



Harrow Way Community School

Learning for life, success for all

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Preparing for Secondary school

From experience, we know that the move to secondary school can be a worrying time for young people, and the simplest things can cause the biggest worries. Although our rising Year 7 students won't set foot in Harrow Way until September, there are a number of ways that you can begin to bridge the gap in your children's experiences and ensure they are ready to be more independent. Here are a few ideas that you could put into practice now:

- Encourage your child to keep a bag (even just an empty carrier bag) with them whenever they go to school or leave the house. They must return with the same bag. Hopefully, if they can get into the habit of remembering that bag, they are less likely to forget their school bag, coat, PE kit in September.
- Do the journey to school! Start slowly with walking or getting the bus with your child. Build it slowly up to them having to do this by themselves. (Follow them a few times, then eventually you could meet them at the final destination.) Remember to do this backwards too! Students often say they know how to get to school, but have no idea about the journey home again as it 'looks different'.
- Stop calling your child down for mealtimes. Instead, tell them that breakfast/lunch/dinner will be ready at X time and expect them to be sat ready to eat at that exact time. This helps them to be more responsible for their time management.

