

## **Top Tips for Parents: Supporting Your Child's Transition to St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy**

Transition to secondary school is a big step; exciting, sometimes nerve-wracking, and full of new opportunities. These tips are designed to help families feel confident, informed, and ready for the journey ahead.

### **1. Talk Positively About the Move**

Children take their cues from the adults around them. Share your own excitement, talk about the opportunities ahead, and reassure them that it's normal to feel a mix of emotions.

### **2. Establish Routines Early**

Secondary school brings new expectations around punctuality, organisation, and independence.

Helpful habits to practise in the summer term include:

- Packing a bag the night before
- Getting up at a consistent time
- Planning homework or reading time
- Using a simple planner or calendar

These small steps build confidence long before September arrives.

### **3. Attend All Transition Events**

Meeting staff, exploring the building, and experiencing lessons helps remove the unknowns. Encourage your child to ask questions — the more familiar things feel, the smoother the start.

### **4. Build Independence Gradually**

Secondary school encourages pupils to take responsibility. You can support this by:

- Letting them organise their own equipment
- Encouraging them to check their timetable
- Helping them problem-solve rather than solving things for them

This builds resilience and self-belief.

## **5. Keep Communication Open**

Ask open questions such as:

- “What are you looking forward to most?”
- “Is there anything you’re unsure about?”
- “Who did you enjoy talking to today?”

Regular conversations help you spot worries early and celebrate successes.

## **6. Stay Connected With School**

St Bede's prides itself on strong relationships with families. If you have questions or concerns, reaching out early always helps. Staff are warm, approachable, and committed to supporting every child.

## **7. Know Who to Contact**

Here are the key people supporting your child's transition:

### **Head of Year 7 — Mr Iggleden**

Your first point of contact for pastoral support, settling in, friendships, and day-to-day wellbeing.

### **SENDCO — Miss Coggan**

For questions about additional needs, support plans, or transition arrangements for pupils with SEND.

### **Transition Lead & Assistant Headteacher — Mr Fields**

Oversees the whole transition programme and works closely with primary schools and families.

## **8. Save Key School Contact Details**

- **Main School Telephone: 01724 245151**
- **School Email: [admin@stbedesscunthorpe.org.uk](mailto:admin@stbedesscunthorpe.org.uk)**

- **Address:** St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Collum Avenue, Scunthorpe, DN16 2TF

Keeping these handy makes communication simple and stress-free.

## **9. Normalise Worries**

Every child — even the confident ones — feels nervous. Remind them that:

- Everyone is new
- Staff expect questions
- Mistakes are part of learning
- They will make friends

## **10. Celebrate the Milestone**

Transition is a moment of growth. Mark it with something special — a family meal, a photo, or a small keepsake. It helps children feel proud and ready for the next chapter.