

PARENT COMMUNICATION · Y5/Y6 / GRADES 5-6

Secondary Transition — Parent Guide

From Y5 to the first weeks of Y7

The biggest single change

The application timeline (UK)



How to choose a secondary school

What to do in Year 5

What to do in autumn/spring of Year 6



What to do in summer term of Year 6

The first six weeks of Year 7

What's different — primary vs secondary

Aspect	Primary	Secondary
Number of teachers	1 (mainly)	8-12 different teachers
Movement	One classroom mostly	Move every 50 minutes
Day length	9am-3pm typically	8.30am-3.30pm typically
Homework	Light, often optional	Daily, in multiple subjects
Equipment	School provides	Child carries: pens, ruler, calculator, planner, etc.
Lunch	Often pre-paid hot meal	Often cashless system; choices to make
Independence	Adult-led	Self-management expected
Friend groups	Often stable through years	Reshuffle in first weeks
Adult relationships	Class teacher knows everything	Form tutor + 12 subject teachers



Aspect	Primary	Secondary
Extracurricular	Limited, optional	Wide range, mostly optional

What to have ready by September

- Uniform (with name labels)
- School bag (large enough for books)
- Calculator (specific model often required by maths department)
- Water bottle
- Travel arrangement confirmed (bus pass, walking route, cycle storage)
- Phone if going (with sensible expectations agreed)
- PE kit + bag
- Pencil case with: pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, sharpener, glue, scissors
- Reading book of own choice for English
- Locker key (if relevant) + safe place to keep it
- Lunch / break-time arrangements (cashless system set up if applicable)

