



I am incredibly proud of the difference ‘The BIG Step’ is making to all children attending our Summer Transition Programmes. In 2021, we delivered our programmes to over 2,300 children, across 17 schools in Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset.

‘The BIG Step’ has been many years in the making and something I still feel as passionate about now, as I did 8 years ago when delivering my first summer transition programmes as part of a government initiative, with the purpose of providing additional support for disadvantaged students making their transition from primary to secondary school.

Moving from primary to secondary school is probably one, if not the biggest transition of childhood, something that needs to be planned with the attention it deserves.

At this point children move from being a big fish in a relatively small pond to being a very small one in an unfamiliar and overwhelming ocean. During this transition, a wealth of research shows that academic performance often declines, sometimes markedly in the case of disadvantaged students.

‘The BIG Step’ is the ideal intervention to stop this waste of potential before it even begins. Students arrive back to school in September excited, confident, and prepared for their journey ahead.

They’ve already made new friends, know their way around the school, and understand what is expected of them.

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Since the recent pandemic, our programmes have taken on even more significance. Summer school provision with an academic focus has the potential to support students to make up for some of their missed education. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation found that, on average, students attending a summer school can make:

- **2 months’ additional progress**  
*(compared with students who do not attend)*

Further evidence suggests a broader benefit for families and communities, support for vulnerable children, student mental health and wellbeing, improving education engagement and transitions, and reduced youth violence.

It is my intention to provide affordable opportunities for all children transitioning from primary to secondary school, giving them a greater chance of reaching their full potential during a key milestone in their education.

I look forward to another successful year, working together with our partner schools, both old and new, to deliver our mission: empowering children to arrive at school in September excited, confident, and prepared for their new journey ahead.

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**‘The BIG Step’**  
Year 6-7 Transition Programme