Please contact: School Admissions & Transport

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 16 June 2020

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|  | **Children & Adults Directorate**  **School Admissions & Transport Team**  Gun Wharf  Dock Road  Chatham  Kent ME4 4TR  Telephone: 01634 306000  Direct line: 01634 331110  E-mail: medwaytest@medway.gov.uk  Director: Ian Sutherland |

**Admissions – Transfer to Secondary Education in September 2021 (Medway Test 2020)**

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you further to my previous letter dated 1 June regarding the Medway Test which was due to take place in September 2020.

With schools not expected to be open as usual until at least September, Council officers have been working with head teachers, the Department for Education and other Local Authorities to determine how best to give our children the opportunity to be assessed and considered for a place at one of Medway’s grammar schools. It is obvious that certain changes need to be made due to COVID-19 however we must also follow the national secondary transfer process, and dates, set by the Department for Education, which have not been amended.

In light of the circumstances, we are delaying the Medway Test as much as we can to give children time to settle back into school whilst still allowing you to make an informed decision as to which schools to apply for before the deadline for applications. The timetable for assessment and applications will be as follows:

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| **Event** | **Previous Date** | **New Date** |
| Medway schools who opt for Saturday testing sit the test | 19 September | 10 October |
| Children who do not attend a Medway school sit the test | 19 September | 10, 11, 17 or 18 October (children will be allocated one day) |
| Medway schools who opt for two day testing | 15 & 16 September | 13 & 14 October |
| Medway Test results sent to parents | 5 October | 2 November |
| Medway Test Review requests must be submitted | 12 October | 9 November |
| Medway Test Reviews take place | 15 October | 19 November |
| Medway Test Review outcomes sent to parents | 19 October | 24 November |
| Applications for school places must be submitted | 2 November | 30 November |

I am sorry that it is not possible to delay the test any further. The reason this is the case is that the Medway Test must fit in with the wider, national, secondary transfer process as set out by Department for Education guidance. If we were to delay the test any further, we would no longer be adhering to the timescales which could jeopardise the school application outcomes for our children.

The format of the test papers will be the same as originally planned however the test day will be slightly different. For instance, schools and test centres will be following the social distancing guidelines and we will continue to follow government advice. We will issue further advice and guidance about what the test day will look like in due course.

If you intend to name grammar schools on your child’s secondary school application please ensure you register your child for the Medway Test online at [www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions) by Monday, 29 June.

You may be concerned about the how the time your child has been out of education may impact on their Medway Test outcome. We would like to reassure you that the minimum score required for pupils to be assessed as suitable for admission to a Medway grammar school is adjusted each year according to the test performance of all the pupils from Medway maintained schools who take the test.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work that our schools and children have put in over the last three months to continue their education. Whilst a small percentage of children have attended school, the majority have been learning from home. I understand this has presented challenges to your child’s education and we, along with our schools, will endeavour to ensure your child is back at school as soon as safely possible.

Yours sincerely



**Chris Kiernan  
Interim Assistant Director - Education and SEND**