

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents/Cares of Children in Year 5

Just as we 'locked down' we were due to have our annual meeting with parents in Year 5 regarding High Schools in September 2021. Although different on paper I will try and share what we normally do.

The message I always give is be prepared. 2021 may seem a long way off, especially as we live in unprecedented times, however be prepared and start to plan. Within Trafford the choice can be complicated and complex mainly because of the Grammar School system. There are many good schools and they will all offer your child different experiences, however be assured we have a fantastic local Catholic secondary school in St Antony's where all your children are guaranteed a place. Please take a look.

My advice as always is not to judge a school on hearsay. Please go and visit, talk to parents who have children at the school and take your time. Start thinking now. The schools normally have open days and events from June onwards however this may be different this year. Keep checking the individual websites.

Then we have the Grammar system and the tests children need to sit. I have attached some information below and on the school website regarding this. My advice is to always be realistic about your child and consider what is best for them. A Grammar will not suit every child, please do not be influenced by status – do what is right for their individual need. It is difficult while closed but if you have a specific question for the teachers regarding your child's abilities and the tests, please email. We will always be honest and sometimes our advice will be that they may not pass, please do not be offended.

When you have looked around I always advise that you make a choice and stick to it. If your child sits an entrance exam they will know the score before you have to decide. Make your choice and go with that one. Please then do not listen to gossip, issues only arise when parents try to second guess. Make your choice and put it number 1. As always though please call or email – it can be a stressful time; I will help where I can.

Hope this helps, here if you need us.

Mark

On the school website letters page I have attached the 'Admissions Timetable for Entry into September 2021' along with the 'familiarisation booklets' for the following schools;

| <b>School Name</b>                  | <b>Date of Exam</b>                    |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Altrincham Grammar School for Girls | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |
| Sale Grammar School                 | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |
| Stretford Grammar School            | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |
| Urmston Grammar                     | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |

Parents will be able to apply from noon on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020** for the Trafford Consortium Testing.

**Familiarisation Guides are available to download at any time from the websites.**

At this stage the entrance examination will proceed as expected and therefore we would encourage both parents and children to continue as best they can with their preparations. Please rest assured we will do our very best to keep primary schools and parents informed of any changes due to Covid19 and would advise you to regularly check our admission pages which we will update once we have the information.

The entrance test will take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 **and the closing date for all online applications is 12:00 noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

We do hope this information is of use to you and your Year 5 parents. We would be grateful if you could forward on to your Year 5 parents as soon as possible.