

Transferring to Secondary School

Meeting for Year 5 Parents

24th May 2017

Key Dates

Registration period for Kent test	1 st June - 3 rd July 2017
Kent test	Thursday 7 th September 2017
Results emailed/posted to parents	Thursday 12 th October 2017
Opening date for secondary applications	Friday 1 st September 2017
Secondary applications closing date	Tuesday 31 st October 2017
National Offer Day	Thursday 1 st March 2017

Grammar School Assessment

- Any Y5 pupil who is interested in a Kent grammar school place for September 2018 **MUST REGISTER** to take part in the September 2017 tests.
- Registration opens on **1 June 2017** and closes on **3 July 2017**

Registering Online for the Kent test

- Parents can register their child online, by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/ola , or fill in a paper form and return it to school or direct to the Admissions Team at Sessions House

Applying for Any School Place

- Kent parents will be asked to complete the Authority's Secondary Common Application Form (Kent SCAF), online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or on paper, naming up to four secondary schools in order of preference, by Tuesday 31 October 2017. Paper forms may be returned via the primary school or direct to the LA.

- Kent LA will pass secondary schools the details of all children who have named them as a preference without indicating whether they were a first, second, third or fourth preference.
- The preference order is only used if more than one school could offer a place, so that the LA make parents the best available offer.

National Offer Day – 1st March 2018

- On 1 March 2018 you will receive an email (or letter the next day) of a single school place, and this will explain how to lodge an appeal if you are not happy with the offer you have received.
- Online notifications will arrive by e-mail after **4pm on 1 March**; letters will arrive on **2 March**. Parents will be asked to accept or decline the places offered by 16th March.
- If no response has been received by then, the school will remind you of the need to respond within a further 7 days if you do not wish to lose your place.

Waiting Lists

- All oversubscribed schools are required by the School Admissions Code to keep waiting lists.
- Children who named the school on their SCAF but were not offered a place there on 1 March will be included on this list on request, ranked according to the original oversubscription criteria (unless the school is a grammar school and the child has not been assessed suitable for a grammar school).

About the tests

- The tests Kent uses are compiled from a confidential Item Bank. They cannot be retained for any purpose after testing.
- As the tests are designed for selection purposes, some pupils in Year 6 will certainly find them difficult.
- Coaching is not required or permitted.

The tests are multiple-choice with a separate answer sheet. They are marked by an automated marking machine.

The first test will be an English and Maths paper and will take 1 hour. Each section will involve a 5 minute practice exercise followed by a 25 minute test. The English section will involve a comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions drawn from a set designed to test literacy skills.

The second test will be a reasoning paper. It will take about 1 hour, including the practice sections and questions. It will contain a verbal reasoning section and a non-verbal reasoning section of roughly the same length. The non-verbal reasoning will be split into short sections, administered and timed individually.

There will also be a writing exercise which will not be marked but may be used by a local headteacher panel as part of the headteacher assessment stage of the process. 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time. The [Kent Test familiarisation booklet \(PDF, 2.6 MB\)](#) gives a description of the different parts of the test and advice on approaching the types of questions asked.

- A child who gets a grammar school assessment is not guaranteed a grammar school place.
- If oversubscribed, grammar schools, like other schools, will apply their published admission criteria to rank applicants for places.

Appeals

- End Sept - Headteacher appeal – school submits a request before parents are told the outcome of the test. Based on samples of work from Year 5
- After 1st March - Parents can appeal for any school which they have been refused, even if they have been offered a school they named higher on their SCAF, or if the school they want is a grammar school and their child has not passed the Kent test
- You can only appeal for schools named on your SCAF.

- The SCAF has space for four preferences. You do not have to name four schools but you are more likely to get an offer which they find acceptable if you do, as every school named is approached.
- When school places are allocated on National Offer Day on 1st March the LA can only take account of preferences named on the form. Naming fewer than four schools will not improve a child's eligibility for admission to any of them.
- If parents cannot be offered any of the school(s) named on their SCAF, they will be allocated a place by default, which may be at a school they do not want – this is more likely to happen if they limit the number of schools they apply for.

Our advice;

- Visit schools you are considering applying for. We are happy for you to take your child to visit during the school day
- Talk to Miss Christmas about whether the Kent test may be appropriate for your child
- Don't miss the deadlines!
- Practise verbal and non-verbal reasoning, Maths and English papers. Speed is key!

Hilltop 2018

- Sunday 15th July – Thursday 19th July 2018
- Cost – approximately £430
- [Hilltop Film](#)

