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Supporting your child's transition to secondary school: our commitment to smooth transitions

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to write to you about an important milestone in your child's educational journey - the transition from Bottesford Junior School to secondary school.

At Bottesford Junior School, we understand that moving to secondary school can be both exciting and challenging for our pupils. Based on recent Department for Education guidance, we are taking a proactive approach to ensure our Year 6 pupils are fully prepared for this significant step.

Below you will find details about our carefully designed, multi-step transition process that prioritises pupil wellbeing and academic continuity:

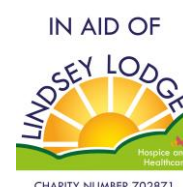
What we are doing to support your child's transition

- We have arranged detailed handover meetings with all of the secondary schools that our children will move on to.
- Organising activities and workshops to build confidence and resilience, including a workshop lead by 'With Me In Mind' entitled: Managing uncertainty.
- Our teachers are encouraging open discussions with pupils about their concerns and expectations
- We are coordinating transition visit days to local secondary schools, enabling our pupils to experience their new environment first-hand. These visits will help ease any anxieties and foster excitement for the next chapter.
- Our teachers have also identified pupils who may need additional support during their transition. They have liaised with our Inclusion Team and are organising individual support to meet those needs. This may include additional visits to their secondary school, with a familiar adult from Bottesford Junior School. It may also include completing a bespoke transition booklet for the children to keep.

We recognise that big changes can sometimes be difficult, and we greatly appreciate your support in helping your child embrace this transition. One of the most valuable things you can do is encourage them to explore their thoughts and feelings. Engaging in conversations can help pave the way for your child to express their feelings as they prepare for their new school.

Additionally, building your child's independence and confidence will play a crucial role in this transition. Here are a few ways you can empower and support them:

- Encourage them to take on small responsibilities at home. This could be as simple as helping with chores or making decisions about their belongings.
- Continue to celebrate their achievements, no matter how small, to help them feel more confident in their abilities.
- Allow them to problem-solve and make choices, which fosters a sense of independence.



If you would like any further ideas, then below you will find some other useful links to help support your child with their transition to secondary school:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/helping-your-child-manage-the-move-from-primary-to-secondary-school/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/c5vpkq1l934t>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/supporting-school-transitions/>

Thank you for your ongoing support; your partnership is invaluable in ensuring a smooth transition for all of our children.