



*"I think this was one of the greatest experiences of my life, it was amazing!"*  
Participating student-2023

## Your Child's Next Big Step Starts Here

Dear Parent/Carer,

Starting secondary school is one of the biggest changes in your child's education. New classrooms, new teachers, new friendships and higher expectations can feel exciting, but also overwhelming. That's why we created **The Big Step**.

Over the past seven years, we've supported more than 8,500 children across the South West with their move from Year 6 to Year 7. Delivered on-site at Gillingham School, our Summer Transition Programme helps children feel confident, settled and ready before September even begins.

**This isn't just a holiday club.** It's a structured week designed to help your child:

- Become familiar with the school site
- Meet other students joining Year 7
- Build confidence and independence
- Develop resilience and teamwork
- Learn practical strategies to manage nerves

Alongside this, students take part in exciting activities including:

- Immersive escape rooms
- CSI investigations
- Glow-in-the-dark dodgeball
- Archery, crazy golf and scavenger hunts
- Martial arts, cooking, team building activities and creative workshops

By the end of the week, children don't just know the school — they know people. And that makes a real difference on the first day in September.

### Key Details

Venue: Gillingham School

Dates: 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026

Cost: £130

Deposit: £20 secures your child's place

Payment options: Pay in full, spread the cost, or set up a payment plan

Entitled to Free School Meals: Funding may be available- Contact us to check your eligibility.

Places are limited and fill quickly. Our programme is designed to help children start Year 7 feeling confident, settled and ready for September.

**Book your child's place today at [thebigstep.org](https://thebigstep.org).** Questions? Email [info@thebigstep.org](mailto:info@thebigstep.org)

Best wishes,  
The Big Step Team