



23rd May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

With one term remaining in Year 5, and a last primary year to follow, it may seem early to be thinking about your child's transfer to secondary education. However, we must turn our minds to such thoughts.

Although you will not be expressing preferences for schools at this time (that will be done in Year 6), you will need to consider whether your son or daughter may be suited to a grammar school education. The most significant criteria for attaining a grammar school placement is evidencing the academic standard required. There are "selection" tests (similar to what some of us remember as the 11+ tests), and the date for this year's tests is **Thursday 7th September 2017**.

There will be a Reading and Maths paper, a Reasoning paper and a shorter unmarked writing exercise for reference in the event of a referral to the Head Teacher Appeal Panel. All the tests are taken in one day.

Your child will only take the tests if you opt in; you have to register him or her between **Thursday 1st June 2017 and Monday 3rd July 2017**. Your child does not need to take the tests unless you are interested in a grammar school place.

If your child takes the tests and you registered online you will be able to access the results after 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 12th October 2017 and you will also receive a letter posted first class on this day before you have to make your choices of secondary schools.

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7 p.m. in our School Hall for Year 5 parents (not children)** to tell you about the procedure.

All the children have taken CATS - Cognitive Ability Tests, which relates to verbal, non-verbal and spatial reasoning at school which not only give an indication of how they might do in the grammar selection tests, but also helps them become more comfortable with their test technique. We will be collating this assessment information to help you in reaching a decision regarding whether you consider it appropriate to opt your child in for the Grammar school tests and this will be sent to you. If you remain undecided about this option you are welcome to make an appointment to see Miss Rachel Savage, Deputy Headteacher on the morning of Thursday 8th June 2017. Please feel assured that the Year 5 team and I want to support you at anytime, and you are welcome to contact any of us.

There is an additional opportunity to consider if you think your child may be suited to a grammar school education. Folkestone School for Girls and The Harvey Grammar School are offering a Shepway Test, on Saturday 9th September 2017. If you are opting for the Dover Grammar test it is on the same day; the option is to take the Shepway test **or** the Dover test. All applications for the Shepway Test must be submitted online via the schools' website. All of these schools provide information on how to register your child for their tests, having decided which one you consider to be the most suitable for your son or daughter. It is very important to note the closing date for registering your child for the tests, as late applications will not be accepted. These applications should be sent to the specific school.

We have contacted secondary schools to ascertain whether they have arranged opportunities for you and your child to visit, as we know that when it comes to making a decision about which school will best serve your child you will want to see for yourself.

Folkestone School for Girls 01303 251125	Thursday 29th June 6:00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Harvey Grammar School 01303 252131	Wednesday 5th July 6.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Open Day tour on the mornings of Thursday 6 th or Friday 7 th July 2017. Please contact The Harvey Grammar School office to arrange.
Folkestone Academy 01303 842400	Wednesday 27th September 5.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Brockhill Performing Arts College 01303 265521	Tuesday 12th September from 5.00 p.m.
Dover Grammar School for Girls 01304 206625	Open evening - Tuesday 6th June 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Wednesday 7 th June - tours at 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Thursday 8 th June - tours at 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. (Please book your tours through their school office)
Dover Grammar School for Boys 01304 206117	Thursday 29th June 6.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Presentation by Headteacher at 6.15 p.m. and 7.15 p.m.

Once your child is in Year 6 all parents will be invited to a consultation appointment with the Year 6 teachers in October. This will provide you with the opportunity to talk with us about the secondary school options for your son or daughter.

As always, your children are of most importance. In working together we will continue to support our children as they continue through their education.

Yours sincerely



Mr Matthew Green
Headteacher