



UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Part of The Viking Academy Trust

16th May 2017

Important Information for Year 5 Parents regarding PESE: Procedure for Entry to Secondary Education and Registering for the Kent Test



Dear Year 5 Parents,

I'm sure for many of you it's incredible to think that you now need to consider secondary school choices for your child - they can't possibly have been at Upton that long! However, this is actually the case. If you want your child to take the Kent Test (11+), and therefore be eligible for grammar school if they pass, the key dates to register your child are set out below. Please ensure you read this letter fully and carefully as it contains not only information about the Kent Test, **but also about school allocations** and our own upcoming PESE meeting for parents.

• **1st June 2017**: Registration for the Kent Test opens. Parents who wish their child to take the Kent Tests can register online via www.kent.gov.uk/ola (preferred option) or via post.

• **13th June 2017**: Year 5 Parents PESE Information Evening (6:00 pm School Hall)

• **3rd July 2017**: Online registration for the Kent Test closes

• **7th September 2017**: Date of Kent Test

• **12th October 2017**: Parents who applied online are notified via email if their child was successful in the Kent Test. Those who applied via post will find out on 13th October

The Kent Admissions team are encouraging parents to utilise the online registration website as this will allow the process to run much more effectively. If you register online, you will receive the assessment decision without having to wait for the assessment decision letter.

If you have not got online capability at home, please contact our school office and they will make arrangements for you to use the facilities in school. If you wish to receive a paper registration form, please contact the Secondary Admissions Team on 03000 41 21 21 or email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk. You can also print off a copy of the form from www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to complete and return.

It is our intention to hold a **PESE Information Meeting** for parents/carers of Year 5 children on **Tuesday 13th June at 6.00pm** in the school hall. This meeting will enable us to give you more information about the PESE process (the nature of the Kent tests) and answer any questions you may have. You will also be able to speak to your child's class teacher. We would urge you to attend the meeting if at all possible. To this meeting I have also invited representatives from the five schools that encompass 95% of school allocations for Upton pupils: Dane Court; Chatham & Clarendon; Charles Dickens; St George's and the Royal Harbour Academy.

Prior to, or after, this meeting, you can arrange to meet Year 5 teachers on the afternoon of **20th June 1.15 - 3.30pm**. This time has been set aside for parents who are unable to attend the evening meeting or parents that did attend the meeting but had a specific question about their child regarding the PESE test. Parents will be able to sign up for an appointment time during the Parents Meeting on the 13th June or telephone the school office in advance to make an appointment for this. Alternately - all teacher emails are on the website and this is a very simple and rapid form of contact.

Year 5 will be undertaking the **Year 5 Cognitive Assessment Tests** (CAT tests) prior to the PESE meeting and we have forms of **standardised testing** at mileposts throughout the year that will help you to determine whether your child is at the level required for grammar school entry. These results will help inform your decision making, **but regardless, the choice is entirely yours.**

At this time, I'd also advise parents to begin looking at the entrance and admissions criteria for any secondary school they wish their child to attend if you haven't already. These criteria are published on the secondary school websites and it is **very important** that parents realise how this affects their child and the chances of being allocated a place in their preferred school. Often, the distance you live from the school **will not guarantee you receive a place**. For example, distance you live from the school is the **last criteria** for entry into St George's School - there are *seven* other criteria ahead of it that will prioritise other children first. Distance is also *fifth* on the admission criteria for Charles Dickens. Once the results of the Kent Test have been published in October, you have to choose four schools in order of preference that you would like your child to attend. These schools will all allocate their spaces following their set entrance criteria, regardless of where you place them in order of preference. While actually formally choosing a school for your child won't happen until they are in Year 6, I urge Upton parents to check the criteria of the schools you would prefer for your child as soon as possible in case you don't currently meet their entrance criteria.

You are also asked to read the 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2017' booklet available on Kent Admissions website: www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

If you have any questions prior to our meeting on 13th June please contact your child's teacher, Year 5 Head Mrs Walton, or myself. My email is: dave.walker@uptonjunior.com

We understand the importance of the decisions that lie ahead for parents at this time and have exceptionally experienced staff who can help you. Our intention is to support you and share information with you that may impact upon the decision you make. If in any doubt about anything - please ask!

I look forward to meeting you on 13th June to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Walker
Head of School