

*Choosing
the right
path for
your child*



Secondary School Transfer Information for Parents September 2020

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 pupils in Year 6 were allocated 22 different secondary schools in Kent.

Secondary school allocations March 2020

School	Boys/ Girls	Non-selective/ Grammar/ Faith	Number of pupils
	Mixed		
Archbishop's School	M	N/S	1
Aylesford School	M	N/S	1
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School	M	N/S	2
Hadlow Rural Community School	M	N/S	3
Hayesbrook School	B	N/S	3
Hillview School for Girls	G	N/S	3
Holmesdale School	M	N/S	8
Hugh Christie School	M	N/S	9
Invicta Grammar School	G	G	3
Judd School	B	G	6
Maidstone Grammar School	B	G	9
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls	G	G	1
Malling School	M	N/S	2
Maplesden Noakes School	M	N/S	1
Mascalls Academy	M	N/S	13
Oakwood Park Grammar School	B	G	5
St Gregory's Catholic School	M	F	2
St Simon Stock Catholic School	M	F	4
Tonbridge Grammar School	G	G	2
Valley Park School	M	N/S	2
Weald of Kent Grammar School	G	G	5
Wrotham School	M	N/S	2
Pupils allocated grammar school place (before appeal)			31
Pupils allocated non-selective place			58
Pupils not offered preference			9

Secondary school allocations

- Every year, pupils are awarded either a 'High school' or a 'Grammar school' place.
- Approximately one third of pupils are awarded a grammar school place after gaining a successful result in the Kent Test.
- A further 10% of pupils will go on to attend a grammar school through means of a successful appeal.

Choosing the most suitable path

Your decision must be right for your individual child.
Some things to consider:

- your child's skills and strengths – which environment will they thrive in?
- your child's learning style and resilience - will they cope with the pressures of an academically selective setting?
- recent progress reports – does your child's academic progress reflect the requirements of a grammar school setting?

Applying for a secondary school place

- The application for secondary school transfer in 2021 opened on **Tuesday 1st September 2020.**
- Secondary school admissions information and the SCAF (Secondary School Application Form) are available on-line www.kent.gov.uk/ola
- The national closing date for applications is **Monday 2nd November 2020.**
- This year Kent parents will be able to name **up to 6** secondary school preferences, an increase from 4, to account for the fact that they will not know their child's Kent Test result before applications need to be submitted on 2 November 2020.

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' guide:
https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/17930/Secondary-admissions-booklet-all-areas.pdf
- Read the school's Ofsted reports and check school league tables.
- Ask other parents what they think about the school.

Applying for a secondary school place

Before you complete the SCAF:

- This term, we would usually be encouraging you to visit secondary schools and attend their open events and tours. However, due to current restrictions surrounding the Coronavirus, many secondary schools will be organising virtual alternatives.
- Full details of scheduled online events and virtual tours can be found on each school's website.

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.
- Remember that you can seek advice from your child's class teacher – we are here to offer advice and support you through the application process.

Applying for a grammar school place

- **If your child is assessed as suitable for grammar school,** any Kent grammar school you apply for will consider your application, but this does not guarantee your child will be offered a place.
- If more children qualify for places than it has space for, the school must use its admissions criteria to decide which children to offer places to.
- If your child is not offered a place at a grammar school because it is full you can put their name on the school's school's waiting list.
- You can also appeal to explain why you think the school should admit your child even though it is full.

Applying for a grammar school place

- **If your child was not tested or was not assessed as suitable for a Kent grammar school**, you can still apply for a Kent grammar school but your application will be turned down.
- You will then have the right to [appeal](#) to explain why you think grammar school is a suitable option for your child.
- Your child's class teacher is the best person to offer advice and support should you be in this position after National Offer Day.

Other secondary school options

- 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.

Kent's system of selection

- Kent operates a system of selection for secondary education.
- Pupils wishing to attend a grammar school from Year 7 must sit the Kent Selection Test (or Medway Selection Test if you are thinking of applying for a Medway grammar school).
- Your own research, together with guidance from the school and your child's class teacher if needed, is key to making the right choice of school for your child.

Kent Test Registration

- Pupils are selected for grammar schools by means of a test that will take place in school on **Thursday 15th October 2020** (amended from 10th September 2020).
- Registration for the test opened on 1st June 2020 and closed on 1st July 2020. It is possible to withdraw at any time. Now that the deadline for registration has passed there is no other opportunity to enter your child for the October test.

Kent Test Results

- Due to the changes in the Kent Test process as a result of COVID-19, we are expecting to release results **by 26 November**.
- Please note that this is after the deadline for completion of the SCAF. Therefore up to 6 schools can be listed on the form this year.
- Parents should be aware that this date is subject to change, but KCC will keep you informed of any adjustments that are required.

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 a 25 minute test . There are 3 sections:
- *A comprehension test:* The 2019 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 a 25 minute 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 usually requested as evidence to inform the Headteacher Appeal panel. However, due to the circumstances this year, the school will be using alternative assessment arrangements. This will be explained on a subsequent slide.

Kent Test (11+) coaching

- As the tests are designed for selection purposes, pupils may find them difficult.
- Schools **are not** permitted to coach, tutor or prepare children for the test.
- 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.

Grammar school threshold 2019

- To be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 330 or more, with no single score lower than 110. 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 Head Teacher 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.

Kent Test scores report 2019

- In response to Freedom of Information requests, KCC have produced a report which shows the number of children who scored each total score. The tabs in the report show grammar school and high school assessed pupils.
- Where children have been assessed suitable for grammar school via their local Head Teacher Assessment Panel, their score may be below the 330 total score threshold. Children may also score higher than 330, but still be assessed as suitable for high school in cases where one or more of their individual scores were below 110.
- [2019 Kent Test scores report \(XLSX, 24.9 KB\)](#)

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 then counter-signed by the Headteacher.
- The school will consider a pupil for a 'Headteacher Appeal' if the child has missed out on the pass mark by a small points margin and there is sufficiently strong evidence to reflect the potential of suitability for a grammar place from their work at school.

Teacher Assessment and Evidence

- Due to the situation with the Coronavirus pandemic, the school will be unable to use evidence of pupils' academic work from Year 5. Therefore, as part of the schools' assessment and catch-up programme this year, all Year 6 pupils will be sitting a CAT4 test to support teacher assessment of pupils' attainment in core subject areas.
- More information for parents regarding CAT4 testing can be found here:
- <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/support/cat4-product-support/cat4-information-for-parents/>

The Medway Test

- If pupils go to schools outside of Medway, they will sit the Medway Test in a Medway Test Centre on either Saturday 10, Sunday 11, Saturday 17 or Sunday 18 October 2020. One day will be allocated.
- 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. More information about the Medway Test process can be found here:
- https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1049/medway_test_11

National Offer Day

- National offer day will be on **Monday 1st March 2021**. If you apply online KCC will email you on **1 March 2021 after 4pm** to tell you which school you have been offered. KCC cannot guarantee the exact time you will receive your email, this will depend on your email service provider.
- You can also **log in** after 5pm on **1 March 2021** to view your offer online.

National Offer Day

- Offers should be accepted or declined by **Monday 15th March 2021**. 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 26th March 2021**.

If you are unhappy with the offer

- We suggest that you view the schools website to find out more about it. If you are still unhappy you can put your child on the waiting list or make an appeal for any of the schools you applied for. You can do either or both for the same school or for different schools. For example, you can appeal for one school and put your child on the waiting list for another.
- We recommend that you still accept the place your child has been offered. This will not affect your waiting list position or your appeal. It will guarantee your child has a school place if no places become available or if your appeal is unsuccessful. If the waiting list or appeal are successful you must remember to tell the school you were originally offered that you no longer want the place.

School Support

- If you are not awarded your first preference, whether a 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.
- Throughout the year, we provide frequent opportunities to discuss your child's progress and offer advice for secondary school transfer. Your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss options with you at any time. Please feel free to book an appointment.

Contact information

- www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
- 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
- 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.

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