

Secondary School Entrance Procedures for Sept 2019

A presentation for parents from
Deal Parochial C.E.P School

You will soon be asked to choose a secondary school for your child.

- ▶ All secondary schools will be inviting you to book tours of their school. Please look at all the local schools before you make any decisions – **look on the school websites to find out when their open days/evenings are.**
- ▶ The Secondary school admissions process consists of several stages starting with Kent Test registration, which begins in June, through to National Offer Day in March and then the final reallocation of places in April. After this point the In Year process will take over.
- ▶ For further information please check the full admissions scheme which can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Choosing a school

- ▶ There are lots of different types of school in Kent, and it's important that your child goes to a school that's right for them.
- ▶ **Find out about a school**
 - To find out if a school is suitable for your child:**
 - ▶ Visit the school – most schools have open days you can go to
 - ▶ Ask other parents what they think about the school
 - ▶ Check the school's admission criteria – this sets out how schools choose which children to offer a school place to
 - ▶ Read the school's Ofsted reports
 - ▶ Check school league tables
 - ▶ Think about what school transport is available
 - ▶ Find out how the school can support your child if you are choosing a school for a child with a special educational need

The Kent Test dates for 2018 are:

- ▶ The Kent Test will take place, in school, on **Thursday 6th September 2018**
- ▶ Practice papers can be downloaded from www.gi-assessment.co.uk
- ▶ These papers contain examples of the type of questions which will appear in the Mathematics and Reasoning papers of the examination – you can also buy practice papers from WH Smith and other stationary suppliers.
- ▶ Assessment decision letters will be sent by post to parents/carers on **11th October 2018** – if you apply online, you will receive an e-mail on **11th October 2018**
- ▶ The Dover Boys and Girls Tests takes place at on **Saturday 8th September 2018**

The Kent Test

- ▶ If you want to apply for a year 7 place at a Kent grammar school, you can register your child for the Kent Test. The test assesses whether grammar school is a suitable option for your child.
- ▶ You can register your child online, by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/ola – **this is the best option as KCC will be able to process your details more quickly, also, once you have your child's results, you will be able to apply online for a school place too by adding your preferences to the information you have already submitted** – or you can fill in a paper form (you will need to download this) and return it through the school or direct to the Admissions Team at Sessions House.
- ▶ If you want your child to take the Kent Test for selective education then it is vital that you register your child **between 1st June and 2nd July 2018.**
- ▶ To take the **Dover Grammar test you need to apply by Monday 2nd July 2018 (boys) Friday 6th July 2018 (Girls)** . Application forms can be downloaded from the Grammar school websites.
- ▶ Coaching is not required or permitted to be done by the school.

The Tests

- ▶ The first test will be a **multiple choice English and Maths** paper with a separate answer sheet. The English test is the first section. The test will take an 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 multiple choice reasoning paper. It will take about an 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, with the verbal reasoning first. The non-verbal reasoning will be split into four sections, administered and timed individually (as in the previous tests).
- ▶ The multiple choice test papers are marked by an automated marking machine.
- ▶ 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. Forty minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.
- ▶ The **Kent Test familiarisation booklet** gives a description of the different parts of the test and advice on approaching the types of questions asked.

Test results

- ▶ The results for the 2018 Kent Test will be sent out to schools on **Thursday 20th September** – if the headteacher wants to appeal for any children, this needs to be registered by the end of the day on **Friday 21st September**.
- ▶ Assessment decision letters will be posted to parents on **Thursday 11th October**, to arrive by 15th October. Provided they have registered online and given a valid e-mail address, they will also be notified of their child's assessment by an **automatic e-mail after 4pm on 11th October**. (The high volume of online applications means that e-mails may take some time to arrive.)
- ▶ Test scores are available from your primary school. We cannot give out test scores over the phone.
- ▶ If you need further advice, please email the secondary admissions team at kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk quoting your child's Pupil ID for security purposes.
- ▶ An explanation of score will be provided after the test has taken place.

How the scores are set

- ▶ The score for a grammar school assessment is different every year. They are set depending on the range of results children achieve. If lots of children scored very highly on the test, the pass mark is set higher. If lots of children get low scores, the pass mark is set lower.
- ▶ Marks are adjusted very slightly to allow for each child's age when they take the test. This is done through a statistical process called standardisation, to make sure that a child's results are compared with the performance of other children the same age.
- ▶ A standardised score of 100 represents an average performance for a child of a given age, with the lowest standardised score normally around 69 and the highest around 141. The highest possible total score is 423.
- ▶ Until Kent pupils have taken the tests, it is not possible to predict the threshold for grammar school in a particular year. However, it is usually set using a minimum overall score and a minimum score for a single section.
- ▶ **For the past four years**, to be given a grammar school assessment, children need to get a total score of 320 or more, with no single score lower than 106.
- ▶ You can't appeal against your child's Kent Test results.

Applications for secondary school will open in early September 2018.

- ▶ If your child took the test and was successfully grammar school assessed, the school will consider your application. However, this does not guarantee your child will be offered a place. If more children qualify for places than the number of places available, the school will use its admissions criteria to decide which children to offer places to. If you are not offered a place at a grammar school you can appeal to explain why you think grammar school is a suitable option for your child. Your child may be placed on a waiting list.
- ▶ If your child was not successfully grammar school assessed or did not take the test, the school will turn down your application, and you'll be offered a different school. You have the right to appeal to explain why you think grammar school is a suitable option for your child.
- ▶ **Appeals:** The waiting list is separate from and additional to the appeals process. Parents have a statutory right to 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 qualified for a place on grounds of ability.

Useful links

- ▶ <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-4>

KCC Secondary School Admissions

- ▶ <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>

KCC Kent Test Registration

- ▶ <http://dgggs.kent.sch.uk/>

Dover Grammar School for Girls – follow the link for admissions at the bottom of the page

- ▶ <https://www.dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk/832/admissions-201920-intake>

Dover Grammar School for Boys

- ▶ <http://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/137/admissions>

- ▶ Sandwich Technology School

- ▶ <http://www.goodwinacademy.co.uk/>

- ▶ Goodwin Academy
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