

The background of the slide is a chalkboard with a greenish tint. In the lower-left foreground, two pieces of pink chalk are lying on the surface. To their right and slightly behind, there are several white chalk drawings, including a large, faint letter 'A' and some curved lines. The overall lighting is soft, creating a slight vignette effect.

# **Year 5 Parent Information Session**

**Secondary transfer  
*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019***

# Aims

- To provide guidance on choosing the most suitable secondary school path for your child.
- To provide key dates and information regarding the secondary school application process.
- To explain Kent's selective system of secondary education and provide information regarding the Kent Test (11+).

# Which secondary school?

- The unique location of The Discovery School means that pupils do not have just one or two local schools to move on to for their secondary education. In fact, the choice of secondary schools, whether selective or non-selective, is vast and can be quite overwhelming for parents and children in the initial stages of consideration.
- This year, the 91 pupils in Year 6 were allocated 18 different secondary schools in Kent.

# Secondary school allocations March 2019

School	Boys/ Girls/	Non-selective/	Number of pupils
	Mixed	Grammar	
Aylesford School	M	N/S	1
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School	M	N/S	3
Hayesbrook School	B	N/S	1
Hillview School for Girls	G	N/S	14
Holmesdale School	M	N/S	6
Hugh Christie School	M	N/S	16
Invicta Grammar School	G	G	4
Judd School	B	G	3
Maidstone Grammar School	B	G	6
Malling School	M	N/S	1
Mascalls Academy	M	N/S	9
Oakwood Park Grammar School	B	G	3
Rochester Independent College	M	N/S*	1
St Simon Stock Catholic School	M	N/S	3
Tonbridge Grammar School	G	G	2
Trinity School	M	N/S*	1
Weald of Kent Grammar School	G	G	10
Wrotham School	M	N/S	7
*School status religious/ private			91
Pupils allocated N/S schools		63	
Pupils allocated G schools (before appeal)		28	

# Secondary school allocations March 2019

- Every year, the majority of pupils are awarded 'High school' places and will attend non-selective secondary schools.
- Approximately one third of pupils are awarded grammar school places and will go on to selective education.







# The right path

- Your decision must be right for your individual child. The school recommends to...
- consider your child's skills and strengths – which environment will they thrive in?
- consider your child's learning style and resilience - will they cope with the pressures of an academically focussed setting?
- consider recent progress reports – academic progress should be in the exceeding range to reflect the requirements of a grammar school setting.
- discuss progress and potential with your child's class teacher - teacher assessment will help to give you a realistic picture of your child academically and emotionally.

# Applying for a secondary school place

- In September secondary school admissions information and the SCAF (Secondary School Application Form) will be available on-line [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola)
- The deadline for applications is **Thursday 31st October 2019.**
- It is suggested that you make **4 choices of school.**
- It is important that you rank your choices in order of preference, so place the school that you REALLY want as your first choice, **FIRST!**

# Applying for a secondary school place

Before you complete the SCAF:

- Check the school's admissions criteria - this sets out how schools choose which children to offer a school place to. Schools publish admissions criteria and useful information on their websites. You will find a list of secondary school websites in the back of the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Kent' booklet.
- Read the school's Ofsted reports and check school league tables.
- Ask other parents what they think about the school. However, try to avoid feeling the pressure – choose the right school for your child and avoid 'following the crowd'.



# Applying for a secondary school place

Before you complete the SCAF:

- Visit secondary schools as early as possible with your child so that they can start to consider their options.
- Secondary schools will advertise details about admissions, open afternoons and evenings on their websites. It is worth familiarising yourself with the websites of the schools on your short-list.
- Get a 'feel' for the environment and ethos of each school and involve your child in the decision-making process.
- However, consider the impact of school visits during the school day on your child's current learning – please check with the class teacher and inform the school office of any planned visits.

# Applying for a secondary school place

Before you complete the SCAF:

- Find out how the school can support your child if you are choosing a school for a child with a specific educational need.
- Consider travel arrangements – the proximity of schools from Kings Hill and non-direct bus routes may add up to a very long day for children.
- Be realistic – some children are better suited to non-selective schools. Seek advice from your child's class teacher – remember we are here to help.

# Applying for a secondary school place

- Apart from Kent schools and other LA schools, there is the option of funded education – Independent Schools.
- There are many privately funded schools in the area that also require an entrance test or have specific selective criteria. The information for these will be on their websites. We are able to provide references for these schools and will support any application.
- You are able to NAME a selective school if your child hasn't passed the Kent Test BUT you will have to make a parent appeal AFTER the allocations have been made.



# Kent's Selective Education System

- Our area of Kent has a selective system of education for Year 7 pupils and it is your choice, with guidance from school and your children's teachers, on the most suitable path to take.
- Not all pupils will be suited to selective education and some, particularly those who are intensively tutored, may attain a grammar school place and then find that they struggle and do not achieve the potential that they might at a non-selective school. Many pupils who move on to non-selective schooling achieve excellent results and are well prepared for their future life.



# So how does the selective system work?

- Pupils are selected for grammar schools by means of a test that will take place on **Thursday 12th September 2019** in school.
- Registration for the test opens on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**. The closing date for registration is **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019**. It is possible to withdraw at any time. However, once the deadline for registration has passed there will be **no other opportunity to enter your child**.
- Results of the Kent Test will be emailed/ posted first class to parents on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – **please note that this is before the SCAF deadline**.



# Kent Test (11+) format

- 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.



# Kent Test (11+) format

- **English test** – 5 minutes practice followed by 25 minutes test . There are 3 sections:
- *A comprehension test:* The 2016 passage was quite long and needed to be read quickly. Many of the questions were referred to numbered lines in the passage – it is essential to notice these.
- *Sentence completion exercises:* These assess knowledge of grammar and vocabulary structure.
- *Spelling exercise:* This involves recognising the spelling mistake.

# Kent Test (11+) format

- **Maths test** - 5 minutes practice followed by 25 minutes test.
- The maths test contains a series of multiple-choice questions covering a variety of topics taught in schools up to the start of Year 6.
- A small number of questions will be based on the KS2 curriculum coverage but will be more difficult than children are used to. This is so test children's ability to apply skills to higher level problem solving.
- Children will be able to do their workings on test paper.



# Kent Test (11+) format

- 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.





# Kent Test (11+) format

- 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 for pupils who have not passed the Kent Test.
- 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.
- Further evidence from a range of work completed during the summer term in Year 5 is also requested as evidence to inform the Headteacher Appeal panel.





# Kent Test (11+) coaching

- As the tests are designed for selection purposes, many pupils in Year 6 will find them very difficult.
- **Coaching is not required and schools are not permitted to coach.** Heavy coaching from external tutors may be detrimental as this may not reflect a child's true ability or academic sustainability within a grammar setting.
- Test scores are standardised against the performance of an external sample of pupils who have not been coached, so that children who have not undertaken any preparation are not placed at a disadvantage.
- 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.
- Additional familiarisation material and parent guides can be downloaded free of charge from [GL Assessment](#).

# Kent Test (11+) scores

- Your child will get 3 standardised scores, one for English, one for Maths and one for Reasoning, and a total (aggregate) score.
- Standardisation is a statistical process which compares your child's performance with the average performance of other children in each test. A slight adjustment is made to take account of each child's age so that the youngest are not at a disadvantage.



# Kent Test (11+) thresholds

- To be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 323 or more, with no single score lower than 107. The lowest possible score on the different tests is 69 or 70. The highest score on each test is 141, so the highest possible total score is 423.
- If your child did not reach the threshold score and their primary school referred their case to the local Headteacher Assessment Panel, the panel will have looked at their achievement in school and examples of their work, including the writing task completed on the day, before a final decision was made.

# Headteacher Appeals

- Kent will allow a 'Headteacher Appeal' if a child was not successful in the Kent Test but was expected to be.
- A 'Headteacher Appeal' is actually constructed by the child's class teacher based on prior attainment and current teacher assessment. The appeal form is only signed by the Headteacher.
- The school will only submit a 'Headteacher Appeal' if the child has missed out on the pass mark by a small points margin and if we have sufficiently strong evidence to reflect the potential of suitability for a grammar place from their work at school (from Summer Term Y5/ September Y6).



# The Medway Test

- This will take place on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019.**
- The Medway Test is made up of three separate papers:
  - Extended Writing
  - Mathematics (multiple choice)
  - Verbal Reasoning (multiple choice)
- The scoring and pass mark differs from the Kent Test – the pass mark last year was 513.
- Results of the Medway Test will be sent out on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**





# Offers and parent appeals

- National offer day will be on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**. You will be sent an email from the LA after 4.00pm and letters will be sent on this day by first class post.
- Offers should be accepted or declined by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**. The school recommends that you accept the offer, even if you are appealing for an alternative school place.
- The deadline for lodging parent appeals is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

# Parent Appeals

- If your child does not pass the Kent Test and was not put forward for a Headteacher Appeal, please seek advice from your child's class teacher to discuss the potential of a making a 'Parent Appeal' later on.
- The school will support a 'Parent Appeal' if we have sufficiently strong evidence to reflect rapid progress and the potential of suitability for a grammar place from their work at school (from September to March Y6).
- If agreed, the school will provide a supporting letter (constructed by the pupil's class teacher and signed by the Headteacher) to recommend the pupil for a grammar school place.
- If a Parent Appeal is lodged, you will be given an appeal hearing for which you need to be prepared to present the reasons why you believe your child will be suitable for a place at the desired grammar school.

# Parent Appeals

- If you are not awarded your first preference, whether grammar or non-selective school, the school will support a 'Parent Appeal'.
- Please book an appointment with your child's class teacher as soon as possible after school preferences are issued in order to discuss options.



# School Support – what do we do?

- We provide frequent opportunities to discuss your child's progress. Parent consultations have already taken place but your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss your child's secondary school suitability at any time.
- During Year 5, teacher assessment of attainment and progress across the curriculum – particularly in English and mathematics – will be an indicator as to whether your child will be likely pass the selection test.
- Discussion with your class teacher will also provide advice regarding your child's ability to cope and be happy within a grammar school environment.





# Open days and transition events

- Kings Hill Primary School host an annual Secondary School Evening for parents and children. This will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30 – 6.30pm.
- During term 6, some schools offer ‘taster day’ experiences for children in Year 5 – please speak to your child’s class teacher for more information about these.
- During the autumn term, Year 6 children are permitted to attend secondary school open days. Although we do encourage parents and children to attend these, please consider the amount of time children will be missing from the important first term’s work in Year 6.
- Once pupils are allocated secondary places, a number of Year 6 transition events take place run by secondary schools and our local primary school collaboration.





# Contact information

- [www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions)
- [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola)
- <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>
- <http://new.medway.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/medway-test/register-for-the-medway-test>
- Email: [kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk)
- Secondary Admissions Team: 03000 41 21 21
- School DCSF Number: 886/2065



# Good Luck!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any advice or support.

Miss J Wilce, UKS2 Phase Leader:  
[jwilce@discovery.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jwilce@discovery.kent.sch.uk)