

PRESS RELEASE

28 March 2017

New arrangements for secondary selection testing for September 2019 entry (current Year 4)

The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools (TBGS) have today announced the award of new contracts for secondary selection testing. GL Assessment will be providing the test and Buckinghamshire County Council will be continuing to provide test administration services. The new contracts will first apply to the tests taken in September 2018 by pupils moving into secondary school in Autumn 2019 (current Year 4).

Speaking about the new arrangements David Hudson, the Chair of TBGS said: 'Following a rigorous and robust competitive procurement process I am very pleased that we have reached agreement with GL Assessment and Buckinghamshire County Council to support us with the selection process and look forward to working with both organisations over the coming years.'

- The new contracts are for 5 years initially.
- GL Assessment will be responsible for developing and marking the tests.
- Buckinghamshire County Council will be responsible for the administration services including test registration and communications with stakeholders.
- The new arrangements do not affect children starting secondary school in 2018. Those children will be tested in September this year under the existing arrangements.

Greg Watson, the Chief Executive of GL Assessment, said: 'We are extremely pleased to have been chosen to work with The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools on their entrance assessments for entry in September 2019. We look forward to working closely with TBGS on a fair and reliable entrance assessment.'

David Johnston, Managing Director Children's Social Care and Learning, Buckinghamshire County Council, commented: 'We're pleased to have been invited to support the grammar schools with administering the secondary transfer test. It's important for us to work together on one testing process for the benefit of the children in Buckinghamshire.'

The new tests will continue to assess verbal, non-verbal and mathematical skills. Children will continue to sit a practice test and then two test papers. Familiarisation materials will also continue to be provided to parents free of charge. Full details about the new testing arrangements will be made available in November 2017.

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Notes to editors

1. The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools (TBGS) is a company set up by the thirteen grammar schools in Buckinghamshire in order to manage and administer secondary transfer testing. The thirteen grammar schools are all academies and their own admissions authorities but use a common secondary transfer test and process to select pupils for entry into Year 7 in Buckinghamshire grammar schools each year.
2. The award of the contracts to GL Assessment and Buckinghamshire County Council follows a full and open OJEU procurement process necessary due to the impending expiry of the current contracts.
3. The current contractors for these services are CEM (testing) and Buckinghamshire County Council (administration services).
4. Further details about the new arrangements will be published in November 2017 on the TBGS website: www.thebucksgrammarschools.org
5. For further information please contact David Hudson: chairman.tbgs@gmail.com