



June 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Transition to Hexham Middle School – September 2020

We are delighted that you have accepted a place for your child at Hexham Middle School. Our comprehensive approach to transition will be different this year due to current circumstances, but we want to reassure you and your child that we will make the transfer to middle school as smooth as possible. All of the staff are looking forward to meeting you and your child; we also understand that you may be starting to feel a little nervous about the move and have questions for us to answer. We want you all to know that we are here to answer them and are more than happy to help you in any way we can as your child prepares for the move to middle school.

You can contact the school by phone or email at any time. We have also set up a dedicated email address for new pupils and parents: transition@hexhammiddle.org.uk

Transition Information

We have now set up a dedicated transition page on our school website. This will be the main source of up-to-date information including any letters sent home. The first letter (alongside this one) is a 'Welcome to Year 5' letter. This has been written directly to your child to welcome them to our school and it would be brilliant if they could write a reply. All of the details are in the letter and we look forward to receiving the replies which will be used as part of the transition process when school returns. The website is also updated with the latest guidance on ordering school uniform and completing the online admissions forms – these two steps are essential in this process. Thank you for completing them.

'Welcome to HMS: Virtual Tour' Video

Further to this, we have now added a 'Welcome to HMS: Virtual Tour' video. This provides an opportunity to familiarise yourself and your child with key areas of our school, listen to staff members and to hear from our Head Pupils and House Captains about life at Hexham Middle. We hope that you and your child will enjoy watching this video tour over the next few weeks.

Getting to know the staff and the school

You would usually get the opportunity to meet key staff and see your child's new classroom at our Parents' Evening on Transfer Day at the start of July. As this cannot happen as planned, we have come up with new ways of getting this information to you. In addition to the 'Welcome Letter' referred to above, we will also be posting tutor profiles of our year 5 teaching team so that you and

your child can read a little more about their new form teacher. Please don't hesitate to send us any questions you have using the email address provided above. We will get back to you as quickly as we can.

We know that one of the main questions your child will be asking is: who will my new teacher be? The children would usually find this information out on Transfer Day in July. This year, we will send you a letter to inform you of your child's form tutor (class teacher) before the end of the school term.

Our website and social media pages ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) are updated regularly with new information for parents and pupils. To keep up-to-date, please 'like' the Facebook page and follow us on Twitter (links above).

Getting to know the children

Our transition process begins early in the year when we start to meet with pupils' first schools and primaries to find out more about the children joining us. We have already collected lots of information on your child so that we can plan ahead for the new year, ensuring they have smooth academic and pastoral transition. The Pastoral Team along with Mrs Adams (Assistant SENDCo) have arranged further meetings with Year 4 staff as we plan ahead for September. We would usually offer additional school visits to any pupils who may be more anxious about the change; instead, we will be in touch with families to offer further support where it may be needed. Please be assured that whilst our comprehensive systems will be a little different this year, we are doing everything we can to enable your child to get off to a good start next year.

We look forward to meeting you and your child soon and hope that the information provided will start to help you in your preparation for the transition. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time with any questions using the email address provided earlier – we are here to help. In the meantime, we hope that you, your child and others at home stay safe and well.

With best wishes

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher (Acting)