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24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

### **Senior School Information for Year 5 Parents/ Carers**

It is very important that your child attends the senior school that will best suit their ability and personality and enable them to thrive.

The following information is a summary of the key points that may affect your decision when choosing the next school for your child and further information about individual secondary schools can be found at:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/choosing-a-school>

There are three main opportunities for children at the end of Year 6, each with different admissions criterion.

1. **Non-selective State Schools:** There are a number of such schools in the local area and for most of these, you need to be residing in the schools catchment area to be offered a place. Children do not sit entrance examinations for these places, but some may require a supplementary application form to be completed. Schools with religious affiliations require a separate statement with referees indicating the family's commitment to the religion.

2. **Selective State Schools:** These are commonly known as 'Grammar Schools' and entrance is based on the child's pass rate in the Kent Tests, which will take place **on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**, in our school. The children will sit papers comprising Reasoning Tests, Mathematics Test, English Test and a Written Task. Parents will find out if their child has passed the test or not, and will then be able to use this information to inform their choice of school. In previous years, a pass is obtained if children achieve above a certain standardised score in all three of the Verbal, Non-Verbal and Mathematics Tests (the Written Task is only marked if Headteacher Assessment is made). If a pass is not achieved, the Head can ask for a Headteacher Assessment in exceptional circumstances by supplying evidence from completed school work to demonstrate that the candidate deserves a place.

If you wish your child to sit the Kent Test you must **register them**. Registration opens on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and **closes on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024** at midnight: Registration can be completed using this link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1>

Please can you **advise the school office by 1<sup>st</sup> July** if you have registered your child for the Kent Test.



3. **Independent Schools:** The admissions for independent schools will vary, depending on the academic levels that they require for their intake. The children will be required to sit an entrance examination, usually consisting of Mathematics and English Tests. These schools are also likely to offer an interview to each child, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their attitude to learning and personal qualities. Places are offered based on the child's performance in the examinations and at interview.

For all state schools the School Common Application Form (SCAF) needs to be completed in October of the year your child is in Year 6. If you choose an independent school, you will not have to complete the SCAF, although we recommend that a back-up school is ALWAYS planned for. You can complete the SCAF by registering your child at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) and, as with previous years, parents are required to put their selection of schools in order of preference. Parents can choose four schools and I recommend that you take advantage of this. Putting only one school down will **not** guarantee your child a place at that school.

During the following months there will be range of Open Days at many of the senior schools and a timetable of some Open Days has been distributed recently. It is a useful experience for you to visit schools to inform your decision-making. You are welcome to take your child with you, but do be prepared for the eventuality that they may like a school that you do not; it is often best to do some groundwork first, so that you are showing your child schools that you are happy with.

If you intend to apply for an independent school, it is advisable to speak to the Admissions Staff of the school to find out about the procedure for putting your child's name down.

I hope that this information gives you a clear insight into the process of selecting the appropriate senior school for your child, and look forward to meeting with you in due course to discuss any questions that you may have about this process.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gillian Lovatt-Young  
Head

