“Students ... are cared for well, including the most vulnerable” - Ofsted

New Year 7 Students said:

“I wasn’t sure if I would find my own way round Hinchingbrooke, but as soon as I arrived here I realised that there was nothing to worry about and that everybody was really helpful” ~ Emma

“Being in Year 7 is great because it’s a whole new experience – new teachers, new lessons and new friends” ~ Taylor

At Hinchingbrooke School we are proud of our bespoke transition programme, which aims to motivate and inspire new students joining us from primary school. Moving from primary to secondary school is an exciting and significant event in the life of your child.

Parents and teachers recognise that this milestone marks a change in expectations of young people. They need to develop their crucial life-skills such as independent working and self-organisation and we work hard with primary schools to ensure that our students are prepared for this big change in their lives. The habits and routines that children develop in their first year of secondary schooling will stay with them throughout their school lives, which is why we invest a lot of time and energy in our transition process.

When a child joins us at Hinchingbrooke, we work hard to help them cope with the wide variety of new experiences and changes that they face, many of which demand new skills and abilities that they have not had to use before.

Concerns are many at this time: they are about to move to secondary school; they may get lost moving around school; they may not understand their new timetable and they may have fears of bullying. Our experience is that after just a few weeks at Hinchingbrooke most children report that they are no longer worried about these things. The work we do during the transition process provides information and strategies for dealing with the various challenges our new students will face.
How does the transition process work?

There is a full diary of events included in the transition process beginning in October of the year preceding a student’s move to secondary school.

The table below demonstrates the key events that take place across the year. However, this is just our starting point. We are proud of the strong links we have with our partner primary schools and this allows us to work closely with them on a number of innovative and exciting projects.

These include collaboration between primary and secondary staff as well as enrichment days including our Festival of Sport for primary children, hosted by Hinchingbrooke, allowing pupils to familiarise themselves with our beautiful school site.

There is a Taster Day in the Summer just before they join us and there is an emphasis on a programme of events to meet the needs of each individual student. Indeed, we begin working with some students as early as Year 5 in order to prepare them for the move up to secondary school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Year 6 Open Day &amp; Evening</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting preference forms to the LA</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Offer letters sent by the LA</td>
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<td>April - May</td>
<td>Transition Manager meets with Year 6 class teachers</td>
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<td>June - July</td>
<td>Transition Manager and Year 7 representatives meet with Year 6 classes to talk about transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Pre-Taster mornings</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Taster Day</td>
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What is different about secondary school?

- Students often have to travel further, some making their way to and from school independently for the first time, some travelling by bus or bicycle
- They will have to wear a full school uniform and will have a whole list of new rules and regulations to remember
- Instead of one teacher, they will be taught by around fifteen teachers and will have to get to know a whole range of adults in different roles within the school
- Hinchingbrooke School site will be much bigger and students will have to find their way around, moving from classroom to classroom between lessons, often carrying their belongings with them
- They will have to use and interpret a complex timetable, of which they will have a copy in their day to day diary/planner. The planner contains lots of other useful information and provides the opportunity for messages to link between the school and home
- Students will be fully responsible for ensuring that they have the correct books and equipment for six different lessons, their lunch or dinner money, bus fare, PE equipment etc. Lockers are available for storage
- Students will be given full responsibility for recording homework, completing it by the correct day and giving it in on time
- There will be new lessons (eg French, Design and Technology) and new variations on familiar ones (eg science in a laboratory)
- Teaching and learning styles may be different
- Break and lunchtimes will be organised differently with less adult supervision and students having a lot more independence in terms of getting back to lessons on time, buying their own snacks and lunches etc

In general students are expected to be more independent, self-reliant and self-organised; a welcome development for many students, but a challenge as well for most.

In addition to this programme of events, we continue to focus on transition once students have arrived in Year 7. Tutors in Year 7 follow a weekly routine centred around helping students to settle in at Hinchingbrooke as well as establishing our high standards and expectations. This includes following a SEAL programme, which focuses on the social and emotional aspects of learning.
As knowing who to contact can be confusing for parents new to secondary school, our Transition Office provides a central port of call for all queries. At Hinchingbrooke our form tutors also play an essential role in your child’s development. Within the first few weeks of Year 7 we hold a Tutors’ Evening where parents and carers are given the opportunity to meet staff from each of our subject areas as well as spending time meeting with the form tutor in order to put a face to the name.

Our undeniably active approach to transition is specially devised in the interests of our students which means the programme is constantly being adapted and updated, making the process an exciting and purposeful one.

What does a typical day look like at Hinchingbrooke?

Students complete six fifty minutes lessons each day:

- 8.25 am  Pre-school supervision starts
- 8.45 am  Registration/Assembly
- 9.10 am  Period 1
- 10.00 am  Period 2
- 10.55 am  Break
- 11.15 am  Period 3
- 12.05 pm  Period 4
- 1.00 pm  Lunch
- 1.45 pm  Period 5
- 2.35 pm  Period 6
- 3.30 pm  End of school day

After School Activities

We have a wide range of extra-curricular clubs running before school, at lunch and after school. These are widely attended by students from all year groups and are a great way for Year 7 students to meet new people and try new things. Our Learning Support department also runs a Breakfast Club before school and a Homework Club at lunchtimes.

The list of clubs is continually expanding and can be found on the extra-curricular notice boards around school as well as on the school website. TV screens dotted around the site are also used to publicise new clubs and events as well as other relevant information for the students. At the start of the year our Bell’s Gone, What’s On? fair also allows students to get a flavour of all the different opportunities on offer.