

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5,

I am writing in regards to the Kent Test (11+) which I know many of you have questions over.

Registration for the test opens on 1st June and closes on 1st July. Your child must be registered for the test in order to take it. If you do not register by 1st July, your child will not take the test.

- Registration is online here: www.kent.gov.uk/ola

Matt Dunkley, The Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education for Kent has written this for parents:

Dear Parents,

We understand that many of you with children in Year 5 are very anxious to know what will happen about the Kent Test when the new school year starts in September. We are carefully considering what might be deliverable, depending on advice from central government as the pandemic runs its course and decisions are made about the easing of lockdown for children of primary school age.

Many factors could change between now and the end of term and this means that we are currently unable to tell you exactly how we will assess children for grammar school in the new academic year. We can confirm, however, that we will need some way to identify which children are eligible.

Testing has the benefit of being available to the thousands of grammar school applicants we normally assess every year, however recently they have arrived in Kent and wherever they usually study, even if they are home educated, so it would be the most straightforward option if it is possible. Whatever is decided, though, we need to be confident that we can keep the risk to children and their teachers as low as possible, allowing grammar schools meet their legal obligations in a fair and transparent way, while allowing KCC to stay within the national timetable for coordinating school admissions.

We appreciate that everyone of school age is missing classroom teaching, but it is fortunate that there are many excellent resources available through schools and education sites for children. Familiarisation material for the Kent Test can also be found in the “Test Paper” tab: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-3>

We will update the website for everyone’s benefit when we have received further guidance from the Department for Education and there is a clearer understanding of what arrangements may be possible. In the meantime, we would ask that parents monitor the Kent Test page for updates, rather than sending individual enquiries. We do understand that uncertainty is difficult, especially for children, but KCC is

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unable to confirm what arrangements will be in place until there is a clearer understanding of how children are likely to return to school in greater numbers.

It seems that at this stage, the test is still planned for Thursday 10th September. We would normally be holding parent-teacher consultations where the test could be discussed and I would hold a parents' information meeting – obviously we cannot do that and so I have included the information that I would normally give below:

What do the Tests consist of?

- English and Maths paper – 60 minutes. English is first and test comprehension skills as well as literacy skills. (Multiple choice)
- Reasoning paper – roughly 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. (Multiple Choice)
- Written exercise – 40 minutes. This will not be marked but may be used by a local Head Teacher panel as part of the Head Teacher assessment stage of the process.

Scoring:

- 3 separate scores are given – Maths, English & Reasoning and these are standardised and totalled for an aggregate
- In 2019 to be judged as suitable for grammar, children needed to score at least 110 in each of the three tests and have an aggregate score of 330

Scores and Head Teacher Appeals:

- The school receives scores in late September.
- Based on those scores and our knowledge of children we will raise Head Teacher appeals for children who have not achieved thresholds but who we believe are of “selective ability”.
- Scores will have to be close to the thresholds to be considered for an appeal (particularly in English)
- Class teachers prepare children's books; highlighting key evidence as proof of their suitability for a grammar school place.
- Mr Budge prepares a supporting document, outlining other key information; evidencing why a grammar school place should be allocated. This evidence is taken along to appeal panels.
- Head Teachers from schools across Kent sit in small groups and consider the evidence provided by schools. They make a decision whether the evidence provided by the school demonstrates that a child is suitable for a grammar school place. These decisions are then final.
- The results of the panels are sent to Mr Budge

Results to Families:

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- After the panels, results will be emailed on 15th October from 4pm. Letters will be sent on the same day
- The result will indicate 'suitable for high school or grammar school (H or G)' and you will be able to log in to access scores. No indication of whether an appeal was raised will be given (but if you have scores below threshold and a Grammar decision, this means an appeal was successfully raised).

Applications to Secondary Schools:

- No matter the result of the test, you should then submit an application to Secondary schools in the normal way (by 31st October 2020)
- School places are allocated in March 2021. If your child was not successful in being assessed as suitable for grammar through the test, you may then raise a parental appeal against the allocation of a high school place (I will go through this process in far more detail in September).

I will keep you posted if I receive any updates. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours Sincerely



Mr Budge

Head of School

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