

Dear Parents and carers,

Re: Secondary Admissions

Important Dates!

Kent Test Registration Opening Date: Monday 1st June 2026
Kent Test Registration Closing Date: Wednesday 1st July 2026 (Midnight)
Shepway Test Registration Opening Date: Monday 1st June 2026
Shepway Test Registration Closing Date: 9am on Friday 3rd July 2026
Dover Boys Test Registration Closing Date: Friday 3rd July 2026
Dover Girls Test Registration Closing Date: Friday 10th July 2026
Secondary Application Opens: Tuesday 1st September 2026
Date of Kent Test: Thursday 10th September 2026
Results Day: Thursday 15th October 2026
Secondary Applications Close: Monday 2nd November 2026
School Offer Day: Monday 1st March 2027 (emails sent from KCC after 4pm and letters sent 1st class)

FAQ

What is the Kent Test?

Sometimes referred to as the PESE test, the Kent Test is a cognitive assessment designed to find out a child's ability to learn new information and see how quickly they can solve unfamiliar problems.

Should my child sit the Kent Test?

This is very dependent on the individual child and is entirely up to you. We cannot always predict how a child will do on the test itself, but we can tell you if your child is working: a) at the level required and, more importantly, b) if their independence and work ethic match the requirements of a grammar setting.

What is the Shepway/Dover test?

Too few children in Shepway and Dover pass the Kent Test to fill all available grammar school places. In fact, the pass rate is extremely low and the grammar schools are both large entities. This means that, to fill their spaces, the schools must admit a significant number of children who have not passed the Kent Test. To achieve this, they have their own test which is deliberately more accessible than the Kent Test to generate lists of children most likely to succeed in their setting.

Should I get a tutor?

The reality is that such a vast number of children will be practising the test beforehand that anyone going in 'cold' will undoubtedly be at a significant disadvantage. As a minimum, use the practice materials at home over the summer holidays to familiarise your child.

Can I apply for special arrangements e.g. extra time; rest breaks etc.

Yes, you must indicate on the application form that you wish to be considered for special arrangements. We WILL NOT KNOW that you have done this, so please keep in contact with Mrs Wilson.

Can I appeal?

The school will take a handful of children to the Headteacher Appeal Panel.

This takes place a couple of weeks after the test and aims to review cases where the results may not accurately reflect a child's usual performance. This is often either: a) children who were very close and did not perform to their usual standards, or b) there is evidence of circumstances which may have affected them on the day, like a recent bereavement or sickness.

Parents have the opportunity to appeal a school place decision in March when the offer letters are released to parents. At this stage, you can lodge an appeal with a specific school and follow their guidance. We will support you in this process by writing a letter of support and providing details of achievements etc. Appeals are not limited to grammar schools.

To appeal for a school, you **MUST** put the school you are appealing for on your list of choices.

How do I write my list of schools I wish my child to attend?

You will be asked to write down up to four schools that you wish KCC to use to allocate a place for your child.

If your child has passed the Kent Test (or Shepway/Dover equivalent), then it is usually the case to put the grammar school as your first choice and it would be very rare not to get that school.

If your child did not pass either admission test but you plan on appealing, do not put the grammar school as first choice. It simply needs to appear somewhere on the list.

Your first choice is the only preference that carries additional weight when securing a school place. Using your first preference for a grammar school where your child has not passed either admission test may reduce your chances of securing your preferred non-selective option. Pick your preferred non-grammar option and list that as your first choice to make sure you have the best chance of getting in. Choices 2, 3, and 4 all carry equal weighting. If you are unsuccessful in securing your first-choice school, you will be offered another school from your list, usually the closest available option. In Hawkinge, this would be The Folkestone Academy.

AVOID only listing one school. Each year, some families choose a school (for example, Brockhill), but do not put a second or third choice. If you do not qualify for your first choice, the local authority will assign you a school (again, usually the closest).

Who can I speak to for advice?

Please book a time to see a member of the school leadership team to discuss anything to do with secondary admission. This can be a stressful time for parents and children, and we will do what we can to alleviate this stress for everyone involved.

We hope this document is useful. We have added the presentation and useful links to the school website for you to refer to after the presentation.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Many thanks,

Mrs Stone, Mrs Weaver, Mrs Wilson and Miss Dullam