

Secondary Transfer 2017/2018

- **Everyone** in **Year 6** needs to **apply** for secondary school regardless of whether they have a sibling at secondary school already (twins/multiple birth children have to apply separately)
- Applications open **at the beginning of September**
- The deadline for completing the **application form** is **Tuesday 31 October**
- You can apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions or on paper but you **don't** need to do both
- Paper applications must be sent direct to the Admissions & Transport Team by **Friday 27 October**
- **Only one registration/application per child will be accepted**
- All the information you need is provided in the **'Moving On'** Booklet which will be sent out in the first week in September

Open Events 2017

It is very important to visit the schools before applying. All of the schools hold open events in September and October.

- Bushey Academy: Tuesday 19 September
- St Michael's Catholic: Wednesday 20 September
- Bushey Meads: Thursday 21 September
- Rickmansworth: Thursday 28 September
- Watford Boys': Saturday 30 September
- Parmiters: Tuesday 3 October (+ morning visits in October)
- Queens' School: Thursday 5 October (+ morning visits in October)
- St Clement Danes: Saturday 7 October
- Watford Girls': Monday 9 October

No date available yet:

Francis Combe Academy, Westfield

The Application

- The form asks you to choose **four** schools in order of preference
- You can state why you prefer particular schools
- The schools themselves do not know your order of preference
- Your child will be offered a place at one of the four schools unless the places are filled by others who meet the admissions criteria first- your child will then be offered a place at the nearest school with places left
- For most of the schools you will also need to complete a SIF (Supplementary Information Form) which goes directly to the school

The Application

- All the local secondary schools publish admissions information on their websites
- The schools follow their published admissions criteria – any appeal has to prove that the stated rules haven't been followed or that the school is the only local school that can meet your child's needs
- Most of the local secondary schools are heavily oversubscribed

Last year's Y6: on allocation day

- **First choice of school : 44 out of 60** (Queens', Bushey Academy, Parmiters', Bushey Meads, Girls' Grammar, Yavneh College, Dr. Challoner's High School.)
- **Second choice of school: 5 out of 60** (Queens)
- **Third choice of school: 5 out of 60** (Bushey Academy, Townsend, Queens')
- **Fourth choice of school: 1 out of 60** (Bushey Meads)
- **No choice: 5 out of 60** (Westfield)
- **Some changes have happened since allocation day following 2 further rounds of offers**

Applications 2016

| School | Applications received | Places Available |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Parmiter's | Not available | 208 |
| Bushey Meads | 1065 | 200 |
| Queens' | 1400 | 265 |
| Boys' Grammar | 631 | 190 |
| Girls' Grammar | 599 | 180 |
| Rickmansworth | Not available | 196 |
| Clement Danes | 511 | 238 |

The Application

- Look carefully at the **Admissions Policy** for each school you wish to apply for
- The usual criteria are based around Looked After children, siblings, proximity to the school
- Some of the schools in Watford are part of a group called the South West Hertfordshire Consortium
- They each have their own admissions policy but base them around an academic test and specific subject tests (music, PE, Technology)

South West Hertfordshire School Admissions Consortium

The following schools are part of the
consortium:

- Bushey Meads
- Rickmansworth
- St Clement Danes
- Parmiter's
- Queens'
- Watford Grammar School for Boys
- Watford Grammar School for Girls
- Croxley Danes

South West Hertfordshire School Admissions Consortium

The academic test applies to all 8 schools and will take place on **Saturday 9th September**

- **Queens'** school use the test to select and to group siblings correctly
- **Bushey Meads** use the test to group pupils into ability bands. At this school having a sibling there is not a guarantee of a place.
- There are other tests for specific schools e.g. Music (all), sport (Queens), technology (Bushey Meads)
- The music, sport and technology tests are designed for pupils of exceptional ability and do not make up many of the available places

Verbal Reasoning

1. Here are two clues to a certain word:

It means the opposite to SLOW

It sounds like CLICK

What is the word?

Solution: The answer is QUICK:
quick means the opposite to
slow, and quick sounds like click

2. Underline two words, one from each bracket which mean most nearly the same as each other:

(clever, cunning, nasty) (ugly, stupid, sly)

Solution: (clever, cunning, nasty)
(ugly, stupid, sly)

Cunning and sly have been underlined since they most nearly mean the same as each other.

Academic Test Results

- **There is plenty of statistical information on each school's website about admissions under each criterion**
- **The test changed 2 years ago which meant a change in scoring and therefore in statistics**
- **The new test added more reading comprehension; this reflects what is expected in Y6 SAT tests and now also in the English GCSE (reading age expectation raised to an age related level)**

www.swhertsschools.org.uk/faq/

SW Herts Consortium: Important Dates 2017

Registration closes: **Friday 16 June**

Test venue notification: **Monday 3 July**

Academic Test: **Saturday 9 September**

Music Test: **Tuesday 12 September**

Sports (Queens' School Only): **Friday 15 or Tuesday 19 September**

Technology (Bushey Meads School Only): **Saturday 23 September**

Start of Second round music tests: **Week commencing Monday 25 September**

Scores Notified to parents: **Monday 16 October**

Secondary Application Deadline: **Tuesday 31 October**

First Allocation of places : **March 1st**

Using the test results

- When completing the application form it is important to use the test results sensibly to inform your preferences
- In 2016 and 2017 there was some movement once the places had been allocated
- The schools publish information about how places were allocated in previous years- it is important to look at these carefully **but** there are no guarantees as applicants change year on year

Using the test results

- In 2014: **641** children in Hertfordshire were not offered any of their ranked schools- **11%** of these only applied for one school on their form
- In 2016: 'More than **95%** of Hertfordshire children have been allocated a place at one of their preferred secondary or upper schools. Of the **13,189** Hertfordshire children who applied this year, **12,533** have a place at a *preferred* school (**95%**) and **10,454** children (**79%**) gained a place at their *first ranked* school.'

Allocations

- School Places are allocated at the beginning of March
- Places have to be accepted or rejected within the following 2 weeks
- Children will remain on the continued interest list for any school they ranked higher than the one where they have been offered a place
- If you do not wish to remain on the CI list you need to let the Admissions Team know – if a place comes up at a higher ranked school you may lose the place at the allocated school
- You can add your child to the CI list of other local schools
- There are then 2 rounds of further allocations from the continued interest lists and appeals are heard in May and June