



# Ovingham Middle School

Ovingham, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 6DE

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1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to officially welcome you and your child to Ovingham Middle School and to outline arrangements for this year's transition from first school to middle school. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Mrs Gemma Ridley and I am Head of Year 5 and SENDCO at Ovingham Middle School. In this capacity I will be your initial point of contact during the transition process.

This year, due to the current global COVID-19 pandemic, we may be unable to deliver our usual transition programme to Year 4 children due to start at our school in September. Many of you joined us back in October for our interactive opening evening, however, several of the usual events involving Year 4 students including transition taster visits to school, our staff visiting and meeting the children in their first school settings, a parents/carers information evening at the end of June, and a transfer day in July. Ordinarily, this letter would contain the forward dates for all of these events, however due to current circumstances and the uncertainty of what will happen nationally in relation to schools re-opening, we are unable to provide you with this information at this time.

I want to offer you reassurance that we have planned alternative transition events and are developing ways of delivering our usual events in a different manner. This may involve online activities, input delivered through the Year 4 teachers, and input from Year 5 form teachers. We are working closely with Highfield Middle School to ensure consistency between arrangements for all Year 4 students in the Tyne Community Learning Trust.

As soon as we are able, we will share this information with you and resume the transition process. Please feel assured that you will not be left in a position where your child is starting our school in September with no previous transition opportunities and important information sharing. We will endeavour to get to know all of our new starters thoroughly and make sure they feel confident with their new school, to share information with our feeder first schools, and to provide you as parents and carers with all of the information you need to ensure that your child has the best possible start at Ovingham Middle School.

In the meantime, we have set up a designated email address where you can direct any queries relating to Year 4 to Year 5 transition. The email address is as follows [year4transitions\\_ovingham@tcltrust.org](mailto:year4transitions_ovingham@tcltrust.org) We will endeavour to respond to queries as quickly as possible, but please be aware that our staff are not working their normal hours so this may take a little longer than usual. We have also built a designated section on our school website to provide all required information relating to this year's transition. Information will be added at various intervals between now and July. This can be found at <https://ovinghammiddleschool.net/for-parents/year-4-transition/>

Finally, I would like to advise you that a residential visit to Dukeshouse Wood that takes place every year in the first term for our new year 5 students has been booked for 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October. At this stage, we are currently unable to confirm if this will go ahead, however we will update you as soon as we can.

I look forward to working with you in the future and to many happy and successful years for your child at our school.

Kind regards,

Mrs G Ridley

Head of Year 5