

# Neurodiversity Home 101:

## Transition –Arriving at secondary school

The start of a new term at a new school can present many challenges especially for a your child who is neurodiverse.

### Some changes

- ❖ New and more teachers
- ❖ New and more students
- ❖ Larger environment
- ❖ Noisy canteen
- ❖ More choice at lunchtime
- ❖ Less structure at break and lunch times
- ❖ A uniform with more and different fastenings
- ❖ Speed of recording information and more complex content
- ❖ Speed needed to change
- ❖ Higher levels of language used and expected in written work
- ❖ May need to travel independently to school
- ❖ Different toilets
- ❖ Moving around the school from lesson to lesson
- ❖ More subjects to understand
- ❖ New skills to learn
- ❖ More rules to learn



### The first few weeks

- ✓ Set up short regular reviews to capture and deal with challenges early
- ✓ Explain the school rules
- ✓ Assign a buddy who can talk about the 'non rules'-the less obvious cultural norms
- ✓ Have a 'safe- haven' where students can go if they are not coping
- ✓ Provide pictures of the class at the start of term
- ✓ Create a colour coded timetable
- ✓ Colour code books to make them easier to find in the bag
- ✓ Teachers to wear name badges
- ✓ Agree a buddy system/peer mentor system to know about homework.
- ✓ Consider the specific skills needed in each subject and consider adaptations e.g. notes to aid recording; buddy working if difficulties with co-ordination; use of head- phones when studying if sound is problematic.
- ✓ Consider IT support solutions for recording
- ✓ Show what good looks like e.g. assignments/essays
- ✓ Provide study skills support where there may be gaps in understanding
- ✓ Teach organisational and planning skills
- ✓ Consider alternative sports where the student can engage