



Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head of Year 5 at Valley Gardens Middle School and provide you with an update to our transition plans in preparation for your child starting Valley Gardens Middle School in September. I am looking forward to meeting your child and working in partnership with you across the next academic year.

As a school, we recognise the importance of transition from first school to middle school and that it is a big step full of emotions; some sadness at leaving first school but also excitement at the opportunities that middle school brings from making new friends to new clubs and experiences. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child thrives during their time at Valley Gardens.

Over the last half term, Mr Godfrey and I have had the pleasure of going into each first school and presenting an assembly with the children and talking to them about the transition to Valley and what to expect. What has shone through are the children's enthusiasm and excitement for starting Valley Gardens and their keenness to learn.

As we have had to cancel our planned transition days, we are going to host some virtual events to ensure your child has had the opportunity to meet their new form teacher, their new classmates and ask any further questions about what it is like being a student at Valley Gardens.

The first event we will hold is a "meet your teacher" online call on Tuesday 6th July at 3:45pm – 4:30pm. Your child's new form teacher may ask your child to speak a little about themselves and can answer any questions they may have. In order for this to happen, we will send a Microsoft Teams link to the email address supplied as part of the admissions process, inviting you and your child to attend. They must join with their cameras switched on and their microphone muted. Additional information about your child's form teacher will follow.

Mr Godfrey is also going to host some virtual assemblies with the first schools live from Valley Gardens so children can see the school during the day.

When the school opens in September, we will be opening up just for our new Year 5 pupils for a full day so that we can acclimatise them to their new surroundings and do some welcome activities. This will take place on **Thursday 2nd September**. The rest of the school will return on Friday 3rd September. We are awaiting further information from Public Health about how schools will be allowed to operate from September. Once we have this information, we will contact you with any updates.

We hope that the activities planned will give your child the chance to meet their new teacher and answer any questions they may have before the summer holidays so they can spend their summer having a well-deserved break and getting excited about their next step. We are excited to welcome your child and support them through their first year at Valley Gardens. Please expect an additional email sent on 2nd July with further information about the meet your teacher event and information regarding form classes for September.

Best wishes

Mr Paul McIntosh
Year 5 Tutor