



# **Where next and how to get there – for parents in Years 4 & 5**

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KATE EASTON & HELEN MCCLURE

# End of Year 6, all boys will move on to senior school, here or elsewhere

- ▶ Don't panic!
- ▶ Ask yourself – “Which is the best school for my son?” not “Which is the best school I can get my son into?”
- ▶ Try to get out of the habit of thinking one school is better than the other – they all have different strengths.

# NON-SELECTIVE MAINTAINED or GRAMMAR

- ▶ 11+ (KENT TEST)
  - ▶ Taken on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of new term in September). Pupils are tested in Reasoning, Maths, English
  - ▶ Parents enter them by start of July Year 5
  - ▶ Scores usually sent to parents in October
  - ▶ Parents find out which school has been allocated on March 1<sup>st</sup> of Year 6
- Judd, Skinner's, TWBGS + annexe in Sevenoaks (Sept. '21), St Olave's, others
  - 330 aggregate score for Kent Test minimum. No less than 108 (out of 141) in any paper - English, Maths, combined reasoning.
  - Judd wanted 387 last year. Skinner's similar + catchment issue.
  - The appeal process is tough. Top 21% taken usually + approx 4% on appeal.

# INDEPENDENT

- ▶ ISEB Pre-test to Tonbridge, Caterham, SVS (and several others) for deferred places; there is sometimes the opportunity to take entrance tests later.
- ▶ Tests the same skills as 11+ but is all online and is over 2 mornings
- ▶ Pre-test is at end of November in Year 6
- ▶ All schools have further assessments and interviews
- ▶ *Places guaranteed for Year 9 entry*
- ▶ Some independent schools have entry tests during Year 6 for entry at 11
- ▶ Sevenoaks School has its own entrance test in April/ May of Year 7 (Eng, Ma, verbal reasoning – very competitive)

# Destinations Summer 2022

- ▶ Boys took up places at grammar school, a state secondary and a mixture of independent day and boarding schools at 11 and 13 (with 3 scholarships – academic and music).
- ▶ In 2021, one pupil who joined us In Year 7 having failed the 11+ got a place at grammar school at 13.
- ▶ 9 stayed for Years 7 & 8 at Solefield ( about 50%, as is usual).
- ▶ 1 new boy joined Year 7 in September. Of those, 8 already have deferred places at 13 for Tonbridge, SVS, Caterham or King's. 2 will also be taking entrance exams to Sevenoaks. Several will prepare for scholarships.
- ▶ Boys have left and then returned in Year 7.
- ▶ Boys often take both 11+ and ISEB. One boy in 2020 was awarded an academic scholarship on the strength of his ISEB scores to Caterham which changed his family's plans completely.

# Scholarships

- ▶ Offered at 13 usually (or sometimes 11) for sport, art, drama, music, innovation (Caterham) and academic.
- ▶ Usually worth about 10% of fees.
- ▶ Special programme at most senior schools and recognition.
- ▶ Level of music grades varies between schools and instruments but minimum of at least grade 4 music on principal instrument + good level on another. County level in at least one sport, a portfolio of visits to theatres and productions, visits to galleries and artwork outside of school. Worth thinking about now at home, even in Years 4 and 5 and starting to nurture any possible talents. We stretch and challenge in lessons and begin scholarship prep in earnest from start of Year 7 with special programmes and a whole afternoon devoted to this. We can help prepare for scholarships at 11 as well.



# Life in Year 7 and 8 at Solefield

- ▶ Top of the school; get to shine.
- ▶ Excellent springboard for GCSE with senior trained teachers
- ▶ CEs in Maths, English, Science, French and maybe Latin.
- ▶ Enquiring Minds syllabus for Humanities & Senior School Diploma (like Prep School Bac)
- ▶ Each boy follows a Scholarship Pathway on Tuesday afternoon – Academic, Art, Drama, Music, Sport, STEM.
- ▶ Diploma award.
- ▶ Help us in running school; form times and reading with younger ones
- ▶ Positions of responsibility
- ▶ Everyone plays in teams, joins in drama productions and leads an assembly
- ▶ Confidence and being comfortable in self main feedback in parental survey Summer 2022
- ▶ Residential "fun" trip post CE
- ▶ Post Exam Programme – normal timetable abandoned to make way for trips, visits (photography workshop, chocolate making, the Great Solefield Bake-Off and many more!)
- ▶ Celebration Evening at end of Year 8
- ▶ Pupils have acquired skills ready for future life and leave us happy, confident, kind and with a passion for learning.

# How do we help?

- ▶ Pupils have already started a little reasoning in Year 3 (as quizzes) and have practised the right skills already for English and Maths
- ▶ This builds in Years 4 and 5 with Thinking Skills lessons and more targeted practice in class.
- ▶ All pupils do similar reasoning tests during every year
- ▶ Pupils are tracked throughout school using CATS tests. Most up to date of these are in Autumn Term of Year 5 which give us standardised results to share with you
- ▶ In Year 5, pupils are subscribed to BOFA – online practice they access at home and school
- ▶ Parents' Meeting with Kate Easton and Helen McClure in Autumn Term of Year 5 to share most up-to-date scores and results. We give realistic and honest advice.
- ▶ Robust programme of preparation for pupils for entrance tests taken in Years, 7 and 8. Working in partnership with parents. Open door policy.



# How to choose the right school?

- ▶ Don't panic!
- ▶ Factors to inform your decision:-
  - ▶ Happiness
  - ▶ Academic level
  - ▶ Maturity
  - ▶ Geography
  - ▶ Finance
  - ▶ Relationship between family members
- ▶ Help with the decision – Speak to us as often as you need to.
- ▶ Register for the Year 6 exams and Sevenoaks (check others) by end of Year 5 (but check with individual schools)
- ▶ Open Days
- ▶ Scholarships, bursaries
- ▶ Including your son in the decision?
- ▶ Don't panic!