



# MOVING UP TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

In SEPTEMBER 2023

*the selection process – the 11+*



# Included in this presentation

- The Secondary Transfer Test
  - timeline,
  - test dates,
  - what the test measures,
  - familiarisation and practice,
  - the testing process,
  - how it is marked,
- More information
- How to Contact the Admissions Team

# 2023 testing – Coronavirus update

- It is unlikely that testing will need to be delayed this year but there could be changes to testing arrangements if any Covid requirements are reinstated
- This presentation explains the usual processes which will be kept to wherever possible
- Any changes to the process due to Covid-19 requirements will be published on the TBGS website:  
<https://www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/> and if necessary we will write to parents

# The Secondary Transfer Test

- The Secondary Transfer Test is a test to determine whether or not a child is suited to a Buckinghamshire grammar school.
- The test is produced by GL Assessment.
- Buckinghamshire Council undertakes the administration on behalf of the 13 grammar schools.
- You can find information about the test here:  
<https://www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/>

# Testing timeline

What	When
• Familiarisation booklet	• 7 July 2022 (posted to home address)
• Practice Test	• 13 September 2022
• Transfer Test	• 15 September 2022
• Results Released	• 14 October 2022
• Application deadline	• 31 October 2022 (midnight)
• School place offers	• 1 March 2023
• Start secondary school	• September 2023

# Impact of Covid

- We expect the test to take place in September as planned
- However, test arrangements will need to take account of any guidance from the government should they be reintroduced
- Children will sit the practice test two days before the Transfer Test
- If any changes are proposed to these arrangements they will be published on the TBGS website:  
<https://www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/>

# Do all children have to sit the Secondary Transfer Test?

- No, only if parents want their child to sit the test
- A grammar school will not suit every child so think carefully about whether sitting the test is going to be a positive experience for your child
- Your child's headteacher will ask you if you want your child to sit the test. I will write to parents later this week.

# What does the Secondary Transfer Test measure?

## **Verbal skills**

- includes English and verbal reasoning

## **Mathematical skills**

- includes various areas of mathematics

## **Non-verbal skills**

- includes non-verbal and spatial reasoning

# Familiarisation booklet

- Explains what the questions, test papers and answer sheets will look like and how the answer sheets should be completed
- Includes example questions with answers
- **It will not be looked at in school**
- GL Assessment provide free familiarisation on their website: <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/free-familiarisation>

# On the test days

- Two papers with a 15 min break between
- Each paper approximately an hour including instructions (practice shorter)
- CD/MP3 gives worked examples and test instructions
- Paper A – Verbal Skills – taken first
- Paper B – Mathematical and Non-Verbal Skills – taken second
- Practice test is not marked

# Illness during the test period

- If a child is ill on either practice or Transfer Test day they can sit the test later
- Children should not sit the test when unwell (even if they want to!)
- Children should always sit the practice test first
- You will be advised of new date(s) for the test(s) before your child sits the test

# If you think something has affected your child's performance in the Transfer Test

- Let your headteacher know on the test day and also collect evidence, for example a doctor's letter.
- Once you have the test results, talk to your child's headteacher

# Special arrangements

- Testing arrangements can be adjusted for children with SEND
- Discuss with your child's headteacher NOW
- Applications for adjustments are made via the headteacher. They must be completed as soon as possible
- Decisions about special arrangements are made by a panel of experts in SEND and primary teaching and an educational psychologist

# Coaching

- Primary schools that undertake testing on behalf of the grammar schools are asked not to tutor or coach the children in their school prior to the test over and above enabling the children to follow the national curriculum relevant for their age.
- The Secondary Transfer Test is designed to enable all children to demonstrate their academic potential without the need for excessive preparation.

# PREPARATION

- On- going and enhanced curriculum at Robertswood
  - In key areas (comprehension, maths, non-verbal)
  - In key attitudes (resilience, confidence)
  - Familiarisation sessions in the Summer term

# Comprehension

- Guided reading every day
- Written comprehension at least once a month

*This story is told by a father who has been shipwrecked on an island along with his wife and sons, Jack and Fritz, and their pet dogs. They have spent the winter safely in Falconhurst which is the home that they built. The weather has recently improved, and it is time to find out what effect the winter storms have had on their tree house and tents.*

**At what time of year is the passage set?**

- A winter
- B spring
- C rainy season
- D mid-summer
- E autumn



# Comprehension links

- Know your vocabulary

Some days afterwards we left Falconhurst with the cart laden with a cargo of spades, hammers, chisels, pickaxes and crowbars, and began the work. On the smooth face of the 20. rock I drew out in chalk the size of the proposed entrance, and then, with minds bent on success, we battered away.

‘incessant toil’ (line 22)

What does the word ‘incessant’ say about the work they were doing?

- A The work they were doing was very difficult.
- B They kept working without a break.
- C They worked hard but it was having no effect.
- D They worked on and off, taking frequent breaks.
- E The work was uninspiring and monotonous.

What would be another word for ‘impression’ on line 22?

- A impact
- B dent
- C consequence
- D trouble
- E achievement

# More vocabulary

- Antonyms and Synonyms
- What the best synonym for each word?

Clean

- a. put
- b. wash
- c. hang
- d. push

Mistake

- a. mark
- b. error
- c. game
- d. job

# Supplementary work

**Example**      mea [?] able      si [?] op

**A** p

**B** n

**C** f

**D** t

**E** c

**Answer**      t

**Solution**      The same letter that fits into both sets of brackets to form four words is 't' (the four new words are **meat**, **table**, **sit**, **top**).

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wor [?] en      fin [?] ice

**A** m

**B** t

**C** d

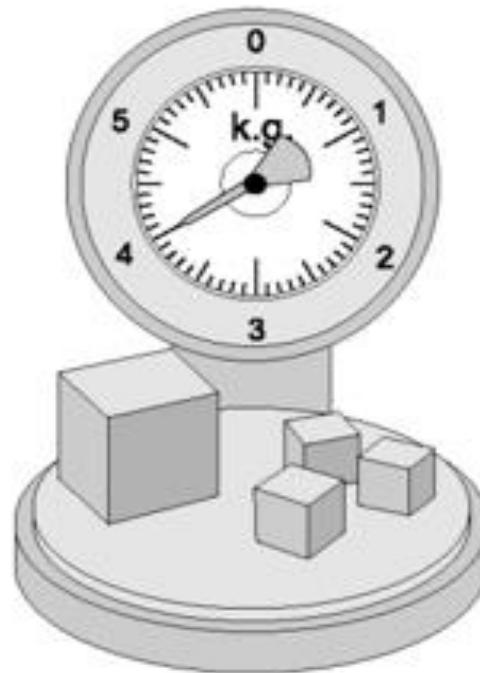
**D** s

**E** n

# Mathematics

## Weights

The dial on the weighing machine shows weight in kilograms. Three small cubes and one large cube are placed on the scale. This scale shows 4 kilograms (4 kg).



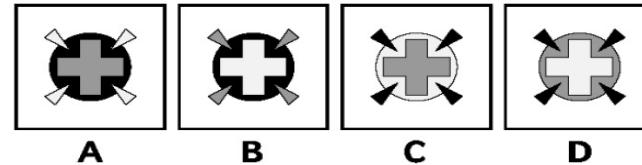
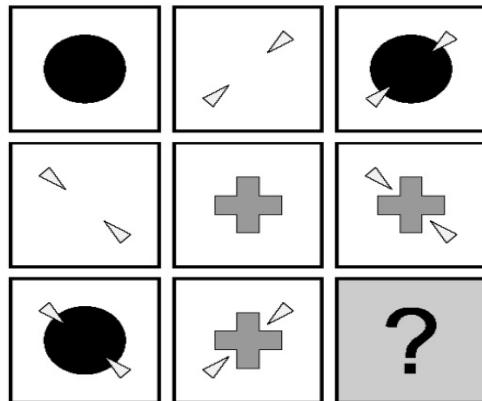
1. If a small cube weighs 0.5 kg, what is the weight of the large cube?

A	B	C	D	E
1.0 kg	1.5 kg	2.0 kg	2.5 kg	3.5 kg

# Supplementary work

## Non-verbal Reasoning

Look at the pictures on the left, then pick one picture on the right that best answers the question.



# Marking and standardisation

- The completed answer sheets are machine marked (scanned)
- One mark is given for each correct answer
- Marks are not deducted for incorrect answers
- Each pupil will have three raw scores
  - **verbal skills**
  - **mathematical skills**
  - **non-verbal skills**
- Each score is age standardised and weighted to produce the Secondary Transfer Test Score (STTS)

# Weighting

Each score is weighted as follows:

- Verbal – 50% of the STTS (Secondary Transfer Test Score)
- Mathematical – 25% of the STTS
- Non-verbal – 25% of the STTS
- The qualifying score is a minimum score of 121
- Scores range between 60 and 170 approximately

# Results and qualification-14 October

- Results will be sent to parents by email.
- If your child attends a Buckinghamshire state school and takes the test, we will write to you and send you a code. You will then need to log into an online form and provide your email address – you will need to use the code we provided to do this. This ensures we have a current email address for the results email to be sent to.
- If your child attends a Partner school or has sat the test at a grammar school test centre, then we will send the result to the email you used to register for the test.
- Contents are confidential to parent and child.
- **37% of children scored 121 or more in the 2022 entry test.**

# What can I do if my child does not qualify for a grammar school place?

If your child is not qualified and you think a grammar school would be appropriate you can either

- Ask for a Selection Review OR
- Just appeal

The Selection Review Panel can decide if a child is qualified.

A qualification at Selection Review is a qualification for any grammar school and they will all be considered when the allocation is made.

# Reasons for underperformance

- The grammar schools recognise that there may be circumstances that have impacted on a child's performance in the test
- At Selection Review each child's situation is considered individually
- The panel will look for evidence of both consistent educational ability and factors that may have affected a child's performance in the Transfer Test

# Selection Review Panel

- Panel sits December-January
- 3 headteachers - two grammar, one primary
- Decision included in 1 March allocation
- Decision applies to all grammar schools
- At the end of the process and following Selection Reviews, 35.66% of the review cases qualify for grammar school

# Non-qualified appeal for a grammar school place (after Selection Review)

- When a case that has been to review is considered by the Independent Appeal Panel, parents will need to show that in their child's case the Selection Review Panel decision was not 'fair consistent and objective'
- Only if they are successful, can they then put their full academic case to the Independent Appeal Panel
- If a child is qualified at appeal, the qualification is for the particular school only.
- The appeal will happen in the summer term

# Non-qualified appeal for a grammar school place (without a Selection Review)

- It is possible to go straight to appeal without having asked for a Selection Review
- Appeals are heard after 1 March
- Most schools will already be full by then
- You would have to prove academic potential AND give reasons why you believe a place should be offered above Planned Admission Number (PAN)

# More information

- 'Moving up to Secondary School' leaflet
- School websites
- TBGS website  
<https://www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/>
- School open events dates (subject to social distancing requirements):  
See School Directory in 'Find My Child a School Place'  
<https://services.buckscc.gov.uk/school-admissions/schools>
- By end of August - more information on the council's website  
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/>

# How to contact the Admissions Team

Web: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/)

Fill in the 'Contact Us' form:

- [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions)