



Wednesday 1st March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We really hope that this letter finds you well. We are delighted that your child will be attending Matford Brook Academy in September 2023 and are looking forward to welcoming them, and your family, over the coming months.

You are joining our school at a uniquely exciting time: opening in September 2023 for our first cohorts in Year 7 (and the Early Years Foundation Stage), your child will be part of the inaugural cohort, the very first pupils at Matford Brook Academy. You will hopefully have had the opportunity to read about our school, our vision and values (information can be found on our [website](#)). Opening as part of the Ted Wragg Trust, our mission is to provide an excellent, all-through education that empowers children to believe that they can, and should, change the world around them. At Matford Brook Academy, we write our story - and we are so pleased that you will be part of writing this next chapter with us.

Transitioning to secondary school is a really important time in your child's school career. There will be a mixture of excitement, anticipation, curiosity and nerves; all of this is entirely to be expected. We are here to support you during this time. On the next page, you can find our transition pledge.

As a new school, there will be aspects of the transition experience which are different to those at our neighbouring Ted Wragg schools. This is part of our story as we move towards our opening in September. Our intention is to openly share our plans, answer any questions you have and build excitement towards our first days in September.

We are currently in an important phase for our school community - recruiting our staff team who will be joining us for September. There has been an incredibly strong field in response to our recruited positions and we look forward to sharing our appointments with you. On the next page, you can read about one of our exciting team members: Hannah Rose, who will be one of our Deputies.

We are keen to do everything we can to support you and your child during the transition to Matford Brook Academy. We are very much looking forward to meeting you, to building our partnership together and beginning this exciting time in our school's history. We will continue to be in touch throughout the transitions process but, if you have any questions in the meantime, you can contact us via: transition@matfordbrook.academy or the Local Authority via: admissions@devon.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Emily Simpson-Horne (Headteacher)



Our Transition Pledge

We will do everything we can to ensure that every Ted Wragg Trust (TWT) child has the best possible transition between primary and secondary schools. We will stay in contact with primary schools and provide contact details so communication can be effective.

We will provide every child with exciting opportunities, including:

- every child will receive a copy of 'Wonder' to read by the time they start secondary school (an audio file is also available).
- a chance to complete a writing task, writing 'their story' so far to share with their new tutor introducing themselves, what their hobbies are, what they are looking forward to about starting at their secondary school and what they are worried about.
- an introductory Maths course via our exciting and highly successful SPARX programme. 'Sparx Maths' (SMVC / Sparx Maths virtual classroom). This programme is used to deliver Maths in all Trust secondary schools.
- a knowledge organiser - 'Our story at Matford Brook Academy' - with information about our school.

Introducing: Hannah Rose

We are really pleased that Hannah is joining the inaugural staff leadership team for Matford Brook Academy. An experienced colleague, including as a SENDCo with the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-Ordination, Hannah will be one of our Deputy Headteachers. She joined the Ted Wragg Trust as a Future Headteacher and her aspirations for all children's success are inspiring.

Hannah grew up in Somerset and studied English at university. Having worked abroad at an international school, she qualified as a teacher in 2007, beginning her teaching career in Coventry. She moved to Devon and worked in a variety of teaching and school leadership roles from 2010.

Hannah is particularly excited by the purposeful design of Matford Brook Academy as an all-through school, as well as our commitment to being community-focused and having the highest of expectations for every child.

School visits

Emily Simpson-Horne (Headteacher) and Hannah Rose (Deputy Headteacher & SENDCo) will be the main point of contact during the next few months. We will be visiting your child's school next term, meeting the Year 6 teachers and/or the Head of Year 6 to discuss every pupil who is coming to Matford Brook Academy.

A second visit will take place in the summer term to meet the Year 6 pupils, answer their questions and ease any concerns, as well as sharing information about our Transition Day (see below).

If you are moving from out of area, we will conduct these visits virtually.

Transition events

Our Transition Days will be an important opportunity for Year 6 pupils to meet some of our team, learn more about what September & Year 7 will look like, and get to know other pupils who will be joining.

The final arrangements will be communicated to you closer to the time, however, in the meantime, please put the following dates in your diary:

Wednesday 6th July (after-school)

Welcome Evening for Year 6 parents/carers and pupils

Thursday 7th and Friday 8th July

Transition Days for Year 6 pupils

Our school site

We know that you are likely to be keen to visit our fantastic school site! We are working closely with the Department for Education (the client for the school's building) and Spatial Initiative for a finalised programme leading to our September opening. We will share updates with you as we receive them.