



Holywell Primary School

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we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

4 May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

SOUTH WEST HERTS SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM

Test Information for parents of children transferring to Secondary School – September 2024

If you are considering applying next term under the academic or music criteria for a place for your child at any of the following schools, you will need to register with the Consortium. Registration is now open and you must apply before Friday 16th June 2023. Please be aware that no late registrations will be accepted.

**Croxley Danes School
Parmiter's School
Queen's School
Rickmansworth School
St Clement Danes School
Watford Grammar School for Boys
Watford Grammar School for Girls**

The test registration website address is:-

<http://www.swhertsschools.org.uk/>

There are links to each school's website, familiarisation papers and a frequently asked questions section. We have attached an information sheet for parents, which will explain the process and gives you key dates.

Yours faithfully

Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher





Important Test Information for Parents

The SW Herts Schools Consortium comprises the seven secondary schools in the area which operate admission tests for a proportion of their intake:

Croxley Danes, Parmiter's, Queens', Rickmansworth, St Clement Danes,
Watford Grammar School for Boys, and Watford Grammar School for Girls.

If you are considering applying next term under the academic or music criteria for a place for your child at any of these schools, you will need to register with the Consortium before Friday 16th June 2023. **No late registrations will be accepted.** If you feel you have extenuating circumstances that you consider relevant to any failure to register, you will have the opportunity to present these during the Secondary Transfer Appeals process. Please read the following guidance carefully, particularly no.9.

1. The website for registering your son or daughter with the Consortium is now open, having become operational on Tuesday 11th April at midday. It will remain accessible until Friday 16th June which is a period of almost ten weeks and you can register your child at any time in that period. There is no advantage in registering on the first day; indeed if too many parents try to do so, the website might not cope with the demand.
2. The website address is: www.swhertsschools.org.uk. There are links to each school's website and a frequently asked questions section.
3. You will be asked to register for the tests by creating an account, **activating your account** and then logging on to a parent portal using a password of your choosing. The password should be memorable and secure. We strongly advise the following:
 - a. You do not use a work email address. The firewall generally prevents our email responses for account activation being permitted to enter your inbox. Please use a personal email address.
 - b. You may have difficulties using a YAHOO email address. Emails to this email provider from us often get blocked or end up in SPAM or JUNK. This has been our experience over the last four consecutive years.
 - c. Add the two Consortium Administration Enquiries and Support email addresses to your **contacts** to ensure that emails are received and not deposited in junk or spam without you seeing them. These are:

support@swhsregistrations.co.uk (this is a **SEND ONLY** email address so do not reply to this email address) and enquiries@swhsregistrations.co.uk

This will assist in preventing crucial communications from being either blocked or filtered into Junk, Spam or Deleted Items. This is particularly important in case of any changes to test dates or timings or if you apply to have a marking review, the results for which are emailed.

You should ensure that the email address you use to register will remain unchanged and available throughout the period in which you will need to access information on the portal. **Once you have registered an email address, it will not be possible to change it for an alternative though you will be able to access your registration information throughout the registration period in case you want to change your test preferences or any of your information other than your email address. No changes can be made once registration closes on 16th June.**

4. Once you register you must regularly log on to the secure web page to view the initial registration of tests/the allocation of test centre/allocation of Music Stage 2 appointments (if your child is successful after Music Stage 1) and the final results. (Please see the *calendar* for information on timescales and deadlines). It is your responsibility, as a parent, to log on to the secure website to view the information at the appropriate times throughout the testing process. You will not be contacted via email by the Consortium Administration Team regarding any of the information relating to your child's test(s).
5. The Familiarisation Papers can be downloaded from our website using this link: <http://www.swhertsschools.org.uk/familiarisation-papers/>. To help children get themselves familiar with the format and types of question found in the South West Herts Consortium Schools tests, GL Assessment have provided us with free sample materials. It is a good idea to familiarise your child with the format of these tests so that, on test day, they will recognise the test booklet where the questions are written and the separate answer sheet where candidates are expected to record their answers (rather than recording answers in the test booklets which are collected up at the end of the test and shredded). We believe these materials are a useful tool to prepare your child to be able to recognise the test booklets and the separate answer sheet in readiness for test day. As entrance tests vary from area to area, the familiarisation materials and practice papers offered on the link below are generic and are not intended to replicate the timings or number of questions on the papers candidates will take on test day. These materials are not designed for a specific area, region, or test and the quantity of questions and timings should not be relied upon as a base line for the test that will be taken in September.
6. If you consider that your child might be disadvantaged under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act, or has special educational needs which require the test centre to make particular provision for the tests, you must provide written evidence of this from your child's current school SENDCo. This evidence must be sent immediately after registering for the test. Please send a copy with the name, date of birth of your child and the SWH Reference given on registration by email to the Test Administrators at enquiries@swhscregistrations.co.uk or if you are unable to send it by email yourself, please ask your primary school to assist you. It is very important that you do this so the paperwork is received by Friday 16th June, at the latest. Please note, it is your responsibility and not the responsibility of your child's primary school to ensure we receive this information.

Once we receive this information it will be passed to the test centre to which your child has been allocated in order for them to assess your child's particular requirements. All arrangements are in place for special provision prior to the end of term. **If you submit your evidence of special provision after the 16th June, you should be prepared for your child's test centre to decline your request for provision on the main test day and your child will be allocated to the reserve day when your requests can be met in full.** A great deal of resource planning goes into the test day and ensuring that staff with the requisite training can be allocated for special consideration.

7. You will be allocated a test centre by Friday 7th July. This has absolutely no bearing on the schools to which you might eventually apply. The tests will take place in September.
8. Please make sure that your child is eligible for a place at your preferred school under that school's admission criteria. These are published on each school's website. If your child is not eligible, there is no point in registering to take the tests.
9. We have set out the Key Testing Dates on the next page. This has been kept separate from the main body of this letter so that you can print out the page and put it somewhere where you will be able to see it, to remind you of the upcoming dates and stages of the test process.

Key Testing Dates In 2023 for Secondary Transfer 2024

Date	Test
Tuesday 11 th April	Online registration for the tests opens
Friday 16 th June	Online registration closes
Friday 7 th July (around noon)	Parents informed of test venue
Saturday 9 th September	Academic test
Monday 4 th September	Music aptitude test
Wednesday 13 th September	Queens' School sports aptitude test
Thursday 14 th September (around noon)	First Round music scores notified to parents
w/c Monday 18 th September	Start of second round music tests
Wednesday 18 th October (around noon)	Scores notified to parents
Tuesday 31 st October	Secondary application deadline

Sports Test times are allocated on an alphabetical basis **which cannot be changed.*

All communication with regard to the Sports test comes directly from Queens' School and your sports test time will not show on the Parent Portal

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Test Administration Team can be contacted via email only at enquiries@swhscregistrations.co.uk There is no facility to telephone.

Please do not contact support@swhscregistrations.co.uk as this email address is not monitored and you will not receive a response. The support@swhscregistrations.co.uk email address is configured as a SEND ONLY ACCOUNT.

We will make every effort to ensure that all email queries are answered within 48 hours during term time school hours. Please note that during peak times – such as immediately prior to and following the release of test scores – response times may be longer. We would ask you to note that email responses from the Test Administration Team are likely to be specific to your enquiry and may not be relevant to the nature of any other person or persons' enquiry. Therefore you should not copy, disclose, or distribute its content to any person or persons or publish its content on to social media nor act in reliance on any such e-mail, as this is prohibited and may be unlawful. Abusive and/or anonymous emails will be deleted and will not receive a response.

We cannot respond to any queries with regard to School Admissions or School Applications. We are test facilitators only and our sole responsibility is for the test registration and administration process. Any queries regarding school places should be directed to the school or schools in which you are interested in applying. Contact information for all Consortium Schools can be found on our website here [Schools – South West Herts Schools \(swhertsschools.org.uk\)](http://Schools – South West Herts Schools (swhertsschools.org.uk))

Persons making requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for data with regard to whole cohort test scores in previous years should note that in compliance with GDPR Regulations, no test information is retained once a test cycle has ended. We are legally obliged to delete all personal information submitted by registrants within 12 months and so any data pertaining to prior test cycles (including raw and standardised scores) is purged from our systems annually.