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Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you for registering your child to sit the Gloucestershire Grammar School Entrance Test.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of July, the Department for Education issued guidance<sup>1</sup> strongly recommending that all grammar school entrance tests are moved back to mid-October or early November, allowing more time for all children, including disadvantaged children, to settle back into their primary school studies before sitting the Entrance Test. Collectively, we have considered this guidance and reflected on the impact of the recent lockdown on the continuity of learning for Year 5 pupils. We have now decided to follow this guidance and now plan to hold the Gloucestershire Entrance Test on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of October<sup>2</sup>**, rather than on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of September as had been previously advertised.

Because of this later test date, **parents/carers will not receive the outcome of the Entrance Test by the deadline for the submission of Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC) Common Application Form (CAF), which is the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.** This will mean that parents/carers will have to submit their five secondary school choices to GCC without knowing whether their child has met the qualifying standard for the various grammar schools. However, GCC does allow for **FIVE** choices of secondary school on their CAF (2 more than some local authorities) meaning that parents/carers should feel confident about placing one or more grammar schools onto their child's CAF, even though they will not know the outcome of the Entrance Test. Parents/carers will also be able use any additional choices on their CAF for other secondary schools.

Please remember that the admission process is operated on equal preference. If you place one or more grammar schools at the top of your choices and your child is unsuccessful in gaining a place, then your next preference is treated as if it was your first choice. This means you cannot be disadvantaged by placing grammar schools at the top of your choices even if you later find out that your child did not reach the qualifying standard.

We wish to reassure parents/carers that the schools are working hard to ensure that our seven sites, which will host the Entrance Test, will be safe environments for your child on the test day. To this end, we have produced a general set of protocols for the test day, which will be observed at all seven schools and are placed at the end of this letter. To allow for social distancing, each school will hold more than one sitting on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of October.

Each school will also have their own individual circumstances to plan for and each test centre will send their own site-specific arrangements, along with their test day details, at least two weeks before the test. If you have not received these details by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of September, please contact your **child's allocated Test Centre** after this date.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-assessment-processes-for-selective-school-admissions>

<sup>2</sup> Subject to approval by the Regional School's Commissioner for the South West

You may find it helpful to know that CEM have officially released some additional practice material for this year, which can be found on the school websites below:

Denmark Road High School: <https://www.denmarkroad.org>

Marling School: <https://www.marling.school>

Pate's Grammar School: <https://www.patesgs.org/>

Ribston Hall High School: <https://www.ribstonhall.gloucs.sch.uk/>

Sir Thomas Rich's School: <https://strschool.co.uk/>

Stroud High School: <https://www.stroudhigh.gloucs.sch.uk/>

The Crypt School: <https://www.cryptschool.org/>

Please do not contact the schools during the summer holidays as staff are not available to answer any queries. Please do not contact the Admissions team regarding any questions regarding the testing procedure as they do not know any additional information. Please only contact them regarding general admission queries.

We send our best wishes to you and your family at this challenging time and wish your child every success in the Entrance Test.

Kind regards,

Gloucestershire Grammar Schools

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gloucestershire Grammar School Entrance Test: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2020</b> <b>Parents/Carers and Candidate Protocol for all Test Centres</b></p>
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To help ensure the efficient running of the Entrance Test, and to enable the correct implementation of government guidance on minimising the transmission of infection during the Entrance Test, the seven Gloucestershire Grammar Schools have agreed the following protocol which **ALL** families will be expected to abide by.

Each School (Test Centre) will also issue their own site-specific **School Protocol** to their own candidates according to their local context.

1. No child, who is unwell (for example, coughing, exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or whose household is self-isolating or have been advised to through track and trace), should attend their Allocated Test Centre – please inform the Allocated Test Centre on the day before the Entrance Test (or earlier) if this is applicable to your child. A medical test will take place on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of November** for those children who, for **medical reasons**, could not sit the Entrance test on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October.
2. Parents/carers of a child coughing, or who becomes unwell during the Entrance Test will be contacted and requested to collect their child immediately.
3. Only **one** family member will be allowed to drop off and collect their child and no additional siblings should accompany the candidate to the Test Centre. This will help avoid large gatherings outside of each Test Centre/school. The family member must strictly abide by the relevant Test Centre's Entrance Test protocol.
4. **No family member** will be allowed into any of the buildings of their Allocated Test Centre at any time.
5. Hand sanitising units will be available for use in each test room and at entry points in each school.

6. Each candidate **must** bring with them: a completed ID form (with a photo/image of your child), 2 HB pencils, an eraser, a pencil sharpener, snack, and tissues in a labelled, clear plastic bag.
7. Due to social distancing measures in place, each testing centre's own protocols may mean that larger venues, such as School Halls, will be used.
8. Wherever possible, children from the same primary school will sit in the same test room as others from their school.
9. On arrival at their Allocated Test Centre, children will be placed into their test room group forming a test bubble and will be strictly supervised from that point onwards. They must not communicate with or attempt to be with any other child who is not in their allocated group.
10. It is not possible to accommodate requests for a particular test sitting – timings will be issued via each school's test day details letter and **CANNOT** be changed.

Under no circumstances should any child, or family member discuss, or publish the content of the Entrance Test at any time to ensure the security of the Test. This includes speaking to other children, parents / carers, other family members, their teachers or tutors. It should be stressed that anything shared may help other candidates and could result in their child not being offered a place.