

Transition from Year 6 to Year 7



The transition from primary to high school is an important time in a student's life. High school provides students with new opportunities, interests and challenges.

The curriculum in high school is very broad with many new topics and subjects introduced, like history, geography, and sciences. Students can apply the skills that they have mastered in Kumon Maths (mental arithmetic and calculus skills) and in English (grammar and reading comprehension) to all these subjects. Furthermore in Maths and English specifically, they are usually ahead of the school curriculum, taking the stress out of studying these subjects at high school.

The exceptional mathematical and reading comprehension skills of Kumon students make learning and understanding new concepts much easier. Kumon students have the ability to comfortably work ahead of their peers. This means they are comfortable with new concepts before they have been covered in class at high school. It also means they have learnt "how to learn" and study independently. This is a real advantage for our Kumon students and it helps them to be more confident and successful in high school, generally.

The true benefits of long term study with Kumon can be seen in the later years of high school with students who have studied beyond J level with Kumon. Here students not only gain the high order mathematical skills but they also possess the ability and confidence to work and learn independently. Similarly, levels G through L in English consolidate their reading comprehension and they will be able to answer questions with a planned approach.

These abilities are expected at senior high school and tertiary institutions.



Very Good Reasons TO KEEP STUDYING KUMON

in Highschool

Reason 1: Maintaining confidence in yourself

Kumon has given you confidence in yourself and your ability to learn independently. Independent learning is the key to success in high school and in later life.

It is a skill that needs constant practice to develop to its true potential. Self confidence and independence are two vital keys to success in all areas of life.

Kumon strives to develop these because Kumon believes in developing the true potential of all its students.



Reason 2: Continuing to feel that great sense of achievement

Remember how good it feels to answer Maths and English questions quickly and smoothly. The ability to do Maths automatically and to read fluently, is a great feeling and a real achievement.

This is a skill developed through Kumon study and one that makes learning easier,

more successful and enjoyable. High school study will be easier and less demanding if these skills are continually refined and improved.

Continued study with Kumon will ensure you stay ahead.

The aim is for excellence rather than mediocrity.

Reason 3: Retaining your speed and accuracy in Maths and your literacy skills

The Kumon mathematics programme focuses on the gaining of speed, accuracy and student ability to self correct. The English programme focuses on above-average reading comprehension and the ability to answer questions decisively. The ability to work quickly, accurately and understand what a question is asking is important in all school subjects and also with assignments, tests and examinations. In High School, these skills are a real advantage, as students can complete class work, homework, assignments and examinations with increased accuracy and more quickly than their peers.

Reason 4: Developing self direction in your Study

The Kumon programmes are structured to allow students to study at their own pace and to suit their individual needs. This allows students to see and master work ahead of their curriculum level. In this way, Kumon students have an advantage over their fellow students.

Alternatively, Kumon supports and reinforces the learning of students who, without the support, would be struggling with Maths or English at school.

The workload is negotiated at regular feedback sessions with the Instructor. Kumon takes the pressure off students and allows them to learn by doing a little bit of work every day. This is the most comfortable and successful way to learn.



Reason 5: Enjoy the challenge and preparation for the future

The Kumon programmes teach students to be independent learners and to appreciate the value of regular study. This independence, when coupled with the ability to work ahead of their fellow classmates, means that Kumon students are prepared for the final years of school ahead of their peers. Therefore Kumon students can excel at the higher levels of Maths or English while having more time to focus on other subjects.

Reason 6: Completing the course

“It’s a great feeling to finish what you start!”

Having invested time and money to achieve the level of study you have, it is wise to capitalize on this investment.

Why be a completer?

- The opportunity to “fine tune” your subject skills.
- Develop the ability to learn independently without relying on tutors or others to teach you because you are used to studying above your grade level and comfort zone
- Gain an “I can do attitude” and superior academic ability through consistent, long term study.
- Cover year 11&12 English & Maths skills before you enter those years, meaning you are well rehearsed. This is sensible since at year 12 students are competing state and nation-wide for tertiary and career positions.
- Feel a great sense of accomplishment through completion..... Finishing what you started is a great feeling!
- Earn membership of the Kumon Completers Club. This means you can associate with positive, well educated people of your own age. It offers further opportunity for leadership roles and positive community interaction.
- “Once someone experiences accomplishing things for himself or herself and the confidence that comes from that, he or she is in a position to think about accomplishing things for others and become a person who can contribute to society” -Toru Kumon

Worried that you won't have enough time?

Read this completer's story. There are many more stories like it in Kumon!

There's an old saying and so true, "If you want something done, then ask a busy person". They have the time management skills to cope.

A Completer's Story

I worked hard through Year 7 and 8 and when I started Year 9 I realised all the work I had done in both Kumon subjects was constantly helping me in high school. I was amongst the top couple of Maths & English students in my year, as I had done much of the work in Kumon previously. The schoolwork was always something I had either seen before or it was something I could apply my knowledge and skills to... I started to realise that Kumon was a smart choice, as Kumon was going to help me achieve my goals and help me keep ahead of my peers.

We all know that one of the most difficult things that all students face is balancing our time to fit Kumon into our lives. Considering how full my life was already, the time sacrifice to complete the Kumon English programme and study Maths, was no mean feat. I had to work hard and be super organised to fit it in around my other commitments.

At the time, I was working on completing the programme, I was playing hockey for my school, playing first and second grade women's hockey, and playing in two state representative hockey teams. I was training at least 3 times a week for athletics at 6am. I was simultaneously learning the piano, singing in the school musical and dancing in the school dance festival. I also played club soccer. And of course, I still had social things to do - concerts, movies and parties with my friends. No way would I miss out on those things! During all this I had 3 trips away for Representative teams and 10 weeks in Europe with my family. Some days I had to do my Kumon on my lap in the car in Italy or on a boat as we sailed across to Ireland from England.

"I did it and I want to stress that you can do it too."

Kumon has also given me great life skills, the skill of understanding, and of eloquent speech, persistence, the skill of setting a goal and seeing it through. I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity that I had, to finish the English programme, and now I am working on the Maths programme. As a completer, I am now involved with the Completers Club which has been fantastic and through it I have been given many opportunities and made numerous new friends. I still do most of the things I mentioned above, plus adding a few more; I am now training with my state academy hockey team and have moved into senior school which again means more work!

So remember there is always someone with greater time constraints than you who fits their Kumon in each day...

Organize your time, make time for Kumon and it will be well worth it when you become a completer!



Kelsey Davis (Yr11)
English Completer
Gungahlin A.C.T.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should we rest up during Summer before starting high school?

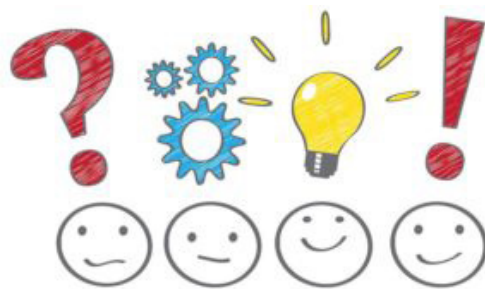
It is very important to keep going.....

"A little each day makes a big difference."

Like any skill (sport or music) academic skills need consistent practice, so you don't lose the advantage or the edge you have gained. This is also an invaluable time to either maintain or gain ground. We are talking about approximately 20 minutes a day, which shouldn't be difficult to fit into the day, during holidays. The programme is flexible, so there can be days off from the study routine as required.

Will there be too much homework in Yr 7 to find time for Kumon?

Every school varies as to the amount of homework, and Kumon has provided a structure for regular study. The programme is flexible enough to “ebb and flow” with the homework demands of the school. Kumon students traditionally cope with it all because they are quicker and more focused having studied Kumon, and in many cases they have already covered the Maths and English skills required. This leaves more time for other subjects.



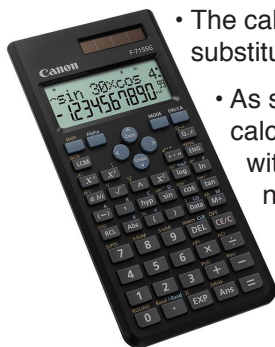
Why keep going when I have the basics?

There is a huge difference between familiarity and mastery of a subject. To acquire skills through Kumon before you need them in your year level is a huge advantage. The basics are fine in primary school, but you will need more to stay ahead at high school and compete in Year 11 and 12.

What advantage will Kumon give me if I continue?

- Acquisition of more advanced or refined independent learning skills, sound study habits and better time management skills.
- Increased knowledge and improved school grades.
- With greater academic confidence, students have a more positive experience in the high school environment.

I have a calculator, so why do I need to know the basics in High School Maths?



- The calculator is a great tool for finding the answer to number calculations, but it is no substitute for the basic skills and mathematical understanding.
- As students progress through high school, they are required to do less stand-alone calculations. Instead, students need to complete many smaller basic calculations or steps within each question. In addition, they need to be able to apply their understanding of number to a wide variety of mathematical tasks. Questions involving multiple steps are most common in high school and especially in years 11 and 12.
- A calculator can't take you through the steps. The calculator is an aid to the process, not a substitute.
- Understanding the basics makes learning new concepts much easier.
- Confidence with basic operations allows students to manipulate numbers quickly and accurately, expand their mental calculation skills. This saves valuable time and makes maths questions more enjoyable.
- Estimating answers prior to using a calculator, hence being able to deduce the answer, is vital to ensure that the information is correct and an error hasn't been made. It checks information has been keyed in correctly.
- Students who are confident with using whole numbers can do more! They can extend their knowledge more easily to fractions, decimals, negative numbers and algebra, which are the basics for high school work.
- Students learn faster and enjoy maths more. This comfort with maths makes the study of the more advanced maths courses less difficult and more satisfying to students.
- Calculators, though a great tool, do little to extend mathematical understanding.

TIPS FOR STUDYING KUMON SUCCESSFULLY

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| • Do your Kumon before your school home work, as a warm up | • Plan your work time |
| • Keep a regular routine. | • Set goals for yourself |
| • Set a regular Kumon time (mornings suit some people) | • Use hobbies and interests as rewards |
| | • Ask your Instructor for additional ideas if required. |