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29 April 2020

**TRANSFER INFORMATION 2021**

Dear Primary 6 Parent/ Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well. This term I had planned to invite you to an **Information Session** on the Transfer Process, where I would have been able to outline the main steps in the process as well as the use of entrance tests by some schools (grammar schools).

As it is not possible to host such a session this year, I have put together the following points which I hope you will find helpful in understanding the process of your child transferring from primary to post primary school.

**Grammar School Entrance Tests**

If you wish to apply to a grammar school, your child must sit an entrance test as all grammar schools use academic selection in their admissions criteria. If you are not considering a grammar school for your child, then he/she will not be required to sit these tests.

There are two testing bodies, Association for Quality Education which uses tests better known at ‘AQE’ and Post Primary Transfer Consortium (PPTC) which use tests better known as ‘GL’. The tests are organised by the grammar schools, children sit the tests in the grammar schools and children are issued their results by the grammar schools.

The curriculum we teach covers the expected content of both tests. Some grammar schools offer GL only, some offer AQE only, and some offer both. It is important to check with the schools you are considering, which tests they use.

**GL Tests:** These are multiple choice papers. One English paper and one Maths paper. **This is the test set by all of our local grammar schools.**

**AQE Tests:** These are non-multiple choice papers. Each of two papers has a mixture of English and Maths questions.

N.B. If your child sits the GL tests in one school, he/she can use the grade achieved to apply to any other school that offers the GL tests. If your child sits the AQE tests in one school, he/she can use the grade achieved to apply to any other school that offers the AQE tests.

**Registration**

If you wish your child to sit Grammar School Entrance Tests, then you will be required to make the registration. Registration normally begins in May and runs until September. Both AQE and PPTC are currently looking at the dates and process of this year’s tests. Please keep an eye on their respective websites: www.aqe.org.uk and www.pptcni.com. At the end of this letter I have attached a copy of the most recent update from each of the transfer text providers.

**Choosing a Post Primary School**

Whether you are considering grammar or non-grammar, there are a few things you can do to help you decide on the best school for your child: talk to other families already in the school, read the school prospectus, visit the school’s Open Day/Evening (usually January).

**Timetable**

Please note that this timetable is under review in the light of the current circumstances caused by the continuing disruption of lockdown.

• Registration for Entrance Tests May – September 2020 (under review)

• Tests November 2020 (under review)

The remainder of this timetable will subject to change if there is any change in the registration and test dates, but the ‘normal activity’ follows as below.

• Open Days/Evening January 2021

• Results of Tests Issued January 2021

• Completion of Application February 2021

• Informed of School Placement May 2021

I hope this goes some way towards giving you an understanding of the process ahead. The Department of Education has produced a leaflet ‘The Transfer Process To Post-Primary School’. This is available from the DE Website:

https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/post-primary-admissions-guide/transfer-tests

I appreciate how difficult this unusual time is for all children, in particular our children in P6. Please be assured of our ongoing support both in terms of your continuing your child’s learning through the school website and SeeSaw and keeping you informed,

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

**Ciara McIntyre**

Mrs Ciara McIntyre

Principal

**Update from the GL Website**

PPTC 2020-21 Update

PPTC has been working closely with its Entrance Assessment provider, GL Assessment, to find ways to best support pupils who will transfer to post-primary schools in 2021 and their parents. Discussions have centred on three main areas:

**1 Delaying the Assessment Date**

We are working to establish if the Entrance Assessment can be delayed from mid-November 2020. This would provide all pupils with valuable additional P7 time before being assessed.

**2 Delaying and extending the Registration Period**

We are looking at delaying the start date for parents to register their children to sit the Entrance Assessment from mid-May to provide more time before registration decisions need to be made. We are also looking at extending the Registration deadline from mid-September 2020 to provide additional registration time when pupils are in P7.

**3 Making the Entrance Assessment as accessible as possible for pupils**

We are exploring different ways to take account of the current disruption to pupils’ schooling, in order to help them achieve their full potential when sitting the Entrance Assessment.

PPTC will make specific information public through this website as soon we are in a position to do so. The “Information for Parents” section will subsequently be updated to include the full “2020-21 Registration Pack”.

**Update from the AQE Website**

Registration delayed until Thursday 14th May 2020

In the continuing uncertainty caused by Covid-19, AQE is endeavouring to provide clarity to P6 pupils and parents about the arrangements for the tests which are scheduled to take place during the next academic year. AQE’s first priority in planning for the assessments is the health and wellbeing of the pupils and staff involved.

Registration for parents of P6 children who will sit the AQE assessments in the Autumn was due to open on Wednesday 29th April 2020. We continue to have discussions with key stakeholders to ensure that the best possible provision is made for applicants and, to facilitate these discussions, registration will now open on Thursday 14th May.

Due to the circumstances caused by the continuing disruption of lockdown, AQE is moving completely to an online application process this year. It is hoped that the process will simplify the application procedure and will enable parents to upload electronic photographs, scanned birth certificates and pay online.

Please note that if you intend to apply for Access Arrangements you can indicate this on the online registration form, but all documentation relating to Access Arrangements will have to be submitted by post at a later date.