

'MAKING **THE BIG** STEP A SMALLER STEP'



“I think this was one of the greatest experiences of my life, it was amazing!”

Student, Exmouth Community College

A photograph of three young girls sitting at a wooden table in a classroom. The girl on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a white t-shirt. The girl in the middle has long dark hair and is wearing a white t-shirt. The girl on the right has dark hair tied back and is wearing a yellow t-shirt with a cartoon graphic that says 'the POWERPUFF GIRLS'. They are all smiling at the camera. The background shows a classroom with colorful posters on the wall.

make friends
build confidence
solve riddles
visit classrooms

get excited

Empowering children
to arrive at school in
September feeling excited,
confident and prepared for
their new journey ahead.

‘The BIG Step’ Transition Programme is an Ofsted registered Year 6-7 summer programme aimed at easing the transition for children moving from primary to secondary school.

Our programmes are delivered by **passionate and inspiring teachers** and take place for one week over the course of the summer holidays. We pride ourselves on providing new students with a smooth and extensive programme that means students can arrive on their first day of school excited about the next chapter of their education, rather than feeling apprehensive about the journey ahead of them.

The programme is both **educational and fun** with curiosity central, to inspire students to learn. The timetable is interactive, challenging and has clear outcomes. There is a distinct focus on identifying the needs of each student and then working with them to maintain their **literacy and numeracy** levels so that gains in primary school are not lost in transition.

And what’s even better ... this bespoke programme is **completely free** to all secondary schools.



FEEDBACK IN WORDS

The feedback we received about 'The Big Step' from parents and children was absolutely fantastic. We received incredibly positive feedback from everyone about the week of activities that they took part in.

Parents commented on how much more confident their children were about joining year 7 and how it moved them from being nervous to really looking forward to it.

Suzannah Wharf
Headteacher, Teign School

THE BIG STEP! YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION PROGRAMME

FEEDBACK IN NUMBERS



I would definitely recommend 'The Big Step'. It's a fun and varied programme, added bonus of giving children opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new classmates.

What an awesome week my son had! Set off in the morning, quiet and nervous. I came home beaming and full of stories about his new friends and his great day. He can't wait to start school now as he has already tackled his biggest worries. He can't wait to get going. I can't recommend this highly enough. Thank you to the team for your time and efforts!

Eather Parent

A great confidence boost for any year 7, with a varied range of activities throughout the week. A great way to make new friends and explore your new school before the term begins - a must for all year 7s.

Suzanne Parent



Email Info@thebigstep.org

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Daniel Levertton BEd (Hons)
Founder - The Big Step
Year 6-7 Transition Programme

An introduction from The BIG Step Founder

I am incredibly proud of the difference that **The BIG Step** is making to all children attending one of our summer transition programmes.

The BIG Step has been many years in the making and is 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 of, 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.

“...children move from being a big fish in a relatively small pond to being a very small one in an unfamiliar and overwhelming ocean”

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

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, improved student mental health and well-being, increased 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.

make a mess
feel less anxious
get arts and crafty
learn new skills
build bridges

Transition Programme
Feedback Video:
Students & Teachers Views



What to expect...

Your students should get ready for an electrifying summer like no other with our action-packed programme! We've designed an unforgettable adventure that promises thrills, challenges, and endless fun.

Students put their wits to the test as they dive into the world of escape rooms. Solve puzzles, crack codes, and work together as a team to unlock the mystery and escape within the time limit. It's a brain-teasing experience that will sharpen their problem-solving skills.

Then students will unleash their inner athlete on our crazy golf course. Navigate tricky obstacles, sink that elusive hole-in-one, and compete with friends in a playful and exciting game that promises plenty of laughs and friendly competition.

For those aspiring martial artists, our martial arts sessions will teach discipline, self-defence, and boost self-confidence while providing an exhilarating experience.

But wait, there's more

In an adrenaline-pumping twist, students will step into the shoes of a CSI investigator to solve a high-stakes case. Millions of pounds have mysteriously vanished from New Metropolis Bank, and it's up to your students to eliminate suspects, gather evidence, and unveil the cunning thief. This immersive experience will challenge their deductive skills and teamwork, providing an engaging and educational opportunity.

Check out a full list of what's on offer next



Sports and Orientation

Students experience thrilling sports and orienteering challenges on our programme, partnered with outside organisations for an unforgettable sporting experience

- Glow in the dark dodgeball
- Crazy golf
- Archery
- Martial arts
- Scavenger hunt
- Orienteering
- Danish longball
- Train with the Exeter Chiefs Day*

**Not at every programme*



Arts, Crafts and Cooking

Students explore their artistic talents through arts and crafts, alongside unleashing their inner chef as they whip up delicious treats under the guidance of our experienced teaching staff

- Pottery
- Keyring making
- T-shirt tie-dyeing
- Pizza and cookie making

Problem-Solving Activities

Students will uncover mysteries in our poisoned school dinners escape room, channel their inner detective, and become a living piece of a giant Cluedo game

- Escape room
- CSI Investigation
- Giant Cluedo
- Survive a zombie apocalypse
- Classroom games
- The BIG Stack

Scenarios and Support Workshops

Our anxiety workshop equips students with coping strategies, whilst our bullying and drama workshop fosters empathy and resilience, exploring real-life secondary school scenarios and how best to cope with them if they arise

- Coping with anxiety workshop
- Online bullying workshop (*social media*)
- Drama workshop (*scenarios children may experience in secondary school*)



find yourself
meet your tutor group
unlock your potential find the loos



The 'Passport to Success'

Each student receives a Passport to Success. The passport encourages the students to independently track and manage their progress, complete literacy and numeracy tasks and provide their year 7 tutors with an insight to the student's hopes and fears before the autumn term commences.

- **Student Wellbeing**
Includes tasks to help with their own wellbeing (anxiety and stress reduction).
- **Pre and Post Student Questionnaire**
This questionnaire is used to explore students' feelings towards starting secondary school and the difference made by attending our summer transition programme (see our key findings on page 21).

- **Sample daily timetable with accompanying questions**

Students have the opportunity to look at a sample timetable and are given the task of answering questions around this.

- **Understanding and Recognising Anxiety**

The tasks are linked to our 'Anxiety Workshop', where students learn how to recognise their anxieties and are provided with strategies to help them cope and overcome if needed.

- **Rewarding Success**

Students receive success points for positive behaviour, in line with each school's behavioural policy (merits, commendations, E-Praise, etc.). These are passed onto your school and accredited to each student in September.

EXAMPLE TIMETABLE

Registration	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7
MON	En	En	En	En	En	En	En
TUE	En	En	En	En	En	En	En
WED	En	En	En	En	En	En	En
THU	En	En	En	En	En	En	En
FRI	En	En	En	En	En	En	En

Teachers: Mr A. Bullard, Mrs A. C. Bawn, Mrs C. P. Cornish, Mrs C. L. Rickham, Mrs G. Mills, Mrs H. Jenkins, Mrs J. A. E. Watson, Mrs J. B. Winsted, Mrs M. J. Miller, Mrs P. Collins, Mrs R. E. Barman, Mrs S. Browne, Mrs K. Pritchard.

UNDERSTANDING & RECOGNISING ANXIETY

When you become anxious, hormones are released and the involuntary nervous system sends signals to various parts of your body to produce the changes.

What kinds of things trigger feelings of anxiety or worry? Survey your classmates to find out about situations where they have felt anxious or worried. Write down these triggers in the space provided. When you have collected different types of situations, draw a line between each and the type of trigger that you think it best fits. Some situations will match up to more than one type of trigger. Add some extra types of triggers on the spare lines if you wish.

WHY WE WORRY

What kinds of things trigger feelings of anxiety or worry? Survey your classmates to find out about situations where they have felt anxious or worried. Write down these triggers in the space provided. When you have collected different types of situations, draw a line between each and the type of trigger that you think it best fits. Some situations will match up to more than one type of trigger. Add some extra types of triggers on the spare lines if you wish.

CLASS CHARTS POSITIVE POINTS

Teachers give you success points to celebrate what you are doing well. These points add up and can be put towards prizes. Let's see how many you can collect this week on The Big Step summer transition programme.



Reporting Back to Schools

As part of our dedication to student well-being and success, we provide an individualised report back to each school participating in our programme.

These reports encompass the following:

Behaviour analysis

Our reports offer insights into both positive and negative behaviours observed during the transition programme, providing schools with a holistic understanding of students' conduct and interactions.

Safeguarding insights

We prioritise the safety of all students. Our reports highlight any safeguarding concerns or potential risks, ensuring that schools have the necessary information to maintain a secure learning environment.

Intervention strategies

To support schools in their efforts, we suggest personalised intervention strategies tailored to the specific needs of identified students, helping schools implement effective measures for success, straight away in September.

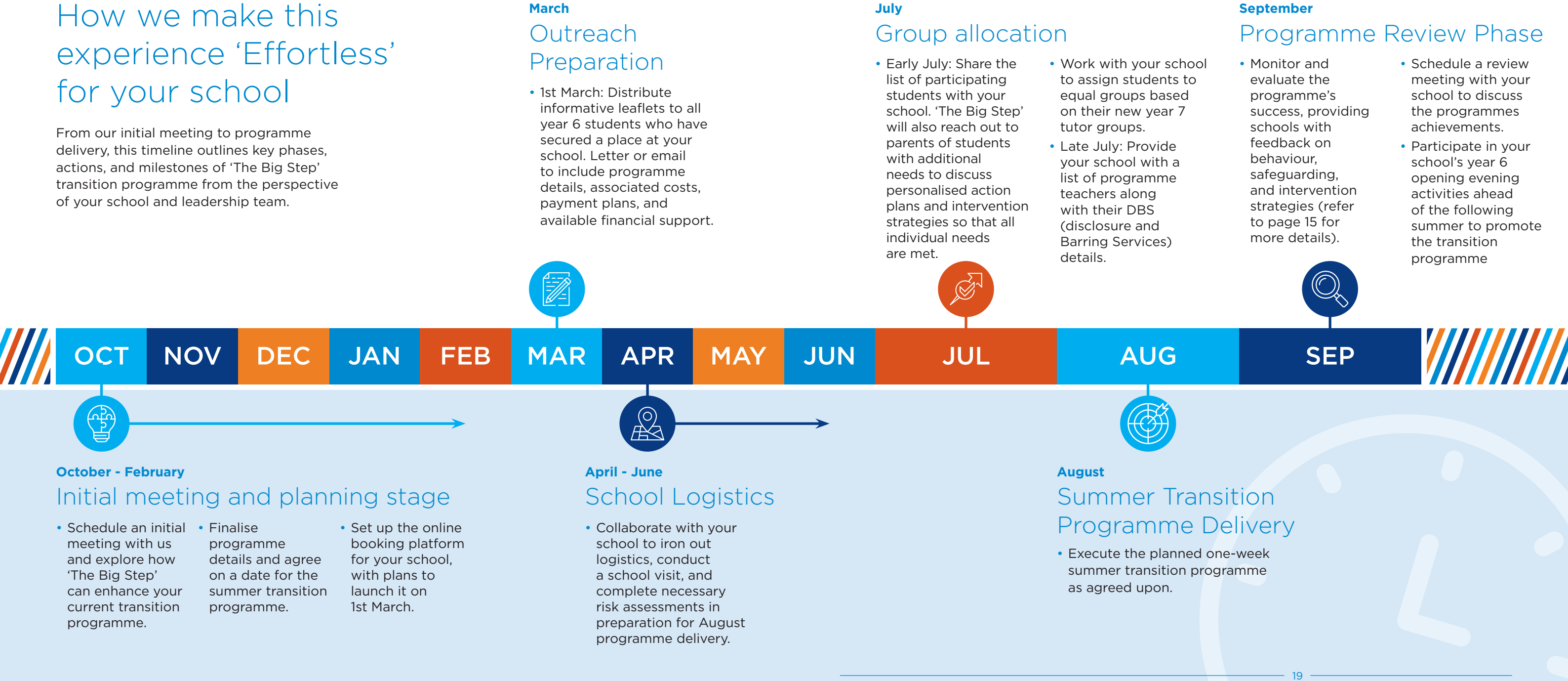
Anxiety Workshop

Visualisation technique



How we make this experience 'Effortless' for your school

From our initial meeting to programme delivery, this timeline outlines key phases, actions, and milestones of 'The Big Step' transition programme from the perspective of your school and leadership team.



October - February

Initial meeting and planning stage

- Schedule an initial meeting with us and explore how 'The Big Step' can enhance your current transition programme.
- Finalise programme details and agree on a date for the summer transition programme.
- Set up the online booking platform for your school, with plans to launch it on 1st March.

March

Outreach Preparation

- 1st March: Distribute informative leaflets to all year 6 students who have secured a place at your school. Letter or email to include programme details, associated costs, payment plans, and available financial support.

July

Group allocation

- Early July: Share the list of participating students with your school. 'The Big Step' will also reach out to parents of students with additional needs to discuss personalised action plans and intervention strategies so that all individual needs are met.
- Work with your school to assign students to equal groups based on their new year 7 tutor groups.
- Late July: Provide your school with a list of programme teachers along with their DBS (disclosure and Barring Services) details.

September

Programme Review Phase

- Monitor and evaluate the programme's success, providing schools with feedback on behaviour, safeguarding, and intervention strategies (refer to page 15 for more details).
- Schedule a review meeting with your school to discuss the programmes achievements.
- Participate in your school's year 6 opening evening activities ahead of the following summer to promote the transition programme

April - June

School Logistics

- Collaborate with your school to iron out logistics, conduct a school visit, and complete necessary risk assessments in preparation for August programme delivery.

August

Summer Transition Programme Delivery

- Execute the planned one-week summer transition programme as agreed upon.

unleash your inner year 7!

play basketball, rounders,
rugby & football

fall down,
get back up again

dance &
do drama

Educator Endorsement:
The Benefits of Our
Transition Programme

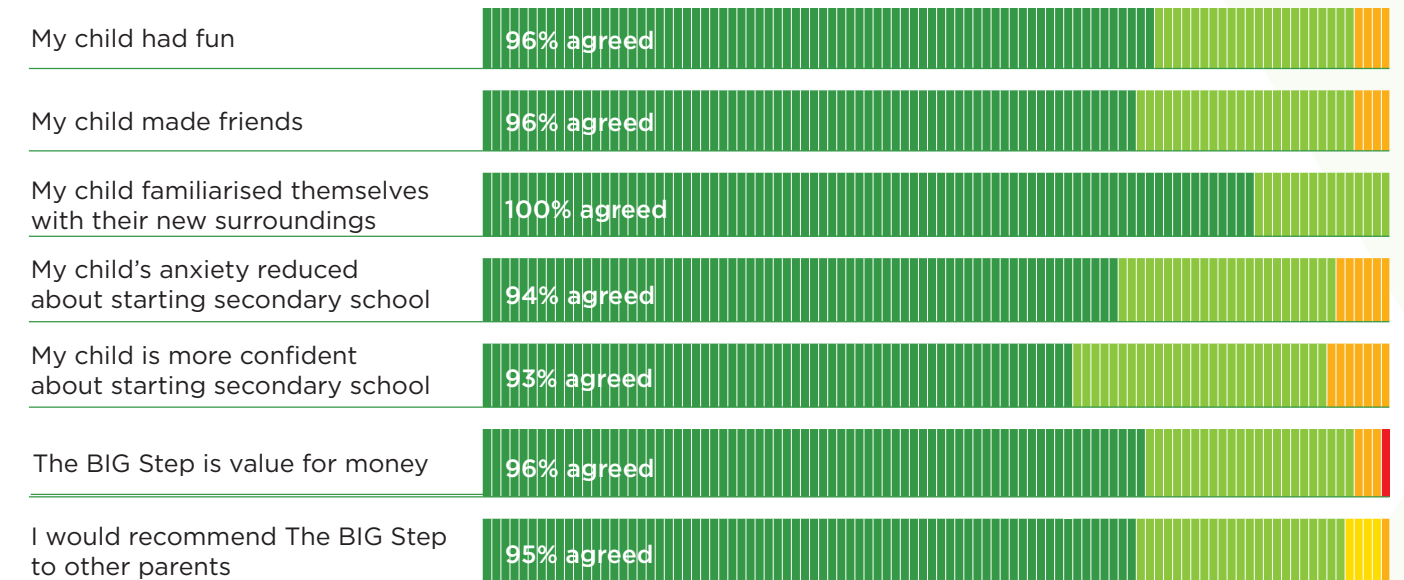


Don't just take our word for it...

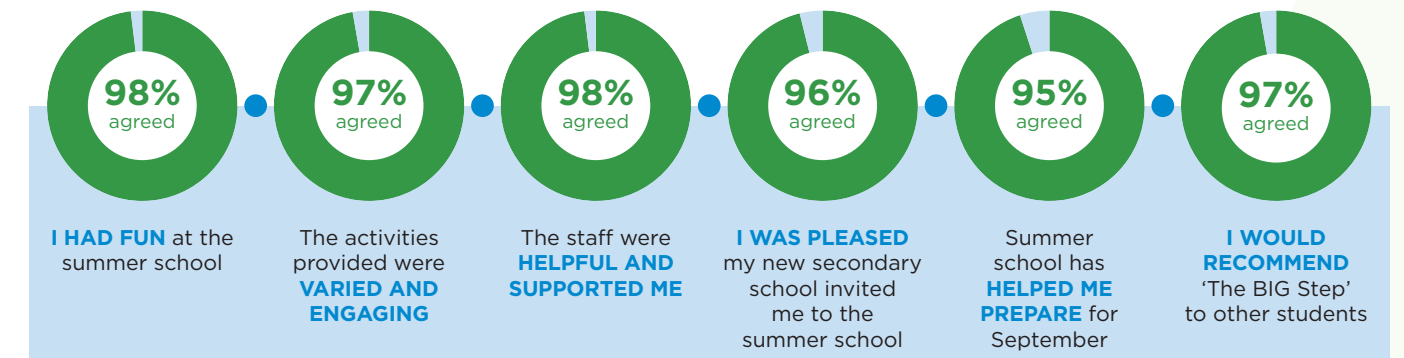
The **BIG Step** is very proud of the feedback figures and responses received from the Parents and Students. Take a look and find out why:

5,000+
CHILDREN
attended
since 2019

Parent stats



Student stats



Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree



Transition Programme:
Activities Showcase



“ I’m so glad she has gone from scared witless and tears to excitement about starting a new school. I am forever grateful. Thanks again Dan. You guys are awesome. P.S. It was totally 100% worth the money.

Barney, Parent



“ I really enjoyed ‘The Big Step’. I loved their activities, everyone was nice and I would definitely recommend it.

Beccy, Student

Don’t change a thing.

Jonah, Student



“ Such a genius way of integrating Year 7 children into the school. Good size groups, my daughter made 5 new friends immediately!

Esther, Parent



“ It’s extremely fun. If you have the opportunity to do it, take it. I really enjoyed it and if I could do it all over again, I would!!!

Mark, Student



“ It was worth its weight in gold and I am truly thankful to you guys. Honestly - it was fantastic! My son had such a great time, made lots of new friends, and looked forward to going every day!

Nicola, Parent



“ I loved The Big Step and had so much fun. I made lots of new friends and it has made me much more positive.

Ella, Student



“ This was the best decision I made this year. Evie knew nobody and this helped her make friends and lose her anxieties at starting big school on her own so thank you so much :-)

Absolutely fantastic, my daughter thoroughly enjoyed it and was well run throughout.

Jessie, Parent



“ The Big Step has made me feel more confident, so that I am ready for September

Lisa, Student

The Big Step was fantastic. We learned ways to help with scenarios that we might encounter at school.

Luke, Student



“ I would definitely recommend ‘The Big Step’. It is a fun and varied programme, with the added bonus of giving children the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new school and new classmates.

Kathryn, Parent



What your peers say

It was phenomenally successful.

When you have the opportunity to sign up to the programme, I couldn't recommend it more!!! It was brilliant.

Tina Graham
Principal
Kingsbridge Community College



I just wanted to say a big thank you to you and your team for providing our students with an amazing start to West Exe School.

It's been a really positive week and the students have thoroughly enjoyed it and benefited from it. Your team have been great and I can't speak more highly of them and their work commitment and leadership.

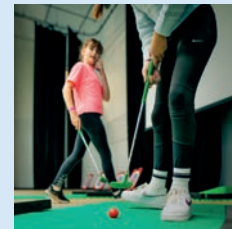
Nicky Lewis
Deputy Headteacher
West Exe School



I'd just like to say thank you so much for the summer school. I knew it was going to be good, but just not this good.

The staff were absolutely outstanding, and the children were amazing due to the tight and well-planned programme and excellent leadership of the staff. I can't thank you enough.

Chris Darvill
Assistant Headteacher
Queen Elizabeth's School



SEND pupils at Teign School have benefited hugely from being part of 'The Big Step' project.

They talk of having greater confidence and being more settled about starting school. Parents have commented that their children have had smoother transitions to secondary school based on the work that 'The Big Step' project has done. Dan and his team work hard to ensure that the needs of individual pupils on the project are met. Parents are consulted and support is tailored so that all pupils can access what 'The Big Step' has to offer. We've been really impressed by 'The Big Step' project for pupils with SEND and we look forward to continuing working with Dan and his team in 2023.

Sam Battershall
Assistant Headteacher & SENDco
Teign School

Education South West schools have been working with 'The Big Step' since its inception and continue to do so, a testament in itself.

The fact that it is so easy to use, has professional staff who want to work with young people and the programme can be made bespoke to the individual needs of each of our schools means that the impact on children and transition has been positive.

Matthew Shanks
Trust Lead
Education South West

Using 'The Big Step' as part of our Transition programme was a fantastic decision.

As a very busy senior leader they made it so easy for me, they organised the marketing, bookings and groupings, they also dealt with all the parent queries and successfully organised the whole week with minimal input from our staff. Immediately, on the first day we decided it would be an annual partnership, the staff on the programme were high quality practitioners and there has been a marked positive impact on our Year 7 entry. Those students who attended 'The Big Step' transition week recorded the highest attendance and engagement in the following Autumn term compared to any other co-hort. As a result of the programme we have also developed other strong links. I absolutely recommend all schools using 'The Big Step'.

David Carpenter
Assistant Principal
Paignton Academy

Where...

The BIG Step has worked with a number of secondary schools across the South West to date.

Join our growing partnership list for next August, completely free to all schools.



South West Devon Cornwall Further Afield

Our Additional Services

We don't just offer an exceptional transition programme at secondary schools.

These activities are available to your school entirely free of charge, when 'The BIG Step' delivers its transition programme in partnership with your school (subject to availability).

Just some of the activities on offer are:

Glow in the Dark Dodgeball

Prepare for an electrifying game of dodgeball like no other. Our glow-in the-dark dodgeball adds an exciting twist to this classic game, making it perfect for rewarding positive behaviour or adding zest to your enrichment weeks. It fosters teamwork, agility and strategy while keeping students engaged and entertained.

Poisoned School Dinner Escape Room

Immerse your students in the role of detectives as they tackle the mystery of the poisoned school dinner. This escape room challenge not only encourages teamwork but also makes for an engaging and rewarding experience.

CSI Whodunnit Investigation

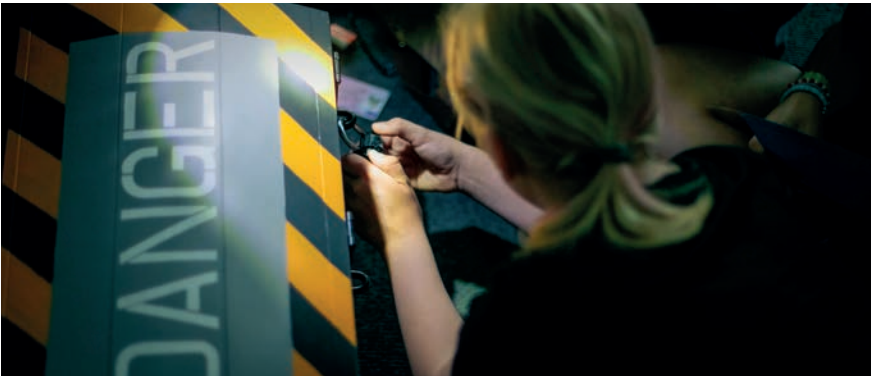
Unleash you students inner Sherlock Holmes with our CSI whodunnit investigation. Students become crime scene investigators as they examine clues, analyse evidence, and work together to solve a thrilling mystery. This activity promotes logical thinking, attention to detail, and scientific inquiry.

Crazy Golf

Students can take a break from the classroom and enjoy a round of 9-hole crazy golf. It's the perfect way to unwind and have some fun while practising hand-eye coordination and precision. Whether your students are golf pros or beginners, they're sure to have a ball!

Archery

Aim high with our archery lessons. Learn the art of archery under the guidance of experienced instructors. Archery fosters concentration, focus, and patience, while providing an exciting indoor or outdoor experience.



At 'The BIG Step', we believe in creating unforgettable moments and learning experiences for your students. With these engaging activities, your school can enjoy them at no extra cost throughout the year, making your time with us even more extraordinary.

Contact us today to learn more about how we can enrich your secondary school students experience and provide exhilarating activities completely FREE to your school.

Take A Virtual Tour

With our 360° virtual tour, your prospective students and parents can move through each room of your school or college, viewing your facilities remotely and at their own pace.

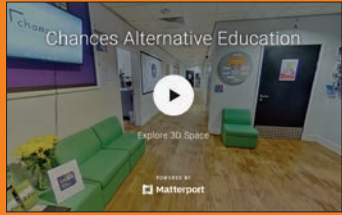
They can manipulate a 3D 'dollhouse' view of your site and zoom into any area to explore it in more detail. A 2D birds-eye view of each floor helps make navigation even easier.

We can even create a complete Virtual Open Day with, for example, an introduction from the headteacher, video clips/ interviews, school map, 3D virtual tour, photo gallery, key information and policies and an email enquiry form.

100% bespoke for your school, this is the perfect way to offer a safe, immersive and remote open day.

Help your prospective students and parents make an informed choice with a 360° virtual tour.

Embed this onto your website, or add the link to social media, this is a great way to showcase your school.



Unique benefits of a virtual tour

DOLLHOUSE VIEW
An interactive 3D model view of your building. Zoom, turn and click to explore.

BIRDSEYE VIEW
A 2D plan of each floor of your building. Click a room and jump right in.

EMBED VIDEO
Video clips can be added to tags on your tour to highlight features.

HIGHLIGHT TAGS
Highlight key features with info tags. Text, photos and even video can be linked!

360° PANORAMA
Show off your outside spaces and facilities with 360° panoramic photos.

SHARE
Easily embedded on your website and share via social media.

Interactive and Immersive Virtual 360° Tour

3D School Tour Video

'MAKING THE **BIG** STEP A SMALLER STEP'

Arrange a 15-minute virtual meeting by scanning the QR code to find out more:



thebigstep.org



Empowering children to arrive at school
in September excited, confident and prepared
for their new journey ahead.



📍 thebigstep.org

✉ info@thebigstep.org



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