



# Hexham Middle School Prospectus

# Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read the Hexham Middle School Prospectus, which I hope you find interesting and informative. Hexham Middle School is a friendly, happy, welcoming school where our young people feel safe and secure and are enabled to thrive.

As a school we are committed to being the best that we can be. We are ambitious for our school and for the pupils who come here, and are committed to working with passion and purpose to achieve our aims. The key to our success as a school is great teaching, in every classroom, every lesson, every day for every pupil, so that all pupils make the progress that they should.

*“Great teaching, in every classroom, every lesson, every day for every pupil.”*

We are also firmly focused on providing outstanding care, guidance and support for our pupils, looking after and looking out for each child as an individual. In addition, we are committed to the provision of excellent extra-curricular opportunities beyond the classroom, so that all of our pupils have a rewarding and enjoyable time with us as they develop their interests and talents.

I look forward to welcoming you to Hexham Middle School at some point in the future; in the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading our prospectus.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Graeme Atkins'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Graeme Atkins  
Executive  
Headteacher

## Teaching and Learning

**At the heart of what makes the pupil experience in the classroom such a good one at HMS is the quality of our teaching.**

As an experienced, well-qualified and committed teaching staff, we have high expectations of our pupils and plan lessons carefully to ensure that each child is appropriately challenged whatever their ability, and supported where necessary.

Clear learning objectives are established for each lesson and pupils' progress towards these is carefully monitored. Homework is set regularly and marked using our formative assessment system, which enables the pupils to be clear about the next steps in their learning.

Over time, the progress of each pupil in relation to his or her target is tracked. Our high ambitions for our pupils are reflected in the fact that challenging but achievable targets are set.

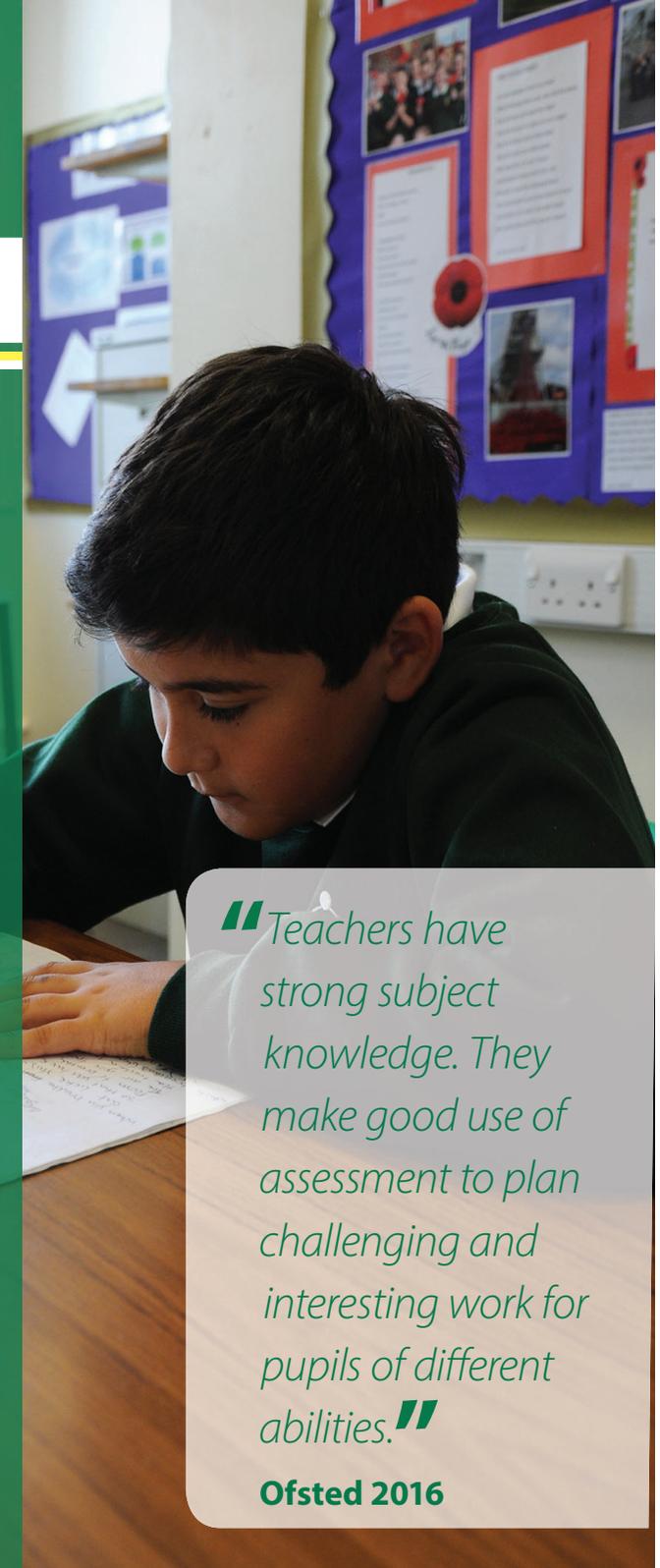
These targets are designed to ensure that each child makes appropriate progress between the end of Key Stage 1 and the end of Key Stage 2, and that this continues into Key Stage 3 to best position each child for success at high school.

Where an individual is not making sufficient progress, additional support is put in place to enable them to get back on track.

Our guiding ambition for every pupil is that they develop a love of learning and show enthusiasm to gain new knowledge, understanding and skills.

We recognise that the key ingredients for successful learning throughout life are resourcefulness in moving things forward, independence and resilience in getting things done and being able to cooperate with others.

By creating opportunities in every lesson, we ensure that our pupils gain these vital skills for success.



*“Teachers have strong subject knowledge. They make good use of assessment to plan challenging and interesting work for pupils of different abilities.”*

**Ofsted 2016**



## Personal Development

**Excellent pastoral care is at the heart of what we do at Hexham Middle School as we believe that children who feel safe, secure and happy, learn better.**

We understand the importance of knowing that your child attends a school where their wellbeing and happiness is viewed as paramount. We are very proud of our reputation as a caring school and we value each child as an individual.

We operate effective transition arrangements working closely with our feeder first schools in the months leading up to transition. Children and parents are invited to visit the school. Children spend time

sampling lessons, meeting staff, making new friends and becoming familiar with their new surroundings.

Year 5 are taught in their own block within the primary model by specialist staff who are fully committed to ensuring that this first key year at middle school is happy and successful both socially and academically.

Children are placed in form groups, with tutors taking responsibility for overseeing the personal development and wellbeing of each child and acting as a first point of contact for parents.

Form tutors are supported by pastoral leaders who are responsible for the overall welfare of children in their key stage year groups. They work in conjunction with tutors, subject staff and parents to monitor the social and academic progress of all pupils.

*“The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding.”*

**Ofsted 2016**

## Personal Development

**Our school is a happy school in which to learn and teach, and pupils enjoy school and feel valued; as a consequence behaviour is of a very high standard.**

We operate a very successful reward system which recognises good effort and attitude, and encourages all pupils to do their best.

We believe that learning is best achieved in a disciplined environment. Consequently we expect all of our pupils to behave in a sensible and responsible manner. Unacceptable behaviour is not tolerated and will be handled in an appropriate way.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in all aspects of school life and to develop leadership qualities. This contributes to a very positive ethos around school and high levels of enjoyment and engagement.

A positive working relationship with parents is vitally important to us and we welcome parents' views and encourage their support. We aim to keep parents fully informed of all aspects of their child's progress at school and to this end we have regular parent, open and information evenings.

We benefit greatly from having a vibrant and thriving PTA which organises a range of excellent activities and supports the school throughout the year.

A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a black school uniform with a white collar and a crest on the chest, is looking down at an open book she is holding. The background shows a bulletin board with various papers and photos.

*“Pupils are courteous, polite, and show a deep level of respect for one another. Their behaviour is outstanding.”*

**Ofsted 2016**



## The Curriculum

### Key Stage 2

Our Key Stage 2 curriculum provides a seamless transition from first to middle school. By working closely with our feeder schools, we ensure that each child makes rapid progress from their starting points and that they benefit from a wide range of relevant, challenging and stimulating experiences. Particular emphasis is given to the development of strong literacy and numeracy skills. Pupils are assessed at an early stage and immediate, specialised support is implemented where necessary to accelerate progress in reading, writing and numeracy.

When pupils join Year 5, most will already have met key staff through our programme of first school visits and have had the opportunity to spend time at Hexham Middle School as part of our summer transition days.

### Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3 we continue to build upon the firm foundations provided by our excellent Year 5 and Year 6 teams.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum provides a broad and balanced blend of academic, creative, active and technological subjects that bring out the best in each individual. At the same time, we continue to ensure that every pupil continues to make outstanding progress in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and numeracy by emphasising these skills across the curriculum. Pupils who display talents in these areas are also given the opportunity to compete against young people from other schools by taking part in competitions such as the UK Mathematics Challenge and the regional Literacy Quiz.

Throughout Key Stages 2 and 3, the knowledge and skills developed in the classroom are further enhanced by a wide range of educational visits to theatres, historic monuments and other sites of educational interest and value.

We encourage our pupils to have a broader understanding of society, religious diversity and healthy lifestyles through a comprehensive Life Skills programme that is undertaken by all year groups on a weekly basis.

*“Pupils benefit from a stimulating curriculum, with a wide variety of exciting topics and trips which spark in them a love of learning.”*

**Ofsted 2016**

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We are committed to enhancing every pupil's enjoyment of life at Hexham Middle School as well as nurturing their interests and talents. As such, we place a high value on our activity programme beyond the classroom.

Our trophy cabinet is testament to the local and regional success enjoyed by our sports teams. There are countless activities on offer including football, netball, cricket, rugby, hockey, athletics and cross-country running, all making use of our extensive outdoor and indoor facilities.

Music has a very high profile in our school and there are almost limitless opportunities for pupils to develop their talents, whatever their musical preferences. These outstanding talents are showcased regularly throughout the year at recitals, concerts, shows and even a family ceilidh led by our own ceilidh band. An undoubted highlight of the year is the school carol concert in Hexham Abbey – a serene and uplifting occasion in the lead-up to Christmas.

We offer opportunities for pupils to experience residential visits, beginning in Year 5 with a trip to the Kingswood outdoor activity centre.

Pupils also enjoy visits to High Borran in the Lake District, Ford Castle, a combined music and art trip to Amsterdam and the chance to learn to ski in the French Alps.

Highlights in recent times have included a writers' workshop led by the award-winning children's author, David Almond, theatre visits throughout the region, involvement in a wide variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) events, and a visit by our debating society to the Houses of Parliament in Westminster.

*“Extra-curricular opportunities are impressive.”*

**Ofsted 2016**



## How to find us

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We are delighted to offer tours of the school for prospective parents. Please telephone the school to arrange a mutually convenient time on (01434) 602533.

Hexham Middle School is easily accessible from the centre of town and is located behind Marks and Spencer. A number of dedicated school buses serve the surrounding catchment area and stop within the school grounds at the beginning and end of the day.

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