



May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Admissions September 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Hexham Middle School in September 2021. We value our partnership with parents and we believe that an early introduction to the school will play an important part in creating a positive beginning for you and your child. More detailed information beyond the contents of this letter will follow shortly.

School Admissions Forms

In order to help with our planning, please could you complete the school admissions forms for your son/daughter, including the parent and pupil consents. Please try to do this by **Friday 4 June 2021**. The admissions policies and forms are available to complete online – please access them via this [link](#).

School Uniform

Uniform can now be purchased from our new supplier, Michael Sehgal & Sons, via this [link](#). The uniform for our new year 5 pupils is the same as the existing uniform but it features our new logo for HMS. Older HMS pupils will be able to wear the existing uniform until they outgrow it. Full detail of our uniform policy can be found in our attached 'Admissions Information' booklet and on our [website](#), pages 9 -12. Uniform with the current HMS logo can still be worn.

In addition to the branded sweatshirt, we have identified general lines from Michael Sehgal that meet our uniform policy and we would encourage parents/carers to buy all uniform items from this supplier. However, parents/carers have the flexibility to buy trousers, skirts polo shirts and non-branded PE uniform from other retailers, provided they meet the requirements of our uniform policy.

Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Sehgal's uniform shop in Newcastle is currently closed to the public and all orders must be made [online](#) and dispatched by post. To help families in the current situation, Sehgal's are providing free delivery on orders placed in May and June 2021 where the discount code FREEDELIVERY21 is entered at the checkout.

If items are unavailable, the Sehgal's sales team will get in touch to advise you. Should you have any queries regarding sizing and availability, please contact them directly by email: sales@michaelsehgal.co.uk

Transfer Day and Transition Information

We are committed to ensuring that your child makes a positive start to their middle school years. To support this, Mr Stephenson (Head of Key Stage 2) has already started to meet with first school

colleagues to get to know the children who will be joining us. He will continue doing this over the coming half-term. Mr Barry (SENDCo) and Mrs Adams (Assistant SENDCo) will also contact parents to offer additional visits where we feel they may be beneficial. Please contact us if you think your child would value an additional visit to HMS or if you want to have a more in-depth conversation with a member of our team.

In addition, we hope to operate the usual transfer day in July where your child will have the opportunity to visit us at HMS. However, ongoing COVID-19 restrictions which limit the mixing of school bubbles mean that planning our usual transfer activities has been more of a challenge this year and there remains a level of uncertainty. As such, there is a Plan A – the intended approach if circumstances allow, and Plan B – the contingency plan if Plan A cannot happen. This approach is aligned with the other schools in the Hexham Partnership who have agreed a consistent position to ensure that all children get a similar experience. We will confirm plans in light of the next COVID-19 guidance on 21 June 2021.

Plan A

If COVID-19 restrictions are eased to allow school bubbles to mix, we will be able to operate our usual transfer day activities:

- **Wednesday 30 June:** Rounders Afternoon – an opportunity to spend the afternoon playing rounders at Hexham Middle School to meet other pupils and staff.
- **Tuesday 6 July:** Transfer Day – an opportunity for pupils to spend a day with us meeting their new tutor and taking part in a range of activities designed to help them become familiar with their new school.
- **Tuesday 6 July:** Parents' Information Evening – an opportunity for you to join us to hear more about various aspects of school life and more information about our new school site.

Plan B

If restrictions on school bubbles are not eased, we will plan the following transfer events:

- After school visits (*one school at a time*) for children and parents to visit the school, meet staff and have a tour. This will be good opportunity to ask questions and get a feel for what the school is like day-to-day.
- Our website will be updated with video tours, staff profiles and transition activities for the children to enjoy.

We are mindful of the ongoing restrictions but are planning for our transfer events to be held in person. We will send further information soon on how we plan to host our events safely.

New Build

I am pleased to report that building works on the high school site have been progressing very well over recent months and we remain on track to take our place in them from this September. Students at QE are already benefitting from being able to use the new all-weather 3G pitch along with the six court multi-use games area to the north west of our site, and the feedback from them and the PE staff has been very positive indeed.

Below is the most recent aerial view of the works, which gives you a sense of the progress being made and how things are taking shape.



Having had a recent tour of the facilities myself, I can report a real sense of excitement at how wonderful they will be for our pupils, staff and wider community. This [short film](#) will give you a further insight into what is to come.

Further information regarding your child's transition will be sent to you shortly. In the meantime, I would be very grateful if you would complete the online forms by Friday 4 June 2021. If you have any questions about the completion of these, please contact Charlotte Gaines on 01434 602533 or via e-mail at admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Atkins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher