

1 October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools (TBGS), I would once again like to apologise for the additional stress and anxiety that I know the recent errors in the Secondary Transfer Test have caused you and your child. We have worked very closely with GL assessment to establish why this happened and what we are going to do to ensure an error like this does not happen again in the future. We have also worked closely to ensure a positive resolution has been found for all children involved in the testing process this year.

I would like to take the time to thank primary Headteacher colleagues for the additional burden they have had in supporting you and your families in connection with this – this activity is much appreciated by the grammar school Headteachers. Our thanks are also due to colleagues at Buckinghamshire County Council. Staff in the Admissions Team were on the frontline when the error first came to light and had to work under extremely challenging circumstances – we are grateful to them for managing this

Along with this letter is a further letter from GL Assessment explaining what actions have been carried out in order to ensure fair and reliable results for all children. Detailed statistical analysis has been carried out and the solution proposed to and accepted by TBGS is robust. TBGS is confident that the issue has been resolved in a fair manner for all children and that the results for testing are robust. This outcome has been verified by an independent statistician.

When results are released on 18 October, as in all previous years, you have the option of going to Selection Review or Appeal if your child has not qualified with the score of 121. The process for review will be exactly the same as in previous years and therefore please note that success at Selection Review or Appeal requires strong academic evidence of grammar school suitability and not just details of extenuating circumstances. We understand that you may focus upon the testing error, however, with the statistical analysis and solution implementation this will not be sufficient grounds for reviews or appeals on their own.

We hope that the information you have received has given you further information on why this error occurred and what has happened as a result. We understand that you may have some further questions. We will be posting some FAQs on our website later this week and hope that these will answer any remaining questions you may have. However, if you do have any further questions can I please remind you not to contact primary headteachers but to review the FAQs on the TBGS website and if they are not answered to email GL Assessment via the email address provided

Our apologies once again to you and your child and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mark Sturgeon

Chair, The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools