

14th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Year Five,

Re: Kent Test 2025 and applications for secondary schools in September 2026

As I am sure many of you are aware, from this point, you will need to decide whether or not your child should sit the Kent Test (11+). The following letter will hopefully answer any questions you may have about these processes and what you need to do - the information here is accurate at the time of writing; if we hear of any changes, we will of course let you know.

Kent Test (11+):

For your child to sit the Kent Test, you need to register them online at this link:

kent.gov.uk/kenttest

Registration for the Kent Test, for children due to start secondary school in September 2026, opens on **Monday 2nd June 2025** and will close at midnight on **Tuesday 1st July 2025**. KCC will not accept late registrations. The tests are due to take place in school on **Thursday 11th September 2025**.

Things to consider when doing this registration:

- The test is only valid for Kent grammar schools. Medway Council has its own [Medway Test](#) and London Borough of Bexley has its own [Bexley selection test](#).
- Being grammar assessed in the Kent Test does not guarantee your child a place in a Kent grammar school.
- Make sure you know where the [Kent grammar schools \(PDF, 114.7 KB\)](#) are, and what the [admissions criteria](#) are for the school(s) you are interested in.
- Many children will find the test difficult. Grammar schools in Kent provide for children in about the top 25% of the ability range.

If your child has SEND:

If your child has special educational needs or a disability that may affect the way they access the test, you need to discuss this with the school's SENCO as soon as possible. When you register your child for the Kent Test online, you have to confirm if you have discussed a request for access arrangements with your child's school. Applications for these arrangements need to be made by 1st July 2025. Any requests after this date will not be considered.

What is the structure of the test?

The tests are multiple-choice with a separate answer sheet. They are marked by an automated marking machine.

The first test will be an English and Maths paper and will take 1 hour. Each section will involve a 5 minute practice exercise followed by a 25 minute test. The English section will involve a comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions drawn from a set designed to test literacy skills.

The second test will be a reasoning paper. It will take about 1 hour, including the practice sections and questions. It will contain a verbal reasoning section and a non-verbal reasoning section of roughly the same length. The non-verbal reasoning will be split into short sections, administered and timed individually.

There will also be a writing exercise which will not be marked but may be used by a local headteacher panel as part of the headteacher assessment stage of the process. 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.

Familiarisation:

This document explains the Kent Test papers for children who will take them.

[Kent Test familiarisation paper \(PDF, 2.6 MB\)](#)

[View a range of free familiarisation material.](#)

Results:

If you provide an email address when you register, your Kent Test result will be emailed to you on Thursday 16th October 2025 (the delivery time will depend on your email service provider).

If you do not provide an email address, KCC will post your child's result to you on results day by first class post.

Your child will get 3 standardised scores: one for English, one for maths and one for reasoning, and a total (aggregate) score. Standardisation is a statistical process which compares your child's performance with the average performance of other children in each test. A slight adjustment is made to take account of each child's age so that the youngest are not at a disadvantage.

The grammar school threshold for the 2025 tests will not be published until the results have been sent out.

In 2024, to be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 332 or more, with no single score lower than 106. Test scores range from 69 to 141. The highest possible total score was 423.

Applications for Secondary School places for September 2026

This, as with the Kent test registration, is an online process and we will provide a link as soon as we have it. The application process opens on Monday 1st September and closes on Thursday 31st October. You will be able to choose four schools that you would like to apply to, and will need to rank these in order of preference.

Lots of schools run open days/mornings/evenings that are really useful to attend. Please let the Attendance Officer, attendance@hartley.latrust.org.uk, know if your child will be attending these during school time. On Monday 2nd March 2026, national offer day, you will receive an email with your offer of secondary school after 4pm.



If you are unsure as to whether or not to register your child for the Kent tests, please know that, if they are registered, they do not have to sit the test if you later decide you do not want them to. We would just need you to let us know if you have decided for them not to sit the test in September.

If you have any questions about anything related to Secondary school choices, please get in contact and I will be happy to help wherever I can.

Kind Regards

Vice Principal