

Back to School & University: A Guide for Parents and Students

As the summer holidays come to an end, all eyes will be turned to the upcoming start of the new academic year. Whether your child is heading into primary school, moving onto secondary school, or starting university life, the back-to-school period can bring not only excitement, but also a level of anxiety and a long to-do list.

At Homesforth Estate agency, we know this time of year is all about preparation getting organised, setting up a comfortable home environment, and supporting students of all ages as they return to their studies. So, whether you're sending your little one off to school for the first time or your teenager or young adult off to university, we've put together some helpful advice to support you through the hectic period.

Getting Ready for the School Year

Preparation is key to a smooth transition into the new term. Here are a few pointers to enable parent's or those with this responsibility to enable a good start to new academic year.

Primary School

- Establish routines early. Get bedtimes and morning routines back on track in the weeks before school starts.
- Label everything – Clothes, bags, lunch boxes and stationery.
- Create a learning-friendly environment at home. Even a quiet corner can help with focus and homework.

Secondary School to Sixth Form

- Invest in quality study supplies – Think beyond stationery: noise-cancelling headphones, a desk lamp or laptop stand can make a difference.
- Get organised – Planners, apps, and timetables help teens manage homework, deadlines, and extracurricular activities.
- Support independence – Encourage teens to take ownership of their schedule and preparation.

Relocating for School:

For families moving to be closer to a top-rated school, the process starts with research and planning.

Your Check list:

- **School Catchment Areas:** Check Ofsted reports and school league tables to identify top schools in your desired area. Then, make sure the property you're considering is within the catchment zone.
- **Transport Links:** Think about school runs — is the home near reliable bus routes or within walking distance?
- **Local Amenities:** Proximity to parks, libraries, and after-school clubs can make a big difference.
- **Space for Studying:** Look for homes with space to set up a quiet study area for homework and revision.

Student Accommodation Tips: Moving to University

Heading off to university is a major milestone and for many it is the first time living independently and away from home. Whether you're a student or a parent supporting the move, here's what to keep in mind:

Accommodation Options:

1. **University Halls of Residence:** Great for first years, close to campus and great way to start making new friends.
2. **Private Student Housing:** Ideal for second or third-year students seeking more independence.
3. **Shared Rented Housing:** Groups of students often rent flats or houses together in popular student areas.

Questions to Ask:

- Is the property furnished?
- How close is it to the university or college?
- What's included in the rent (bills, internet, maintenance)?
- Is the area safe and student-friendly?

Tip: Begin the property search early — good student accommodation gets snapped up fast.


How can Homesforth help?

Relocating for education is a big step — but it doesn't have to be stressful. Here's how we support families and students:

- **Local Knowledge:** We know which areas offer the best schools, student communities, and transport links.
- **Flexible Viewings:** We offer Saturday and virtual viewings to fit your schedule.
- **Rental Advice:** From tenancy agreements to deposit protection, we walk you through every step.
- **Family & Student Friendly Properties:** Whether it's a 3-bed near a school or a studio flat for a first year, we've got options.

Get in touch today!

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Question for our Blog readers

Which famous university was founded first **Oxford** or **Cambridge**?

Find out the answer in our next blog!