



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

HEIDI THURLAND BA (HONS 1ST CLASS) NPQH HEADTEACHER

January 2021

Year 9 Curriculum & Pathways Process 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Middlewich High School's curriculum demonstrates our ambition for 'Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All' and is designed to meet the needs and aspirations of our students, parents/carers, the local community and the changing world.

Our ambition of excellence for all means we offer a fully inclusive, broad and well-balanced curriculum, supporting students from entry to the point they leave school in Year 11, to pursue Higher and Further Education and become effective employees and responsible global citizens.

One of the most important aspects of Year 9 for our students is their selection of subjects ('Pathways') to study at Key Stage 4. The process will formally start on **Monday 18th January 2021**. Having followed a broad and balanced, three-year Key Stage 3 curriculum, students have the opportunity to make some choices about what they study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11.)

At the heart of our Key Stage 4 curriculum is a strong academic core as defined by the English Baccalaureate suite of subjects (English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History). These are subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors. This curriculum provides the highest quality of education for our students, and supports a broad choice of further education or employment in the future.

Students will have a choice to study either French or Spanish as a modern foreign language. They will also be able to choose to study either geography or history as a humanity.

All students will complete a science qualification. Triple Science (biology, chemistry and physics as separate sciences) AND/OR Computer Science will be by invitation only for those students who are able to meet the highest academic standards. Students will need to demonstrate a positive work ethic and attitude to learning in science and/or computing throughout Year 9, and pass an exam in the relevant subject at the end of year 9, in order to progress to the Triple Science or Computer Science GCSE in Year 10.

Please note if your child is not selected to study Triple Science, this does not prevent them from studying science A-levels at our partner colleges such as Sir John Deane's College or Cheshire South & West College. Equally, GCSE Computer Science is not required to study A-level computing at our partner colleges.

This curriculum is complemented by the opportunity for students to follow their passions and opt to study two of those subjects that they enjoy and will achieve most in at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11). This allows students to pursue different pathways such as performing arts, creative or sport, and sets students up for success in all subjects.

We are delighted to be able to offer GCSE Drama as a new pathway for example.

To help successfully make these important decisions, we will provide an extensive programme of information, advice and guidance over the next two months. Below is an outline of the Pathways process and, in particular, an invite to parents/carers to two very important Year 9 information and support events:

- **Mon 18th January 2021** – launch of Year 9 Curriculum & Pathways Process via a special presentation online by the Senior Leadership team, students will also receive their Key Stage 4 Information Booklets via Google Classroom, which provide information on the courses available and the choices to be made.
- **Mon 18th Jan – 26th Feb 2021** - Personalised guidance interviews with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to provide an opportunity for consideration of appropriate choices as part of the wider conversation about their current and future progress. Every student will receive an interview as part of this process.
- **Tuesday 19th January 6pm** there will be a virtual **Pathways Event for Year 9 parents/carers** online. Along with an overview of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum, there will be guidance on completing the online pathways process. There will be an opportunity to view presentations by Subject Leaders, which will provide key information about each subject on offer.
- **Thursday 11th February - Year 9 Progress Review Event 10:00-6:30pm** - which will be hosted online through our new School Cloud platform. Parents/carers will be able to meet with subject staff to discuss progress and attitude to learning in all subject areas. Booking details will be shared nearer the event. Alternative arrangements will be made for those parents without internet access.
- Throughout January and February, information and guidance will be provided regarding Key Stage 4 courses for your child in lessons, via Google Classroom and in form time with their tutors. In January, students will receive an Interim Report with feedback on their progress, which should be used to inform their decision-making. All students have access to START which is an online Careers guidance platform, which will also support their decision making.
- The online Pathways process will close at 15:00 on **Friday 26th February 2021**.
- In June/July, Year 9 students will receive confirmation of their Key Stage 4 courses to begin in September 2021.

Throughout this process, it is important to emphasise that help and advice will always be available from your child's Tutor, Mrs Anderson our Careers Lead or myself.

Yours sincerely

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