



24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **P6 practice papers and AQE – further update May 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As mentioned in last week's update, AQE [age.org.uk](http://age.org.uk) has now confirmed that the grammar schools plan to go ahead with this year's tests which are due to be held on three consecutive Saturdays – 20<sup>th</sup> November, 27<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We have since learned that the **AQE application process will open tomorrow (Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May) at 10.00am**. Applications can be completed online via the AQE website or, alternatively, you can download and print a hard copy.

Parents/Guardians will need the following three elements to complete their application, as well as having a completed application form:

- A recent photograph of your child (can be taken straight from a mobile device and uploaded)
- A scanned copy of your child's birth certificate (long or short version) **or** a scanned copy of the id page of their passport
- Payment of the registration fee (£60.00). Parents/guardians of a child who is entitled to **Free School Meals**, and who provide evidence of such entitlement, **will not have to pay the fee**.

The application process will be open until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September so there is no immediate rush to submit your application. However, places are allocated at each assessment centre on a first-come, first-served basis so, if you want your child to sit the tests in a particular school, it would be a good idea to submit your application in the next few weeks.

The AQE website provides information about the revisions which have been made to the 2021 tests in order to recognise the disruption that Covid-19 has had on schooling. You can also download copies of some of the previous AQE tests to get a better sense of the variety of questions included in these assessments. Please be aware that these previous AQE tests are used in school during the first few months of P7 as practice papers so we would ask that your child does not sit these tests at home.

If there's anything we can do to help you with the application process, please ask! We can print a copy of the application form for you, for example, or provide evidence of entitlement to free school meals if you can't produce your original letter.

**As mentioned last week, we are now asking you to consider whether you wish for your child to continue doing further practice tests as you are planning to enter your child for the AQE tests or you no longer wish to do further tests as your child will not be entering the AQE tests.** Taking the AQE tests in P7 allows your child to apply for a grammar school place but, if you know that a grammar school will not be the right place for your child, there is no need to sit the

AQE tests and therefore no need to do more practice papers. **If you are unsure, we would suggest that your child continues to sit the practice papers until at least the end of P6.**

**If you wish to continue doing practice papers, you do not need to contact your child's teacher.** From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, your child will sit one paper per week under test conditions and then go through it in class the next day. The test paper will then be sent home for you to look at together with your child and attempt some corrections. At this stage, scores do not matter – our emphasis is on helping the children to become more familiar with the assessment process and considering the best way to approach each question. There may be some questions which cover areas of the curriculum which we have not yet covered in class. The children who are sitting the practice tests will also be provided with an additional Windmill weekend paper to complete at home. The answers to these weekend papers will be provided on our P6 Home Learning page on the school website [www.brooklandsprimary.com/p6-home-learning](http://www.brooklandsprimary.com/p6-home-learning) to allow you to go through the paper and mark it together with your child. A pack of summer practice papers will also be provided at the end of June.

**If you do not wish to continue doing practice papers, please contact your child's class teacher in writing as soon as possible.** Your child will complete separate English and/or Maths activities while the others are sitting the paper. When we are going through the paper the next day, a copy of the paper will be given to every child in the class and they will all be included in the teaching and learning as we work through particular questions together.

Please feel free to contact us if there is any way in which we can help you. As always, we thank you for your support and for everything that you are doing at home.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bell, Mr Massey, Mr Coetzee and Miss Steele

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