

22/6/20

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on CSSE 11+ testing for current Year 5 pupils

We know that many parents are concerned at the lack of information available about the arrangements for the 11+ this September, and that this is leading to anxiety.

Since April 2020 the CSSE has been in contact with the DfE to seek guidance on ways we could manage the organisation of the 11+ should Social Distancing measures remain in place. We have been assured by the Secretary of State for Education that:

The department is currently developing advice on admissions for selective schools, in line with guidelines from Public Health England. In doing so, we are taking into account the long period that pupils will have been away from school and the effect this will have on those pupils, and particularly disadvantaged pupils, taking admissions tests.

Preferred Option

Our preferred option is to see the test delayed until later in the Autumn Term.

Most Year 5 pupils will have spent little or no time in school this term, and testing at a later date would give pupils the chance to settle back into school.

It is also possible that the tests may need to be conducted across 2 dates to ensure we can allow for any Social Distancing rules in place at that time.

We would also like to re-open the test registration process so that pupils needing encouragement from their teachers to take the 11+ can get that support.

This is our preferred option, but we cannot make any changes without approval from the Department for Education. To make any changes without this approval would be unlawful.

As already stated, communication with the DfE has been ongoing since April, but we are still waiting for guidance to be issued. **We have stressed the need for this guidance as a matter of urgency.**

Like us, I know you will be disappointed that we are not able to provide any concrete information, but we are doing everything possible to get the necessary guidance from the DfE.

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CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

King Edward VI Grammar School, Colchester County High School for Girls, Colchester Royal Grammar School
Southend High School for Girls, Southend High School for Boys, Westcliff High School for Girls, Westcliff High School for Boys
St. Bernard's High School for Girls, St. Thomas More High School for Boys, Shoeburyness High School

In the meantime our advice regarding preparation for the tests is unaltered – please download our guide:

<https://csse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CSSE-A4-booklet-2020-28-4-20.pdf>

We shall update our website as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hayman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Paul Hayman
CSSE Chairman