



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

School Prospectus



EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING - ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

“ How wonderful it is that
nobody need wait a single
moment before starting to
improve the world ”

ANNE FRANK

At MHS, we believe that every child deserves to attend an excellent school, one that enables all students to flourish and be happy. We do this by providing all students with inspiring teaching, a supportive and caring environment and an enriching educational experience in and beyond the classroom. Our objective is to support all students to achieve *'Excellence in Learning'*, taking pride in their personal achievements whilst making a positive contribution to society.

A strong, supportive partnership between the home and the school is fundamental to the success of any child in education and we will endeavor to communicate regularly with parents regarding their child's progress and encourage parents to contact school at the earliest convenience if they have any questions about their child's education.

We are proud to have the privilege of working with professionals and students who aspire to achieve excellence in all they do. We look forward to continuing to serve our community, so that, *'Every child's life is enhanced and advanced through the highest quality of education.'*

Mrs Lydia Naylor



Our students are the thinkers,
leaders & innovators of the future.
Our challenge to them is simple:
Be the difference you want to see



Pupils enjoy coming
to Middlewich High School ”

OFSTED 2019

Middlewich High School is consistently recognised for its outstanding pastoral care. The positive relationships between our staff and students are seen as real strengths of the school.

Each student is placed with a Form Tutor who will remain with them throughout their five years at Middlewich High School. This allows each tutor to work closely with families and allows them the opportunity to really get to know each of the students in their care. Each year group is overseen by an Achievement Lead and a non-teaching Pastoral Lead who will carefully monitor and track each student's attitude to learning, their progress over time, achievement and attendance. In this way we can make timely interventions and ensure that any students who experience problems are supported and safeguarded. Our aim is to make sure that our students enjoy their experience of high school whilst allowing them to reach their full potential.

TRANSITION

We believe that the key to a smooth transition between primary and secondary school is getting to know all our students as individuals. This begins whilst they are still in primary school. Our dedicated and experienced pastoral team will visit each of our partner primary schools in the summer term. We will meet each new student and answer any questions they may have about the move to secondary school, whilst also working closely with the primary staff to make sure that all appropriate support is in place before our new students join us in September. Our transition events in the summer term allow parents and students to meet key staff such as form tutors. They are also an early opportunity to meet new friends as well as their Year 10 prefect 'buddies' who will provide a friendly face in upper-school for each of our new starters.

Any child joining us can feel assured they will be supported and encouraged throughout their time with us.





“ I am really enjoying
Science and Art –
we do amazing
things ”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Middlewich High School's ambition for 'Excellence in Learning – Achievement for All' is at the heart of our approach in providing a learning experience personalised for every child's ambitions and needs.

The curriculum is designed to deliver a broad and balanced experience, which will inspire all students to become motivated for lifelong learning. Every child is expected to work exceptionally hard to realise their full potential and they are encouraged to embrace all the opportunities offered at Middlewich High School.

We understand that for future economic and personal wellbeing, all students should have secure skills in Literacy and Numeracy, reflected in excellent GCSE outcomes. All subjects support progress in Literacy and Numeracy, by developing vocabulary and practising data handling skills for example.

We will work in partnership with students and parents/carers to support your child's progress, including:

- Communication via letters/social media/school website
- Face-to-face/virtual meetings, such as tutor evenings and progress evenings
- Regular data updates through the online parent portal, including academic progress, attendance data and attitude to learning scores
- Student Voice and parental surveys
- Form tutor/Pastoral Leads support for pastoral issues
- Achievement Leads support for progress concerns





YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Exciting, stimulating and relevant learning experiences
- Lessons that develop lively enquiring minds, physical skills, the ability to question and argue rationally, and to apply themselves with thought and persistence
- Develop retrieval skills, deepen learning and enhance long term memory
- High levels of challenge in all subject areas
- High quality assessment, both formative and summative, to inform student progress
- Strong links with primary school and post-16 providers to provide effective and supportive transition
- An understanding of the world we live in, to accept appreciate and value other individuals, cultures and religions
- An understanding of British values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith
- Effective careers advice and guidance to ensure future economic wellbeing
- Learning support provided by our highly skilled and experienced Hearing Impairment and Autism Specific Resource bases, alongside our Enhanced Provision Team

“ It always seems impossible
until it is done ”

NELSON MANDELA

CURRICULUM AMBITION

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.

It is centred on high expectations and achieving excellence in outcomes but also, importantly, in broadening horizons, understanding the world we live in, challenging our students to have courage and be the leaders of the future. We believe that blending an academic curriculum with wider opportunities for enrichment and personal development provides our students with the opportunity to access the future of their choice. Our desire for excellence and our determination to ensure that all our students achieve excellence 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.

The curriculum is arranged as Key Stage Three – Foundation (Years 7-9) and Key Stage Four – GCSE (Years 10-11).

The curriculum is designed as a 5 year learning experience from leaving key Stage 2 through to preparing for Key Stage 5, ensuring coherence and progression across each transition. Years 7-9 are foundation years, designed to build on learning from Key Stage 2 whilst securing new knowledge, skills and understanding relative to each subject, meeting National Curriculum requirements. Students experience high levels of challenge and the opportunity to deepen thinking, understanding and develop reasoning skills to support future pathways.

At Key Stage 4 students follow a strong academic core of English, Maths, Science, RE and PE as well as SMSC through form time, i-Value lessons and drop-down days. We offer a broad and well-balanced curriculum, underpinned by an 'EBACC for all' ambition. This is complemented by the opportunity for students to follow their passions and opt to study further subjects at GCSE. STEM, Creative, Performance and Academic pathways all exist within the options model.

The formal curriculum is enhanced through enrichment in STEM, SMSC and Emotional and Physical Health ensuring a range of qualifications and experiences that support academic performance and personal growth, meeting the needs and aspirations of all our students. This combination enables students to have as many opportunities as possible open to them when they move onto the next phase of their education and provides students with a broad range of knowledge and experiences to take with them.



DIGITAL CURRICULUM

Within our vision for '**Excellence in Learning and Achievement for All**' students will be fully supported working from home if required to do so. The high quality, ambitious curriculum delivered within school, face to face, will be mirrored for home learning.

The School has invested in the highest quality digital learning platforms, including Google Classrooms and Hegarty Maths. Through Google Classrooms all relevant/current curriculum resources are made available for students to access at home. In addition digital face to face sessions can be scheduled to allow student access to their class teachers, and live digital learning sessions can be streamed to students. For those students without IT access at home, relevant texts, assessment booklets and stationery will be provided to match the sequenced curriculum across all subject areas. We continue to provide hardware for students in need e.g. laptops and wi-fi dongles, where appropriate.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Extra-curricular activities are a key part of a child's education and this 'informal' curriculum significantly enhances the learning experiences of students and their cultural capital. This is the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success.

We encourage high levels of participation at lunchtime and after school, in a range of activities including art, drama, music and sport. The school Library is open at lunchtime and after school for students to access the IT facilities as part of our daily Homework Club.

Students may take additional instrumental lessons provided by 'Music for Life'. The Performing Arts department runs regular events such as school shows, drama clubs and singing clubs. Students have the opportunity to perform at events such as the Cheshire Show and the FAB (Folk and Boat) Festival.

We offer the opportunity to take part in the **Duke of Edinburgh Award** scheme and the **World Challenge expedition**. Students have enjoyed amazing experiences all around the world, in places such as Malaysia, Kenya, Costa Rica and India, where they contributed to the local community with voluntary work, such as building a local school, turtle conservation and clearing plastic waste off beaches.

We aim to provide all of Year 7 with a residential visit experience to provide them with a variety of opportunities to develop their personal skills such as communication, team work and resilience. This involves a variety of experiences including ropewalks, archery and team-building exercises.



Many departments run educational trips and visits as part of our curriculum enrichment offer:

- GCSE Geography field trips
- Sports tours and ski trips
- Science visit to Chester Zoo to study animal adaptations
- Cheshire Show
- Drop-down days include visits to post-16 providers such as Sir John Deane's college, further education providers such as Chester University and employers such as Barclays Bank
- STEM and Careers events including the annual World Skills UK Live event at the NEC in Birmingham

Finally we organise a Year 11 Leavers' Prom, to celebrate the achievements of Year 11 and to thank them for their hard work and contribution to school over the previous five years. This is an extremely popular event and is well attended by students and staff alike.



“ Pupils behave well and work hard in lessons.

Pupils with SEND take a full part in the wider life of the school.

Staff take the time to know pupils well. ”

OFSTED 2019

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

The great history of the school pervades through the corridors and recent investment in our new school reception, meets the future vision of development as our school subscription continues to grow each year.

The trust our community has in Middlewich High School means that more classrooms are being scheduled for construction, as local families make Middlewich High School their school of choice. The school community remains focused on being proud of knowing every child as an individual.

Our 3G sports pitch complements our Leisure Centre and Sports Hall. Lessons are delivered in specialist teaching areas, well equipped to support students' learning. A purpose built Learning Resource Centre comprises a library and suite of computers which are all connected to our digital curriculum online. Our Librarian is available for advice and assistance in finding resources, including before and after school to fully support reading and literacy.

The School building is a fabulous blend of traditional and new with the main building dating back to 1906.



Extra-curricular studies and activities feature across the curriculum, allowing students to excel beyond the classroom. For example students can access modern technologies in Robotics and Minecraft club, get involved in the diverse sports clubs and learn to cater for the community in Food studies. Our Drama Studio hosts regular drama/ musical productions and all students are encouraged to develop their confidence.

“ My Maths teacher is amazing –

I never thought I would say that ... ”

YEAR 7 STUDENT, MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

PRIDE IN LEARNING

Middlewich High school celebrates excellence and there is every opportunity for the adults at Middlewich high school to praise and reward children who are aspirational, ambitious and have an excellent attitude to their learning. This culture promotes a very calm, safe and happy environment for children to focus on their learning. The formal recognition of excellence is through praise in lessons and our lesson grading system, which allows children to develop their self-esteem and confidence in every single lesson.



Middlewich High School is a wonderful place to work, both as a student and an adult. The children are keen to learn, are compliant, respectful and they have pride in how they represent our school community.

Parents are hugely supportive of the work that we do here as teachers and that partnership means that every child is supported to realise their full potential.



At the end of each term, parents receive a letter of praise as we understand it's important that as parents we feel proud of how we've supported our young people. Children who have met the schools high expectations are awarded silver or gold badges, which students wear with pride. Also, pride badges are awarded for specific subjects if they have excelled in that curriculum due to effort, progress or attainment. 100% attendance badges and the prestigious Head Teacher's badge are also displayed on blazer lapels.

Middlewich High School, celebrating excellence together!

INCLUSION

The aim at Middlewich High School, is for all students to have a happy and inclusive education, culminating in achieving their full potential. Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are supported by our Enhanced Provision Team. The team comprises of The Director of Enhanced Provision (SENCo) Lead Teacher for the Autistic students, a Teacher of the Deaf, Deputy Director (SENCo) and Welfare Practitioners.

The school has two specialist Resource Provisions: one for the Hearing Impaired (HI), and one for students with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

The Enhanced Provision department is responsible for students with communication and interaction difficulties, cognition and learning difficulties, social, emotional and mental health difficulties, and sensory and/or physical difficulties.

Students are supported through a combination of in-class support from Teaching Assistants and withdrawal for small group or 1:1 work in tutorials. A variety of resources, including ICT are used to help students access the curriculum effectively. We also work closely with outside agencies to support our students.



“ In a world where we can

be anything, be kind ”

MIDDLEBURY HIGH SCHOOL

Student voice is central to the school's values – our students are the leaders of the future and it is vital that we provide them with every opportunity to step up and 'be heard'.

In 2019 we appointed our first lower school leadership team to complement the work of our senior Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies. They play an essential role in the school, acting as ambassadors at key events, they are role models in our community actively demonstrating our values and ethos on a daily basis.

Our student leaders wear a special gold tie, which they have designed. This is a strong visible representation of the 'gold standard' our student leaders demonstrate in their learning, attitudes and conduct.

Within Middlewich High School, each of our five Houses support chosen charities with fundraising and awareness events. All our students wear our new House Stars badge, our school logo represents each house with a star for each House on the badge. This along with the oak tree, demonstrates our commitment to growth and unity across our school with every student recognised for the contribution they make to our community.

The House system is based on leadership, with students being elected as council representatives, Sports Captains, House Captains, Prefects, Ambassadors and Mental Health ambassadors. These student bodies are led by our Senior Student Leadership Team. Our student leaders play a key role in shaping our school culture, they are involved in staff appointments, they present to our Governing body each term and represent the views of the student body to the Headteacher half termly.

At Middlewich High School we value each and every member of our community and we believe that we are better together; that we can achieve a great deal more by working together than individually.

When you meet our student leaders I know that you will be impressed by their confidence, passion for the school community and their exemplary conduct.



“ Middlewich High School really makes it clear that the world is truly your oyster and you’re able to achieve anything as long as you put your mind to it. ”

MOLLY DYLAN, HEAD GIRL 2020

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Parents play a vital role in the education of their children and we value the contribution they make. We work closely with parents to ensure students are supported to reach their potential.

Parents are encouraged to engage with the Parental Portal daily, where they can access information about how well their child is doing in lessons. Parents can then contact the tutor if they have any questions. Parents of children with additional needs are involved at all stages in decisions about the support put in place for their children prior to them joining the school.

Once children are in school, we hold regular progress evenings where parents can discuss their child's performance with staff in subject areas, these are in addition to the regular academic reports which parents regularly receive throughout the year via the portal. Our excellent pastoral team work closely with students and their families ensuring happy, safe students excel.

Links to external agencies help parents access any additional support their children may require. The PTFA is a strong feature of the school community, and is active in organising and holding many events throughout the year to help raise money for the school. In recent years the PTFA raised over £5,000 which was spent to directly benefit students in school. We would like to invite all new parents to join us in supporting life at Middlewich High School.



100% of parents who took part in the Ofsted School Survey would recommend Middlewich High School to another parent



THE MIDDLEWICH COMMUNITY

Middlewich High School prides itself on being at the heart of its community. Over the years our school has proved itself to be an essential part of life in Middlewich.

We work very closely with our primary school partners and other secondary schools as part of the Chimney House Group. We also share our resources with a number of local organisations and groups so we can share the benefits of our facilities. We welcome community members to join the leisure centre and 3G pitches attached to the school.

Members of our Student Voice group take an active role in the Connected Communities and ROC Middlewich action groups. Through this relationship with local leaders, including our local MP, we work hard to ensure that our young people have a voice in the local community.

The school continues to work closely with the Town Council, to support local events such as the annual Folk and Boat Festival and the Middlewich Roman Festival. Our students always have a strong presence at such events.

The school also supports the work of local organisations such as the Royal British Legion. The House system is involved in supporting a number of local and national charities, such as St Luke's Hospice.

Whether it is through attendance at our annual Christmas Afternoon Tea, charity fundraising events, or our Remembrance assembly we believe it is vital that the wider community should feel connected to our school community.



“ I was nervous to begin with

but now I am brave – bring it on! ”

YEAR 7 STUDENT, MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL




We look forward to being the school of choice for your family

To book a personalised tour with one of our senior staff please email:

schoolvisits@mhs.school

 www.mhs.school

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Excellence in Learning - Achievement for All