



Thursday 14th June 2018

Secondary Transfer into Year 7 2019

Dear Parents/Carers of Children in Year 5,

As you may be aware, the secondary transfer process starts at the beginning of Year 6. Please find below more information about dates and support for you and your child.

Application Forms

At the start of Year 6 your child will be given two booklets with information about secondary schools; one for the state schools and one for local independent (private) schools. This will have key information about admissions criteria and how to make applications. The booklets for this year are on the school website to give you an idea of the information you will receive.

You can make applications online or using a paper copy from September 2018 but we recommend that you visit schools and get the results of the Wandsworth tests before deciding which schools and in which order you would like to put them on your form.

The application must be received by Wandsworth (or your local borough if you are not a Wandsworth resident) by 31st October 2018 - it is very important that you do not miss this date.

Open Days

We encourage parents/carers to visit as many schools as possible, ideally during the school day and with your child. Some schools are holding open days this term and all schools will have open day events in the first half term of Year 6 – a leaflet with open day dates for Wandsworth state schools is being sent with this letter.

If you are visiting a school during the day with your child, we ask that whenever it is possible you register them and then sign them back out to keep their attendance rate up.

Wandsworth Tests

The Wandsworth Tests (Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning) are taken in the third week of September. They are taken at Belleville in your child's classroom during the school day. You do not need to register your child for the tests as all children in Wandsworth Schools (and therefore at Belleville) have to take the tests.

All children have to take the tests in case you decide to apply for a school that uses it for selective places or banding. The exception to this is that children with a Statement or Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) for Special Educational Needs do not need to sit the tests as their secondary schools are chosen in their plans.

The test was moved from November to September in the 2016-17 academic year. This is so you can have the result of the test before the deadline to apply for the schools as the test result may show whether your child is likely to be given a selective place (i.e. because of a high score). From our tracking over the two years that the tests have been taken in September, it has not ended up with lower tests scores than when the children took it in November. This is because all children now take it in September (and they are compared against each other) and at Belleville we have moved our test preparation to happen earlier in Year 5 and Year 6.

Test results are used to give selective places at the following schools (these places are separate to those given for special needs, siblings and distance): Graveney (mixed), Ernest Bevin (boys) and Burntwood (girls). All other Wandsworth schools either do not use test results at all to give places (e.g. Bolingbroke), or use it for banding and then give places to children with siblings, closest distance within each band (e.g. Ashcroft).

Getting a high score in the tests is therefore only important if you are going to apply for Graveney, Ernest Bevin or Burntwood and you do not live nearby/have a sibling at the school etc. so will need to get a selective (high test score) place.

If you want to apply for a specialist place at Ashcroft (DT and ICT, deadline for specialist applications is 14th September); Chestnut Grove (Art and Design and Modern Foreign Languages, deadline for specialist applications is 7th September) or Saint Cecilia's (Music, deadline for specialist applications is 7th September), you will need to fill in a supplementary form and your child will have to complete additional assessments. The leaflet attached has dates of the extra assessments for these places and the individual school websites have further details on specialist places.

Children will do paired practice of Verbal and Non-Verbal tests during lessons in Year 5 this term. At the start of Year 6 they will do some more paired practice and also do a timed practice of each test in Year 6. We offer this practice to every child so they are familiar with the types of questions and how to fill out their answers; so they can use their time well and hopefully feel confident to do their best.

There are many practice materials you can use at home available from bookshops/online e.g. www.cgpbooks.co.uk, Bonds tests are all useful practice. The closest in format to the Wandsworth Test is produced by GL Assessment – look for 'Multiple Choice Verbal Reasoning' and 'Multiple Choice Non-Verbal Reasoning'.

Schools in other boroughs

You may wish to look at schools in nearby boroughs e.g. Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Merton, Croydon, Sutton. Please check the websites for these councils to find out information about open days and any testing arrangements (Wandsworth Test results are only used to allocate places in Wandsworth state schools). You can apply for schools in any London borough on the same form.

If you are interested in the Sutton Grammar schools (Greenshaw High School, Nonsuch High School for Girls, Sutton Grammar School, Wallington County Grammar School, Wallington High School for Girls and Wilson's School), you will need to register your child between now and 17th August 2018. The Selective Eligibility Test takes place on 18th September 2018.

Independent Schools

Children from Belleville apply to and are given places in a range of independent (fee-paying, private) schools. Please see the Belleville website for the Independent Schools Information pack which has useful information on admissions for independent schools.

Belleville Website

Please visit the school website www.belleville-school.org.uk which has lots of information on where Belleville children transfer to, open days, typical interview questions, scholarships etc. Choose the section 'Our School' and there is a tab for secondary transfer.

Meetings for Parents/Carers

Becky Gulliver (Year 6 Leader) will be holding a number of meetings which you are welcome to attend – please complete the slip below. All meetings will take place at the Webb’s Road site.

Secondary Transfer Presentation (up to 1 hour) – more information and detail on the process, questions and answers. The slides from this presentation will also be added to the website if you cannot make this meeting, the notes from last year’s meeting are already there. Both meetings will cover the same content.

- Thursday 28th June: 9.15 – 10.15am
- Friday 29th June: 5.00 – 6.00pm

Wandsworth Tests Workshops for Parents/Carers (up to 1 ½ hours) – learn the strategies we use in school to tackle the Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning tests if you want to support your child at home. Both workshops will cover the same content.

- Wednesday 11th July: 9.15 – 10.45am
- Wednesday 11th July: 5.00 – 6.30pm

Secondary Transfer Evening – a presentation on the process (optional) and a school fair (state and independent schools will be attending, you can meet representative of the schools, ask questions, pick up prospectuses etc.)

- Thursday 13th September – 7.00pm onwards

Please complete the slip below with clubs/meetings you would like to attend and return to the school offices by **Friday 22nd June**. This is so we can prepare enough materials and registers in advance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us on the playground or via the school offices.

Yours

Sarah Atherton
Headteacher Juniors

Jane Ford
Headteacher Meteor

Y5 Secondary Transfer - Please return to the school offices by Friday 22nd June

Child’s name: _____

Class: _____

I would like to attend the following meetings (tick **as many as you need, please write how many adults will be attending**):

- Presentation - Thursday 28th June: 9.15 – 10.15am
- Presentation - Friday 29th June: 5.00 – 6.00pm
- Wandsworth Tests Workshop - Wednesday 11th July: 9.15 – 10.45am
- Wandsworth Tests Workshop - Wednesday 11th July: 5.00 – 6.30pm

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)

