St Faith's
PREP SCHOOL

Thursday 9th May 2018

Welcome to you all this evening.
I will be

- Discussing the options regarding entry into Secondary Education
- Explaining the Kent Test and secondary transfer process with relevant dates

Please do not try to take notes this evening as the information and dates can be collected at the end of the meeting.
Your child will be transferring to Secondary School in September 2019 or 2020.
You have choices to make for the future of your children's education depending on their personalities, strengths and hobbies. The choices range from

- Wide ability school including High School, Technical School or Academy
- Church schools
- Independent Secondary school
- Grammar School

Each of these schools offer different styles of education, some of which are tailored to individual needs combining academic, creative and some offer vocational training. Some of the schools offer sporting opportunities others strengths include music, drama, science or languages.
The Grammar schools are traditionally seen as the 'academic' route as they select 21% of the most academic children who take the Kent Test. The children at St. Faith's Prep. School are offered an education that prepares them for whichever route you, as their parents choose for them. Our assessment process which includes Cognitive Ability Tests or CATs coupled with our understanding of learning style and personality allows us to make a tentative judgement regarding your child's ability and which style of school may be the most appropriate secondary route for your child.
As parents you have the option to learn as much about each school by attending open days, open evenings or simply making an appointment to be shown around schools during the school day. I encourage you to do this as soon as possible before making your choices. We will display any information we are sent by secondary schools regarding these opportunities but please, look at the schools websites to find out when their open events are taking place.
If you would like to apply for your child to attend a Grammar school your child must take the Kent Test. Registration for the test opens on Friday 1st June and closes on Monday 2nd July. Paper copies of this form can be completed but I would encourage you to register online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola, you will then receive result information by email as soon as it is available.
YOU MUST MAKE THIS APPLICATION YOURSELF THE SCHOOL CAN NOT REGISTER CHILDREN FOR THE TESTS.
This year the test will be taken by the current Year 5 on Thursday 6th September. The whole school will be starting on the Monday of this week to ensure Year 6 are settled into daily routine by Thursday!
The children will sit 3 multiple choice papers

- English and Maths papers - 1hr
- Reasoning paper 1hr total
- Written exercise 50 mins total

Results are emailed to you on Thursday 11th 2018 October and posted on the same day. The school are able to release test information on Friday 12th October 2018.
If you choose a local authority school either selective (grammar) or non-selective you must place your preferences by applying online or by sending an application by post between 1st September and 31st

October 2018. This process involves completing the Secondary Common Application Form or SCAF. You are able to choose 4 schools in order of preference.
You are then offered a school for you children to attend (hopefully one of your 4 choices!) on 1st March 2019. You will be emailed or can log on to the LA website after 5pm.
You are then invited to accept or appeal against your allocated school. You can then appeal for any of the schools on your list of choices. If you later decide to appeal for a school you have not named you will have to wait until all school allocation has taken place (in March) and your request will be registered on a waiting list.
As you can see from the dates, it is vital that you start informing yourself about the choice of schools as soon as possible!
The advice from the PESE office is to make choices of schools you would like for your child based on

- Parental choice
- The schools entry criteria (which can be viewed in the online document, Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2018) – which include
- distance you live from the school – schools allocate places for those children fulfilling the criteria who live closest to the school then those who live at a greater distance
- siblings attending
- religious belief
- Kent Test result for Grammar schools

The catchment area for the schools change every year and are dependent on the number of applicants who qualify for entry (please see the table showing the catchment area intake).

- Also consider strengths of the school and their suitability for your child

You will be offered a school place based on your 4 choices (the highest preference they can you have submitted) and the criteria of the school. Therefore be realistic about your choices!
As you know many of our children are offered grammar school places.
In 2017 91% of children who took the test have been offered grammar school places.
8 children were offered scholarships to local independent schools.

The scores achieved on the Kent Test paper to be offered a grammar school place must be

- at least 106 on each of the 3 papers with an aggregate score of at least 320.

To explain further 100 is judged as the 'national average'. If your child's Year 5 CAT scores are significantly below 115 we would recommend that the Kent Test may not be appropriate for your child.
There are different opportunities to appeal for your child to be offered a grammar school place if their score is below that which was expected on the day

- Head teachers appeal – A selection of work undertaken in Year 6 will be submitted to the appeal panel, proving that the pupil is working at the expected level of a grammar school pupil. The presentation and content of this work is scrutinised by the panel and a grammar school place can be offered. This appeal process is carried out before results are issued to parents.
- Parental appeal – can be made after the results have been issued to parents which will be supported and often attended by myself or Mr Groves if we believe your child should be offered a grammar school place. Again, the process can be successful if supported with the evidence your child is working at the academic level expected by a grammar school.

Further information regarding the parental appeal process will be distributed by County at the relevant time.

The exceptionally high expectations and great work ethic at St Faith's Prep stand the children from our school in good stead during the appeal process. Having taken part in the Headteacher's appeal, the work submitted by our school outshines those of all other schools. The evidence we gather through relevant assessment and an incredibly high standard of presentation supports children in being offered a grammar school place. I cannot reiterate enough the need for these standards in both classwork and homework to

be supported by you, as parents giving your child the best opportunity possible to obtain a grammar school place should that be the route you consider most appropriate.
The holiday classes offered by Mrs Heather Gibbs, Mrs Yvette Allen and Mr McKenzie, during the summer break, keep the children focussed right up to the last minute. They are here this evening, giving you the opportunity to discuss the content of their courses further but many parents have reported how beneficial children have found the summer courses in keeping them focussed before the tests in September. Please sign up for these courses as soon as possible if you haven't already, to secure a place for your Year 5 child.

If you would like to consider either Dover Grammar School for Boys or Dover Grammar School for Girls, please be aware that entry for these can be accessed through the Kent Test but also through their own testing.
Both Dover Boys Grammar and Dover Girls Grammar hold their own entrance tests which are held on the Saturday after the Kent Test, which will be Saturday 8th September 2018.
YOU MUST APPLY FOR THESE TESTS SEPARATELY FROM THE KENT TEST – FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD ONLINE FROM 1ST JUNE.
The Dover test results will be sent to you on 12th October in addition to your child's Kent Test results. If your child is successful, the Dover Grammar Schools must be named on your SCAF in the same way as other schools.
Dover Girls open evening is on Tuesday 5th June 2018.
Dover Boys open evening is on Thursday 29th June 2018.
Please also be aware that Thanet also has excellent Grammar schools.
The Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School Federation is an excellent school at which we have past pupils attending. Dane Court is also a good school in the Thanet area. Both schools require a Kent Test pass and must be named as a choice of the SCAF. These schools have their own criteria for entry, catchment based on your address being one of them but their catchment is often wider than other Grammar schools, such as Sir Roger Manwood, Simon Langton Girls School, although these vary year by year, depending on the number of applicants.
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys has been called a 'Super Grammar'. Which means their catchment may be wider but they only offer places to children who have achieved a higher aggregate score in the Kent Test (lowest aggregate score was 363 last year).
Barton Court Grammar School has (March 2014) been graded as an 'outstanding' school. The school has been an excellent choice for our pupils in the past which offers a particular specialism in languages.

As you know our pupils are prepared in every way, with your support, for the Kent Test and entry into Secondary School. We are however aware that this preparation means that some of our children achieve the opportunity to enter grammar school in Year 7 when this route may not be the best option for them or you may decide having spoken to the Year 5 staff that taking the Kent Test is not appropriate for your child. This is where your choice for and with your child are incredibly important. We have a number of children who accept a grammar school place yet who do not flourish in the highly academic environment and large classes that many grammar schools offer. St. Faith's Prep. School provides opportunities for children to excel in music, drama, sport as well as academically within a nurturing environment. We provide excellent pastoral care and small classes which offer your child support in every aspect of their development. For many children Year 7 can be an exciting next step but for some it can be an unhappy transition. I urge you to carefully consider the most appropriate route for your child. Consider their strengths in all areas and whether a school can offer the breadth of opportunity your child needs to further develop as a rounded individual. The academic success of children within non-selective local authority schools and independent schools is comparable to those of grammar schools and their choice of GCSE options can be wider and more varied.
We are surrounded by a number of wonderfully resourced non selective secondary schools –

- Sandwich Technology School
- St. Anselm's Roman Catholic School, Canterbury
- The Archbishop's School Canterbury

- St. Edmund's School, Dover
- The Canterbury Academy
- The Goodwin Academy, Deal

All of which are worth considering as a non-selective option for your child, which can offer a wealth of opportunities. Again, I would advise you visit these schools to gain an understanding of what they can offer your child.

You may however, decide that the Independent school route in Year 7 can offer your child the same pastoral care, small classes and tailored academic education with the breadth of opportunities they have experienced at St Faith's Prep. School. Many of our pupils apply for and receive very generous scholarships and bursaries, which as you can see are displayed on our scholarship boards. We have therefore, invited this evening, some of our respected local Independent schools.
I will shortly invite them to introduce themselves and they will later be available for further discussion.
I would finally like to ask you to consider the needs of your children regarding their learning. If you have any concern regarding your child's ability to attempt the Kent Test due to a special educational or additional need – this can include a dyslexic profile, information processing difficulties, physical disability or any other aspect that may affect their learning or the support they may require to attempt the Kent Test there is a process of 'reasonable adjustment'. The process has been carried out previously and can allow an additional 25% time to attempt the papers or allow rest breaks. Please seek the advice of the class teachers –Mrs Gibbs, Mrs Allen, myself or Mrs Yvonne Harrop our Learning Enhancement Co-ordinator, who is here this evening, to discuss these options further, whether they are appropriate for your child and how we might be able to provide evidence for these applications.
We are here to support you and your child through the process of entry into secondary education please ask for advice and/or support in making choices over the next few months.

May I now introduce:
Deputy Head, Mr Graham Letley of Kent College Canterbury.
Principal, Mr Antony Spencer of St Lawrence College.
Deputy Head, Dr Holly Goodwin of St Edmund's School, Canterbury.
Head Teacher, Mrs Emma Karolyi of Kings School Canterbury
Head of Admissions, Alison Wilson of Dover College.