



Dear Year 5 Parents,

Preparation for Senior School Entry Process 13+ 2028

As you know, I am taking on the role of Head of Senior Schools from September. I have very much enjoyed getting to know your children this year, in Year 5, and look forward to continuing to work with them and you next year. As Year 5 draws to a close and we start to look ahead to your children's first term in Year 6, when the majority of them will be undertaking assessments for senior schools, we thought it would be helpful to provide some information.

Registration

Attached to the email is a document with the registration deadlines for several schools. You will note that some schools have a deadline of 30th June 2025; where this is the case, we have highlighted in yellow. Most other schools ask for children to be registered by October 2025. Please do keep me in the loop and let me know when you have registered for schools so that we can then help coordinate and facilitate where we can. I will be in touch in September to check-in with each set of parents as to where they are in the process and whether there is anything we can do to support.

Email weirg@standrewsberkshire.co.uk

Assessments

On the same document are some outline dates and details of what the assessment process looks like for different schools.

ISEB Pre-Tests

Nearly all schools now use the ISEB Pre-Tests. We will be running the **Pre-Tests at St Andrew's on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th November**. Your child will only need to sit these once, regardless of how many schools they have applied to; parents, rather than the School, register their children for the ISEB Common Pre-Tests. Please follow these simple steps.

1. Register your child on the [Guardian Portal](#)
2. Select St Andrew's School as the invigilation centre (the postcode is RG8 8QA)
3. Send your child's Applicant ID to all of the schools you registered with who are using the Pre-Test.
4. We will then approve your registration from our end as well.

If your child is eligible for access arrangements, then you will need to record these and upload the correct document before sending the Applicant ID. Please contact [Mrs Emma Brown](#) if you have any queries about this.

The format of the Pre-Tests will be:

Test Name	Standard Test Time	25% Extra Time
English	40 minutes	50 minutes
Mathematics	40 minutes	50 minutes
Non-Verbal Reasoning	30 minutes	37.5 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	25 minutes	31.25 minutes

For any who are extra keen, there is an [ISEB Pre-Tests | Test Walkthrough](#), which shows you the format; however, this can certainly be left until nearer the tests and we will also go through this with them at School.

Assessment Days and Interviews

The senior schools to which you have applied will contact you with dates for assessment days and/or interviews directly. Please note that Bradfield invites children to these as early as the very beginning of September, with the first round of assessments taking place in mid-September. Most other schools take place later in the Autumn term or in the Spring term.

We will do as much as we can to help prepare your children for these assessment days.

- **Senior School Preparation (SSP)**

They have been doing this with Dr Neil in Year 4 and Year 5. Next Year, I will be teaching your children. Lessons will comprise of philosophy, activities around current affairs, manipulating language and teamwork exercises, as well as continuing to work on verbal and non-verbal reasoning. These should reflect the elements that schools will be looking at when your children go to for their Assessment Days.

- **Interview Practice**

We have a retired headmaster, James Womersley, coming in to St Andrew's on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th September to offer the pupils an authentic interview practice. Mr Graham and I will also be doing individual and group practice as assessment days approach.

By the end of term, **we will have posted a set of interview practice questions in your child's Form Team.** You may like to have a go at asking your child some of these questions, but do be careful not to over rehearse this.

Century

There will be Century assignments available throughout the summer for English, maths, verbal and non-verbal reasoning. Starting in the first week of the holiday, there will be weekly assignments set for all four elements. Their Learning Path will also adapt according to areas identified to work on, so they can select nuggets from there as well. Children are encouraged to complete what they can, when they can, but should not worry if they do not finish everything. Please remember to have paper and pen at the ready for working out!

If any children wish to have a go at some practice tests, then there is the option to pay a monthly fee for approx. £40 per month on [Century Bond online](#). There will be ten practice tests available each month, as well as the parent being able to see results and coordinate some of the learning. For any interested in this, we would advise doing the free 7-day trial over the summer, and then considering the monthly addition just for September and October; it is helpful practice for the children as it closely mimics the interface to the real ISEB pre-test. They will also have plenty of practice within school. As with all of the preparation, avoiding over-saturation is key and it is really important that everybody is able to relax and enjoy their holiday.

The children will benefit most from enriching opportunities such as going to the theatre, visiting museums and galleries or other cultural sights of interest, in addition to staying abreast of current affairs. As well as providing an excellent magazine, The Week Junior also has a [podcast](#) and [Newsround](#) provides daily ten-minute news bites. You could try [Homeschool History](#), [a trip to the Globe](#), or a visit to [the Ashmolean](#). In interviews, senior schools are looking for a spark (other than perhaps football or cricket), and things like the above will give the boys and girls some interesting topics to discuss.

If you have any other questions in the meantime, please do get in touch.

Best wishes,

Mrs George Weir