



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Moving to Secondary School

A Guide for Parents

"Year 7 is an exciting time for students, as they start to become a lot more independent."



Welcome to Secondary School

One thing that we all have in common is that we have all been to School! Some of us will have fond memories of our days spent in lessons, others may look less favourably on those younger years. What is clear is that modern education is very different from what we may have experienced in the past. Nowadays, it is not so much about what we learn at School but how we learn. As much attention is given to the development of skills and attitudes as it is to the growth of knowledge and understanding. Learning now takes place both inside and outside of the classroom, both in person and online. In fact, you could argue that the 'School' of old now plays only a minor role in the development of children as the virtual world offers more and more opportunities for learning 24/7.

One of the real strengths of BSG is that we embrace these new opportunities and growing technologies but that we also value tradition and believe that respect and responsibility are important. This is evident as your child undergoes the transition from Primary to Secondary education. We want our Year 6 students to be excited about the year ahead and we acknowledge the excellent foundations that they have built in their Primary years. By working with our Primary colleagues, our Secondary Transition Team will ensure the move into Year 7 is as smooth as possible.

Year 7 can be daunting for both students and parents! We expect students to be more independent and to take more responsibility for their own learning. This presents challenges, especially with organisation – a skill where we are ready to offer students support. They will have more teachers, more subjects, more books and more homework. Perhaps more importantly, they will have more choices - this is an area the students may find most difficult. Making wise choices is a skill that is developed over months and years, not overnight!

Settling concerns are to be expected and the first few weeks and months of Year 7 will not be entirely smooth! For parents, this can cause anxiety – but this is entirely normal. The key is clear communication and this guide is one part of a process that helps to explain the transition ahead. There are many teachers and support staff here to help both students and parents who are new to the Secondary School, so please feel free to contact us at any time.

For now – welcome to the Secondary School and enjoy the exciting times ahead!

Mr. Garry Russell
Head of Secondary



欢迎加入中学

相信大家都有一个共通点：我们都上过学！可能我们有些人对读书时代的回忆很美好，有些人则没那么喜欢自己的学生时代。然而，现代教育显然与我们以前所接受的教育是很不一样的。如今，比起在学校学到什么，更重要的是如何学习。学习技能以及学习态度的培养，与知识的增长及理解力的增强同等重要。现代学习不仅仅在课室内，也在课室外进行；不仅仅是面对面授课，也包含网络教育。事实上，随着网络提供越来越多的全天候学习机会，您甚至有可能会觉得，‘传统的学校教育’如今在孩子的成长过程中发挥着较小的作用。然而，在BSG，我们在利用这些新的学习机会以及在运用新技术的同时，同样珍惜传统教育，并确信尊重及责任是很重要的。相信您的孩子在从小学过渡到中学的过程中，您将能感受到这一点。我们希望6年级的学生能以兴奋的心情加入中学并对中学生涯充满期待，我们亦很肯定他们在小学所习得的优良基础和成绩。通过与小学老师合作，负责帮助6年级学生过渡的中学老师们将帮助孩子们尽可能顺利地过渡。

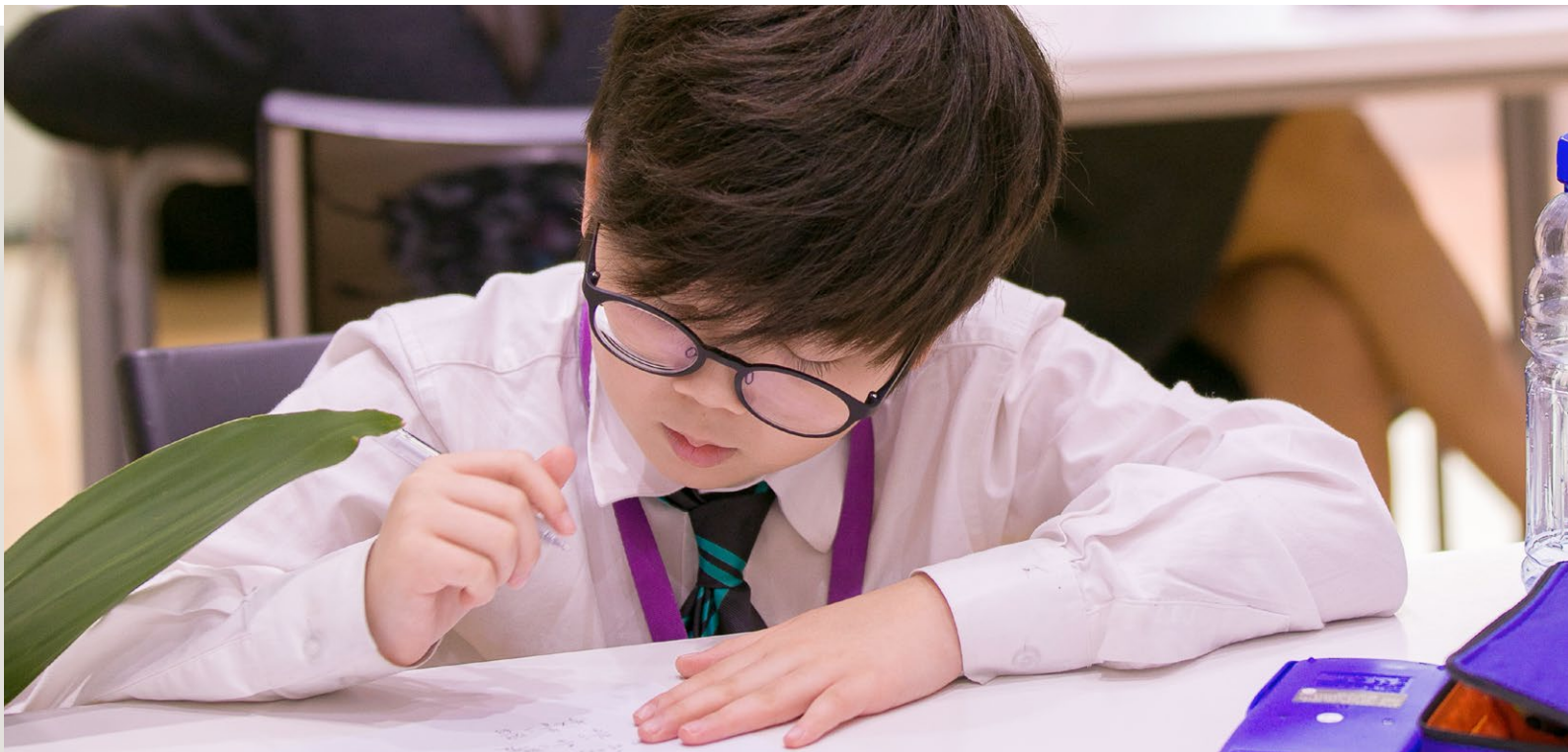
7年级对学生和家长们都可能是极具挑战的！我们期望学生们在7年级更加独立，并对自己的学习负更多的责任。这将给学生带来各种挑战，尤其是对组织能力的挑战。而我们已经准备好向孩子们提供相关的帮助。相对于小学，学生们将面对更多的老师、科目、书本和作业。或许更重要的是，他们将拥有更多的选择 – 这有可能是学生们觉得最难的一点。学会如何作出一个明智的抉择，并非一蹴而就的事情，需要日积月累的锻炼。

可以预见的是，7年级的起步阶段可能会有各种需要解决的问题，这可能给家长们带来忧虑，但这将是非常正常的。解决问题的关键是清晰的沟通，而这本手册也能向您更好地说明接下来的‘小升初’的安排。如果学生或家长在这方面有需要帮助的，欢迎随时与中学老师或教辅人员联系。

现在，欢迎加入中学！开启美丽的新篇章！

Mr. Garry Russell
Head of Secondary





중고등부에환영합니다

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중고등부 진학을 환영하며 즐거운 새학년을 맞으시기를 바랍니다.

Mr. Garry Russell
Head of Secondary

Preparing for Change

Transition to Year 7 begins before the children even step foot in the Secondary building. The Year 6 team, in collaboration with teachers from the Secondary School, will be running units of work focusing on change as well as adapting some routines in order to mentally prepare the students for the transition.

Some of these will include:

- PSHE unit of work called 'New Beginnings' which will help children develop strategies for coping with the changes and challenges they will face when joining the Secondary School.
- Our homework schedule will be changed to be more in line with that of the Secondary School. The children will be asked to bring in homework on different days rather than all at once on Fridays. This is in response to a common observation made in the Secondary School that students in Year 7 often find it difficult to remember to bring homework in on different days.
- Prior to Transition Day, the Year 6 students will be invited on a tour of the Secondary School where current Secondary students will show them around so that they are able to successfully navigate around right from the very beginning.

Mr. Stephen Follows
Year 6 Leader





The Year Ahead

Year 7 is an exciting year of change. Your child will have more academic and personal freedom, through a wider range of specialist-taught subjects and increased movement around campus. They will have personal responsibility for organising their equipment for each lesson, recording homework and scheduling their personal study time during the week. And they will have more choices to make, considering what to choose from our ASA programme, whether to apply for a leadership position or simply what to buy from the coffee shop during break-time!

In Year 7, we will be building on our **BSG Core Values**, focusing on:

- strengthening **commitment** and **love of learning** by encouraging full **participation** in School life.
- reinforcing **responsibility** by developing personal **organisation** skills.
- securing **integrity** and **respect** by continuing to display the right **attitude**.

Our motto for Year 7 is that with more freedom, we should all try to *"make wise choices."*

We will be helping your child make these choices at School, supporting the work you do at home to nurture happy, confident and independent young people, who are not afraid of challenge in learning – and in life!

*"Reach for your dreams,
try something new,
and above all,
be ambitious."*

Mrs Helen Russell
Head of Year 7



Helping your child to settle in

Meet Our Teachers

Our Secondary School team are ready to meet your child and welcome them into the exciting world of Year 7.

Leadership Team



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Miss Jessica Li
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Pastoral Team



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Mr Fred Williamson
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Ms Zarina Glenn
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Shannon Parfitt
Listening Ear
shannon.parfitt@bsg.org.cn

What are the differences between Primary and Secondary?

The Curriculum

In Year 7, your child will be introduced to a number of new subjects compared to their primary timetable. Each subject is taught by a specialist teacher, meaning that your child will see up to 12 teachers (and their tutor!) every week. For most subjects, your child will be taught in their tutor group. However, English and Mathematics group students according to their current level of attainment and Year 6 teacher recommendation.

The Year 7 Timetable consists of:

Subject	Lessons	Subject	Lessons	Subject	Lessons
English	3	Geography	1	Computer Science	1
Maths	3	Music	1	Languages 1	1.5
Science	3	Art	1	Languages 2	1.5
History	1	Drama	1	PE	2

Year 7 will also be participating in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons with their tutor during afternoon tutor time sessions.

The EAL Programme

EAL students will follow a slightly different timetable as they will be studying with the EAL department for 6.5 lessons, during English, History, Geography and one of the language sessions. This intensive course will allow students to develop English for Academic Purposes to support their learning in other subjects. When they graduate from this programme, students will access the full curriculum.

Homework

When asked about the one aspect of Secondary that students are most worried about before they arrive, the majority mention homework. And it is a significant challenge for our Year 7 in the early months as the expectations are different compared to Primary. In Secondary:

- Details of homework are not emailed to parents.
- Homework is set on different days of the week according to the timetable.
- Homework handing in dates are set according to the timetable.
- More homework is set.

Moodle

Students will start to use our online learning portal, Moodle, this year. They will find essential learning resources to help secure their understanding of lesson content and, at times, will use Moodle for homework tasks. Furthermore, it is a way for your child to access [Global Campus](#), which links our students to others in the Nord Anglia Education family.



The Tutor

In Primary, each student has a class teacher who is responsible for the academic learning of a student, as well as their pastoral care. However, in the Secondary School students have a form tutor who they will only see for morning and afternoon registration periods. The form tutor will monitor the overall academic performance of a student in their tutor group and through registration periods will carry out target setting activities after each report cycle. The tutor will also teach PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons twice a week, during afternoon registration.

Head of Year

In Primary, pastoral care is overseen by one of the Deputy Heads. However, in Secondary as well as the Assistant Head Pastoral (Mrs Yvonne McKenna) students also have a Head of Year (Mrs Helen Russell), who is responsible for the pastoral care of all students in that year group.

Behaviour and Rewards: MBIs and Merits

In the Secondary School students are awarded merits which the teacher will log on iSAMS (our pupil management system). The form tutor will review the merits awarded each week during their administrative afternoon registration time. During this time, students will have an opportunity to record these in their diary. Merits can be awarded for positive behaviour in many areas from displaying excellent subject knowledge or completing homework, with high levels of commitment to displaying a Core Value such as integrity or respect.

To enable form tutors to get a better picture of a student's overall behaviour, as well as awarding merits teachers will also record MBIs (minor behaviour incidents) for students on iSAMS. As with the merits tutors will talk through these with students once a week and students will record these in their diaries so that parents can check. MBIs also allow the Head of Year to observe patterns in student behaviour and then can intervene and support a student if there seems to be a persistent problem.

iPads

Students in KS3 have an individual iPad as they do in Year 6. However, some of the rules that we apply might be slightly different. Students in the Secondary School are not allowed to have games or social media apps downloaded onto their iPad. The Pastoral Team make regular checks to ensure that iPads are being used in an appropriate way. At the beginning of the academic year students will receive a list of apps that they should have downloaded on their iPads.

Students are not allowed to use their iPads during break and lunchtime unless they have permission from a teacher to do so, as we believe that a student's break and lunch time should be spent socialising with other students or playing games.





Communication

In Secondary, you will no longer receive a weekly PATH email but there are other ways that we communicate with parents about what is happening in School:

- **A weekly bulletin** is emailed home by the Head of Secondary, which details what has happened during that week and also gives notice of future events for the upcoming week.
- **Academic Reports** will be issued throughout the School year which are also available to view on the iSAMs parent portal. You will be given a personal log-in to be able to access these online.
- Parents will get an opportunity to meet with their child's teachers as well as their form tutor during the **Parent Teacher Conferences** that take place twice a year.
- **The BSG Times** (www.bsgtimes.com) has examples of student journalism and creative writing. It is a student-led website that is run through the ASA programme. You will also find the Daily Student Bulletin there.
- There are also numerous other formal and informal **events** that give parents the opportunity to be involved in School life and meet with staff. Events this year have included:
 - ~ International Day
 - ~ Welcome Barbecue
 - ~ Arts Celebration Evening,
 - ~ Musical Performances at Taikoo Hui
 - ~ Production of 'Sweeney Todd' by Stephen Sondheim
 - ~ A Level and iGCSE Art Exhibitions
 - ~ Curriculum Option Evening
 - ~ Presentations from visiting universities from Europe, America and Asia.
 - ~ Quarterly Secondary Parents Representative Group Meeting
 - ~ Speech Day
 - ~ IA Presentation Evening

We encourage you to read the weekly bulletin and sign up to the Schools WeChat account to keep up to date with what is going on at BSG.

Contacting Us

Your child's form tutor should be the first point of call if there are any questions or issues that need addressing by either a student or parent. Email is the preferred method of contact as it is often difficult to reach a teacher by telephone during the School day.



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Developing Independence

There are many differences between Primary and Secondary but the most significant one is the need to be independent. It is a time when parents naturally start to offer more independence, if they have not already done so. As part of their daily lives, Year 7 students are expected to:

- Read the daily bulletin and note any important information in the homework diary.
- Read every day and use Accelerated Reader to log progress.
- Pack a bag with correct equipment for each day, including homework.
- Write homework in the homework diary, including the handing in date.
- Organise equipment during the School day.
- Organise personal time so homework can be successfully completed.
- Use a locker effectively so heavy bags are not carried around campus.
- Be proactive and seek help from teachers.

Of course, all of our Year 7 students will start at different points in their journey towards independence. Furthermore, we understand that parents know their child best. Some Year 7 children require more support than others - and there is no problem continuing to support until they are ready to go solo. And while we will be doing all we can at School to help them navigate the challenges, here are a few suggestions for home:

1. Checking the homework diary

We ask parents to sign the homework diary each week so they are informed of homework, merits and any issues. You can support your child by checking the homework diary frequently over the first half term. They should be writing down the subject, the details of the homework and the handing in date.

2. Packing a bag

In Secondary, students will need to organise their own resources during the day and may need to carry their bag around the site. One problem we regularly witness is the student who brings every single exercise and textbook to School each day. Their bag is extremely heavy – which is not good for physical development. To help, you could:

- Check bags daily to make sure your child is bringing only the equipment they need for that day, including any homework that they need to submit.
- Create a daily packing list so your child will know what to pack for each day.

3. Build relationships with teachers

Encourage your child to deal with minor issues with teacher on their own in the first instance. Forgetting to bring equipment, problems with an ipad or just not fully understanding can all be dealt with by approaching the teacher before the lesson – at break or lunchtime. Rehearsing what to say is useful. If your child feels that they can't directly approach the teacher, help them to write an email to explain the situation or ask for help. Of course, if you have any concerns, we are more than happy to help too.



4. An Appropriate Working Environment

At the start of Year 7, your child may need help in planning their personal time to complete their homework so that it fits around any other activities, in which they participate. You may wish to create a schedule, setting aside homework time. It is also important that Year 7 students have an appropriate environment to complete their homework. A personal space to complete homework, with good lighting is best.

5. Meeting deadlines

A significant change for your child is the fact that each teacher will setting different deadlines for the submission of homework, unlike Primary when homework must be handed in by Friday. In the early months of Year 7, this can cause some anxiety as students find this adjustment challenging. To support your child, close monitoring of the homework diary will help them to make sure that they are well organised.

Check that your child has everything they need for that day, including homework.



What Happens When Things Don't Go To Plan?

Concerns and Queries

Your first contact should always be your child's tutor. If the issue concerns a particular subject then the teacher or the Head of Department for that subject should also be contacted. Email is the preferred method of communication.

Absence from School

Planned Absences

If an absence is known in advance then the form tutor should be contacted in advance; this can be done via email or a signed note in the homework diary.

Illness

The form tutor can notify your child's teachers in advance. If the absence is not known in advance due for example sickness then the form tutor and Ms. Jessica should be emailed on the day of absence.

Feeling Sick At School

We have a Secondary School nurse who has an office on the ground floor of the Secondary building. Students who feel unwell during the School day can seek permission from their class teacher to see the Secondary School Nurse. If they are unwell during morning or lunch break then they can see the nurse without this permission. If the nurse feels that a student is not well enough to continue with School that day then the School will contact home using the emergency contact details that are stored on iSAMS. Under no circumstances should students be contacting home themselves.

Leaving School throughout the day

If your child needs to leave the School before the end of the School day, then their form tutor should be informed in advance. Students then need to collect a 'Early Leaving Slip' from the Secondary reception to have signed by the form tutor. If a student is leaving early due to illness then this will be signed by a member of the Pastoral Team. Students will not be allowed to leave the School site without a signed permission slip.

Forgetting Homework or Equipment

Forgetting homework or equipment will result in a student receiving an MBI. This way the form tutor is able to get an overall picture and spot when there may be a problem and offer support to the student. Forgetting to hand in homework twice to the same teacher will result in a lunchtime detention.





Practical Information

Students will need the correct Secondary Uniform for the first day of School, which can be purchased from our Uniform Shop. Full Uniform details are available on the School website. The following is a list of items needed on a daily basis:

- **A Pencil Case**, including these essential items:
 - ~ Pen
 - ~ Pencil
 - ~ Ruler
 - ~ Eraser
 - ~ Calculator*
 - ~ Highlighters

*The Mathematics Department's recommended model is Casio fx82-ES. They will have some available to purchase at the start of the academic year.

- You can also bring:
 - ~ Colouring pencils
 - ~ Glue stick
- **iPad** – fully charged for every day!
- **A suitable bag** – The bag should be able to fit into a School locker.
- **A water bottle**
- **A healthy snack** for breaktime (or a small amount of money for the Coffee Shop!)

First Day of Secondary School

This is a milestone in any child's life. We are looking forward to welcoming the new Year 7 students, smartly dressed in their new uniforms!

The First Day of School is: **Wednesday 16th August 2017**

Students should arrive no later than 8:00am.

Things to bring on the first day:

- The items listed on the equipment list.
- Your iPad if you are a student who has come through from Year 6.
- A Water Bottle.
- A snack for breacktime or a small amount of money to buy a snack or drink from the Coffee Shop.

Where to go on the first day of Secondary School

On arrival at School, all Year 7 students should go through the Nanhu reception to the theatre. There will be signs to direct the students where to go.

Secondary Welcome Evening

We would like to invite you to the 'Secondary Welcome Evening' on **Thursday 17th August** - an event for all parents of Year 7 students and any new students. This event will allow you to tour the Secondary School and meet your child's form tutor and Head of Year on a more formal basis.



Summer Challenge

Preparing for Secondary

The English Department believes that developing reading skills through a love of literature is important for progress in all subjects. Through reading regularly, students are exposed to language being used creatively, imaginatively, and accurately. They start to appreciate how character, mood and setting play an important part in their emotional engagement with any text; they begin to see how writers create the magic that they can aspire to themselves in their own writing. Without reading, there is no good writing therefore at BSG we encourage and support reading as the foundation to all future learning. Next year, your child will encounter a range of texts with some challenging and unfamiliar vocabulary. In order to best prepare for this, we have a suggested reading list of exciting and riveting titles, which we are sure will capture your child's imagination and interest thus making them ready to take up the mantle in Year 7. But we have not acted alone.

Our current Year 7 have been thinking about the books they think that Year 6 should read before leaving Primary School. Of course, your child may have read many of these already. But we would like to challenge them to read 3 of these books and have a think about ones they would add to the list! Accelerated Reader will be available to our current Year 6 students during the summer holidays.

1. 'Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan (ATOS 4.5) MY
2. 'Apple and Rain' by Sarah Cressan (ATOS 3.8) UY
3. The Recruit by Robert Muchamore (ATOS 4.5) MY
4. The BFG by Roald Dahl (ATOS 4.8) MY
5. Billionaire Boy By David Walliams (ATOS 4.1) MY
6. The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan (ATOS 5.1) MY
7. The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (ATOS 4.4) MY
8. Charlotte's Web by E.B White (ATOS 4.4) MY
9. Skellig by David Almond (ATOS 3.5) MY+
10. Waiting for Anya by Michael Morpurgo (ATOS 5.1) UY
11. Warrior Cats: Into the Wild by Erin Hunter (ATOS 5.6) MY

Encourage your child to read three of these books to help capture their imagination ready for Year 7.



Contact us

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