

To the Parent/Carer of a pupil at
Birkenshaw Middle School

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you alongside the parents of pupils at all other Middle Schools in North Kirklees to share information with you about changes which are occurring in your local school system.

We understand that it's very important for you as parents and carers of pupils currently attending Birkenshaw Middle School to have clear information about the choices that are available to you for a future school place for your child.

This is a complicated picture as some previous plans are not now possible.

As it is now not possible to go ahead with creating a new Co-educational Academy at Howden Clough alternative arrangements need to be made for school places for children from Birkenshaw Middle School.

We are about to begin the statutory consultation process surrounding the revised proposals for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School and so final decisions about the arrangements will not be made until early next year. It is proposed that the school will close in August 2013.

However, there are choices open to you now and in the future which we feel you need to be informed about and that is the purpose of the attached information.

The enclosed information explains the options that are available for you to choose for your child and tells you what you would need to do and by which deadlines should you wish to pursue any of these options.

We appreciate that this is extremely complicated and so if you would find it helpful to seek impartial advice from one of our choice advisers please contact 01924 326646 or email choiceadvice@kirklees.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

School Admissions Team

Information about choices for future school places for parents and carers of pupils currently in Year 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School

Your child is now in Year 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School.

Birkenshaw Middle School is proposed to close at the end of the school year in August 2013.

Current year 7 pupils will be finishing year 8 when the school is proposed to close at the end of the summer term 2013 and transferring into year 9 in September 2013.

The proposed arrangements being presented for consultation name Whitcliffe Mount -Specialist Business and Enterprise College as the receiving school for pupils "displaced" by the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School.

Places at Whitcliffe Mount -Specialist Business and Enterprise College would be available as usual for year 9 pupils from Birkenshaw Middle School in September 2013. This does not affect the rights of parents and carers to express a preference for other secondary schools, including any new schools that are established in the local area from September 2013. (See options A and B below)

Some parents of pupils at Birkenshaw Middle School have asked whether it would be possible for their child to transfer to secondary school in September 2012 at the same time as all the other pupils of the same age in the other three closing middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools. (See options C and D below.)

There is currently a proposal being developed by the BBG Academy Trust to establish a Free School in the area. As this proposal progresses, this may become a further option for parents to express an interest in their child attending. We will ensure that you are kept informed as this Free School develops.

The information below explains the options that are available for you to choose for your child and gives you information about what you would need to do and by which deadlines should you wish to pursue any of these options.

Possible options for current year 7 pupils at Birkenshaw Middle School

A. September 2013: Transfer to Y9 at Whitcliffe Mount – Specialist Business and Enterprise College

You would need to complete an online application or a paper transfer form (SCAF) and hand it to the Head teacher, Mrs Jagger, by **31st October 2012***.

B. September 2013: Transfer to Y9 at another secondary school with places available

Parents can name up to 3 preferences of school, including any new schools that are established in the local area from September 2013, on their transfer form (SCAF). You would need to complete an online application or a paper transfer form (SCAF) and hand it to the Head teacher, Mrs Jagger, by **31st October 2012***.

C. September 2012: Transfer to Y8 at Whitcliffe Mount – Specialist Business and Enterprise College

From September 2012, Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College will be the 11-16 school serving the area and the designated receiving school for all pupils in the Middle Schools that are closing. A place in year 8 in September 2012 has been reserved for all Middle School pupils who wish to transfer.

Some parents of pupils at Birkenshaw Middle School have asked for this option so that their child could transfer at the same time as all the other pupils of the same age in the other three closing middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools.

If you would wish to pursue this option, you need to fill in the attached response sheet and hand it to the Head teacher, Mrs Jagger, by the last day of autumn term **Friday 16th December 2011**.*.

D. September 2012: Transfer to Y8 at another secondary school with places available

Some parents may wish to explore whether a place is available at another secondary school from September 2012. To pursue this option would mean that you would need to complete an "in-year" transfer form (ICAF) at the beginning of the summer term in April 2012.

*Further information about application forms and admissions procedures, including online applications, is available on the Kirklees website at the address below.

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/education-learning/admissions/admissions.shtml>

Full information about Whitcliffe Mount and other Secondary Schools is contained in the Guide for Parents which is also available on the Kirklees website. Paper copies of the booklet are available on request from Mrs Jagger, the head teacher.

Please do not hesitate to contact the School Admissions Team if you have any queries.

Response sheet - choices for future school places for parents and carers of pupils currently in Year 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School

To Kirklees School Admissions

I would like to request a transfer and reserve a place for my child in year 8 at Whitcliffe Mount – Specialist Business and Enterprise College in September 2012.

Child's surname.....

Child's first name.....

Child's date of birth(DD eg.27)(MM eg.05).....(YYYY eg.2001)

Signed.....(parent/carer)(date)

Please print your full name

Please return this form to the school office for the attention of the Headteacher Mrs S Jagger by Friday 16th December 2011.

Parents will be contacted by letter with confirmation of the place in January 2012.