

Primary to Secondary Transition: FAQ

Be prepared for the first few weeks of secondary school to feel a bit overwhelming. Your child will be navigating a much bigger building, moving around different classrooms, meeting new people, and becoming more responsible for their schoolwork and homework. Getting to grips with this will take time. Hopefully, the questions below will help provide some reassurance to any concerns you may have.

Preparing your child for secondary school

We have a dedicated area on the school website for families joining us in September 2024. <https://www.baconcollege.co.uk/college-life/year-6-7-transition>

To help prepare your child for secondary school, we strongly recommend that families explore the parent handbook and the transition newsletters available on the Year 6-7 Transition page on the school website.

Key dates:

Please add the following key dates to your calendar.

- **Information and Enrolment Evening (Face to Face) – 6th June 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm & 4.45 -5.45 pm**

Face-to-face meetings for parents and carers. Please bring completed enrolment booklets and ID documents. The evening will be divided into two sessions. You will receive a letter specifying which session you should attend, along with an enrolment booklet that you are required to bring with you to the event.

- **Transition Morning (new students spend the morning at Bacon's College) – allocated morning on Wednesday 3rd July 2024.**

- **Wednesday 4th September 2024 – Year 7's first day at Bacon's College**

Have you got any tips on how to ensure my child travels safely to school?

- Work out the route to school, whether your child will be walking or taking public transport.

Practise the route with your child until they are confident. It is always helpful to time the route to school. Also, make sure your child has an alternative route in case of problems with transport or people they want to avoid. If it helps, draw a map.

- If possible, find your child a friend they can walk with on their first day. Things won't seem so daunting if they can go with someone.
- If your child will need to use an Oyster card to get to school, make sure you apply for it in plenty of time – it may take a couple of weeks to come through, so don't leave it until the end of the holidays. And make sure there's money topped up on the card if your child is taking the train or tube to school.

What uniform and equipment do I need to buy for my child?

- White Hall Clothiers, Camberwell, is now open for appointments. More information is available on the school website.
- An equipment list has been provided in 'Week 3: Preparing for Life at Bacon's College' transition newsletter.
- Please label all parts of the uniform, coat, and PE Kit. You will be surprised how many students manage to lose trousers and kilts within the first week – especially after a PE Lesson.
- Buy a very big, very strong rucksack bag. Your child will have loads to carry. And that's not counting the days when you'll have your PE kit.

Does your new school have lockers, or will you be carrying your coat around with you all day?

- We are currently reviewing the use of lockers at the school. Please assume for now that a locker will not be available.

Preparing for the first day of secondary school

What does my child need to bring on their first day of school?

- Your child's first day will be Wednesday 4th September 2024 as the first few days. They will be in school in the morning. Your child will need to bring their new school bag with their equipment in it. They will also need to bring their summer project work.
- From Thursday 5th September 2024, your child will need to bring their bag with their equipment in it, as well as a packed lunch or money for lunch (unless your child is eligible for free school meals).

What time does school start?

- Please buy an alarm clock for your child. School starts at 8.25 am so if your child has a long journey to school, they may have an early start.

Does my child need to bring their P.E. kit on the first day of school?

- No. Your child will not need their P.E. kit for the first day of school.

How will my child know where to go on their first day?

- Before the summer term, you and your child will be informed about which tutor group your child will be in. On the first day of term, your child must remember what tutor group they are in. Do not worry if they don't as there will be members of staff around to support the students.

Life at Bacon's College

Can you give me some general information about what it will be like to be a parent/guardian of a child at secondary school?

- The parent/teacher/school relationship can feel different at secondary school. Your child will be taught by up to 10 different teachers, so you are unlikely to get to know them as well as their primary teachers. Your child may find there are some whose style they prefer to others. Try not to be too concerned about this – it is quite common.
- Your child will be taught by subject specialists who are passionate about their curriculum areas, so do not be surprised if your child develops an enthusiasm for new subjects.
- Form tutors have a pastoral role as well as being subject teachers, so these should be your first port of call with any general worries.
- The best way to contact a member of staff is often via email. Subject teachers have full timetables, so may not get a chance to reply instantly. We endeavour to respond within 36 hours. Contact the school office if it is urgent.
- Parents' evenings are usually held once a year at secondary schools and consist of appointments to see several teachers, often with your child present too.
- We have high expectations that we support students to achieve academic and personal excellence. Support the school in terms of rules and expectations – this leads to a more productive relationship.

How do I report my child's absence?

- Please call the school office or email studentabsence@baconcollege.co.uk on the day of your child's absence
- Please avoid booking medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, please inform the school office if your child needs to leave school early for an appointment and provide a copy of the medical appointment letter.

My child has a SEN diagnosis. Who do I need to contact?

- If your child has a SEN diagnosis and you would like to discuss or have a meeting with our SENDCO, please contact Ms R.Mirza@baconscollege.co.uk

What happens if my child needs medical assistance?

- Your child may need medical assistance during the school day. Your child must tell a member of staff if they do not feel well.
- The medical team will contact you if they believe your child should be collected and taken home. Please note that the medical staff is not able to give students any medication unless you have provided medication to be stored in their school file.
- All medication should be stored on file.
- If your child needs an EpiPen, an asthma pump or medication for their medical condition, please you ensure you have provided one for the school file. Your child must always also carry their own EpiPen or Asthma pump.

How does your lunch system work?

- We have a cashless system at school using 'ParentPay'. ParentPay details will be sent to parents before the end of the Summer holidays/early September.
- Students are allowed to bring snacks and drinks to school but items with a high sugar content are banned and will be confiscated.

Will my child be able to go to the toilet during lesson time?

- Students will not be able to leave a lesson to use the toilet unless they have a medical condition which the school have been made aware of.

When will my child know what lessons they have?

- Your child will receive their timetable in September with a new school planner. Your child receives their timetable, we recommend that you make at least three copies: one for your child's bag, one for your child's pocket and a spare for home.
- We recommend that students go through the timetable and pack their bag the night before – there's never time in the morning to find their maths book.

When is the library open?

- The library is open before school, at break, lunch and after school. It's a great place to go if your child wants to do some homework or just avoid the playground.

What if my child gets lost?

- In Week 3's Transition newsletter on 'Preparing for life at Bacon's College', we explained how the room numbers work at Bacon's College. We have also posted a virtual tour. Please encourage your child watch it over and over to help familiarise themselves with the school building.
- We recommend that at lesson changeover, your child walks with someone who knows where they're going. And don't try to go against the flow of traffic, walk on the left.
- There will be other students and members of staff around for your child to ask for directions if they get lost.

How much homework will my child get?

- At the start of Year 7, we will already have your child's SATs results and teacher assessments. We may carry out our assessments or 'CATs' tests as the summer holiday and the process of transition itself can often cause a dip in progress.
- The national curriculum is no longer assessed via levels; we are responsible for our own assessment system, which will be explained to you at parents' events and via the school or documentation.
- Students will be given a homework schedule to help support them with managing their workload. They will get at least one piece of homework to complete every day. Most homework will require students to complete work online. All students will be given a Chromebook to help facilitate their independent learning.
- Your child may have exams during the summer term. Try not to overload them with pressure but support and encourage them.

Can you tell me more about the extra-curricular clubs you offer?

- We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We encourage students to go to at least one club a week. It is a great way to get to know other students. A timetable for extracurricular activities will be available in September. Extra-curricular activities at Bacon's College are free. Please ensure you are aware of which clubs your child would like to attend and when they are running

Don't Worry – There will always be someone around to help

- Everyone is different, and some young people take to secondary school quite quickly while others need a little more time to settle. Either way, it is a natural part of this next step in your child's life.

- During the first few weeks, we encourage students to go easy on themselves and expect to forget to bring the right textbook or end up in the wrong class at some point. Your child will pick it up eventually and within a month or two.
- If you have any questions that we haven't answered, please feel free to contact us using the following email schooloffice@baconcollege.co.uk