

Letter reproduced from Kent 11 Plus Forum Posting.

Our records indicate that you have recently registered (name) to take Kent's 11+ test on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Every year, a large number of children who live outside Kent register to take the test but do not turn up on the day. Some of the children who do come for testing do not want to go to a Kent grammar school. You will understand that this wastes time, money and resources. As the number registered this year is very high, we are writing now to make sure that everyone registered understands these important points:

The test centre we allocate may be a considerable distance from your home, and once we have allocated a test centre we will not be able to offer you a different date, time or venue. This year, the Council has received a record number of Kent Test registrations for children who do not live in Kent. Even with schools in North West, West and central Kent taking part we do not have enough capacity in test centres close to the county border, so we are approaching schools in East Kent (Canterbury and Thanet) to try to find enough space to test everyone who has registered. Testing takes place in the morning and in order to be tested children will need to arrive between 8:00 to 9:00am.

The test is only valid for Grammar schools in Kent Local Authority (LA). Before you ask your child to take Kent's 11+, please make sure you know where the Kent Grammar schools are, and whether they offer places to boys, girls or any other child. Kent County Council is not the Local Authority (LA) for schools in Medway or Bexley. Each Council's tests will differ, so taking a test in one LA will not improve your child's chances of securing a Grammar assessment in a different one.

Many children will find the test difficult. Grammar schools in Kent provide for children in about the top 25% of the ability range. Some of Kent's Grammar schools - particularly those which are most likely to offer places to children from outside Kent - give priority to those with the highest scores. If you have not already done so, you should check with your child's primary school that they are doing well in class before committing them to take the Kent Test.

Passing the Kent Test does not guarantee your child a place in a Kent Grammar school. Many of our grammar schools still offer the majority of their places on the basis of straight line distance between your child's home address and the school, so if they are oversubscribed not everyone who has passed will be offered a place. Consider how likely your child is to be offered a place at the school they want, and how they would travel to that school if a place was offered. Last year, around 5,200 children living

outside KCC's borders took the Kent Test, but only 456 went on to attend a Kent Grammar school.

School admissions are co-ordinated between local authorities. Even if your child qualifies for admission to a Grammar school in more than one area, all your preferred schools must be listed on your home local authority's application form, and you will not be offered more than one school place. (Independent schools have their own admissions processes.)

If you still want your child to take part and you are certain they can attend a test centre in Kent on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> September there is nothing further you need to do and we will contact you in August to let you know the venue. If, however, you no longer wish your child to take part, you can cancel your registration by responding to this email. You will not need to give your reasons.