
Wednesday 2nd Sept	Induction - Pastoral	Yr7	Yrs 8-11
Thursday 3rd Sept	Induction - Pastoral Google Classrooms	Yr7 Yr11	Yrs 8,9,10
Friday 4th Sept	Transition Induction/Google Classrooms	Yr7 Yr8 Yr10	Yrs 9,11
Monday 7th Sept	Transition Induction/Google Classrooms	Yr7 Yr9 Yr11	Yrs 8,10
Tuesday 8th Sept – 2nd Oct	Re-connect Phase	All	N/A

As with all our planning, we are subject to stringent checks of our risk assessment and we will of course adapt to the most up to date DfE & PHE guidance. We will write to you in August with full details that reflect this guidance.

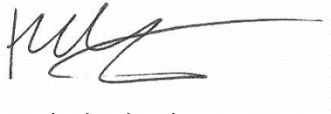
Reconnect Curriculum – I am sure you have read that schools will be carefully planning their ‘recovery curriculum’ to make up for lost learning. We prefer to call this our ‘reconnect’ phase. We already understand a great deal about our students and we have already adapted our curriculums to reflect the home learning period. We will carry out assessments, but please be assured that we will not be testing students in exam halls etc. on arrival. We fully intend to support students with their welfare but we also know how important it is to teach the knowledge and skills they require to be successful, confident learners. We will make use of formal assessments for Yr7 to enable us to accurately benchmark their attainment, however this will be carried out later in the first half term when we feel it is appropriate to do so. We will only formally assess students if we believe this will provide us with meaningful information. We will communicate this with you at the appropriate times in the Autumn term.

To summarise, we continue to be guided by Public Health England, the Local Authority and the Department for Education. We aim to provide as ‘normal’ a school experience as possible for all students. We have invested in ICT infrastructure to support home learning should it be required at any point in the future, all students will receive training on this as part of their induction in September. We will write to you in mid-late August to confirm detailed arrangements for students.

If you are struggling at all whilst school is closed over the summer please access the support available via our website. Follow the tabs from ‘School Information’ to the ‘Safeguarding’ area. Here you will find help with mental health, online safety and signposts to local support available in the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your excellent work at home, for your patience, your trust and your courage. We have come through a challenging period in the school's history calmly and with purpose. My staff and I will carefully plan to ensure that every child is fully supported on their return to school. As I have said throughout this period – 'together we've got this'.

Best wishes,



Heidi Thurland
Headteacher
Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All