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Achieving Excellence Together in a Caring Community

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To parents of children in Year 4 and Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Secondary School Entrance

We are very fortunate that we live in an area with so many excellent secondary schools. These essentially fall into three types, academy comprehensives, academy grammars and independent schools.

Academy Comprehensive Schools

This is the group of schools that most of our children head to. They include Cheam High, Glenthorne, Overton Grange, Carshalton High School for Girls and Carshalton Boys' Sports College. These schools are non-selective, which means that academic ability is not a factor in gaining a place there and there is no entrance exam required for entry. Please note that Glenthorne School operate a 'Banding Test' system to ensure that they have a broad intake of abilities - [see this page for more information on how it works](#). Greenshaw offers comprehensive places and up to 60 ability tested places.

Academy Grammar Schools

A good proportion of our children are successful in gaining entry to local grammar schools. In order to gain a place at these schools, children need to meet the relevant threshold in the Sutton Selective Eligibility Test (SET) (or equivalent for the Tiffin Schools which are in Surrey). These include Nonsuch High School for Girls, Sutton High School (Girls), Tiffin School (Boys), The Tiffin Girls' School, Wallington High School for Girls, Wallington County Grammar School (Boys), Wilsons (Boys). Greenshaw offers 60 places based on academic ability, but also offers fully comprehensive places.

The Sutton Selective Eligibility Test consists of two rounds. The first round takes place during mid September, and those students who are successful in Round 1 are invited to sit Round 2 in late September/early October. The registration deadline for the test is around the beginning of August (easily missed as it is during the summer holiday!) preceding a child's entry to Year 6 or in the June before that your child qualifies to have Access Arrangements (eg. additional time) for the test.

Note that getting a particular mark in the SET does not necessarily guarantee you a place at a particular school; some have other criteria which need to be considered – these can be found in each school's admissions policy, which are on their websites.

Independent Schools

Independent Schools are fee paying schools; they also require children to pass a test of academic ability before they offer places. The only independent secondary school in Sutton itself is Sutton High School for Girls, although there are many more in surrounding boroughs. Parents pay for their child's education at these schools at a cost of around £7,000 per term (although this varies widely between schools).

Selective Eligibility Test (SET)/11+ Entrance Exams

Many children who sit tests to enter a Grammar/Independent school undergo additional tutoring. This is because these exams often go beyond what is normally taught in the primary curriculum, questions can have a different style to that children are used to, and children are not yet familiar with the exam process and so are given useful hints and tips to enable them to show all they know in the papers. This normally begins towards the end of Year 4 or the beginning of Year 5.

At Dorchester Primary, we offer 11+ Tuition in both Maths and English, at a reduced rate of £20 per session. The sessions are held before school in Saffron Class (7:45-8:45am – when the children are fresh), and are led by teachers experienced in enabling children to succeed in these tests. The Group sizes are kept small (maximum of 12 children per session) and the teachers provide termly feedback on children's progress (although they are happy to meet and discuss this at any time of course). We offer tuition from the beginning of Year 4 (this gives these children an opportunity to consolidate everything they have been taught, and check they have a high level of understanding, so that they can embark on 11+ question practice. In Year 5 the children practice 11+ style papers, as well as ensuring they have the necessary depth of understanding to perform at their best in the tests. Note that children who take part in the Year 4 group will be given priority places in the tuition group for Year 5.

You can sign up for places on these classes via School Gateway.

I hope that this information is useful. If you would like any further information about secondary school admissions/processes please drop an email to office@dorchesterprimary.com and we will do our best to help.

Kind regards

Cathy Bell
Headteacher