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Wednesday 15th September 2021

Applying for secondary school places

Dear Parents of Year 6 pupils,

The time has come for the process of applying for your child's secondary school place. This is done online at <u>www.kent.gov.uk/ola</u>. If you need some help with this, we are more than happy to assist in school. Just speak to one of the team and we can walk you through the process.

Here are the important points to remember:

- You still have plenty of time, so don't panic.
- The deadline for applications is 1st November
- Take the chance to have a look around the local schools and get a feel for what might be best for your child.
- If your child has sat the Kent Test or Dover Test, you will receive their results before the deadline, so wait until then to make your choices.
- If your child has passed the Kent Test or Dover Test and you want a grammar school place, put the grammar school as your first choice.
- If your child has not been successful in the Kent Test or Dover Test, but you wish to make a parental appeal, put a grammar school as your first choice and then your favourite non-grammar school as your second choice. You will not be given the grammar school place, but you can then appeal.
- You have 4 choices, so make sure you put 4 schools down, even if you think you have little chance of getting a place. Don't leave any blank choices.
- Don't put a school more than once in the choices. This will only count as one choice and you will have effectively left a blank space.
- Take a look at each school's over-subscription criteria when considering whether your child will get a place. Usually these are:
 - Siblings at the school
 - \circ Distance from the school

but sometimes there are other criteria that might be helpful.

Please **make sure you complete the on-line application by 1**st **November**. If you don't you run the risk of being given a school a long way from where you live, especially if local schools are popular. As I said before, please ask for help if you need it. We have no way of knowing if you have applied and it may be too late by the time we find out.

Yours sincerely, Richard Hawkins Head Teacher