



West Acton Primary School, Noel Road, Acton. W3 0JL

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Head Teacher: Miss K Kondo

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Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: 11 plus test for High School entry 2027 and 2028 – especially for Year 4 and Year 5

We would like to share a guide to help West Acton families understand the process of applying to grammar and selective schools in and around London. This is particularly important for families with children in Year 4 and Year 5, as this is the right time to begin thinking ahead. Year 4 is an ideal point to start gentle preparation and Year 5 is when the application process begins, with tests taking place in early autumn of Year 6.

The timeline for applying to grammar schools starts earlier than many families expect. Registration for entrance tests usually opens in the summer term of Year 5. Children then sit the tests in early September of Year 6. Parents must also complete the Local Authority Common Application Form by 31st October in Year 6. Test results are normally released before this deadline so families can make informed decisions when selecting schools.

Grammar and selective schools use a range of entrance tests. The most common are GL Assessment papers which include Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning, Maths and English. Some schools use their own tests. For example, Sutton Grammar, Nonsuch and Wallington schools use the Sutton Selective Eligibility Test. Tiffin Boys' and Tiffin Girls' Schools use two stage tests in English and Maths. Other areas such as Bexley, Redbridge, Slough and Watford use shared or consortium based GL tests.

Many grammar and selective schools also have catchment areas or priority postcodes, so it is important to check carefully whether you live within the relevant area. For example, Nonsuch High School has a catchment of approximately 5.25 km and Tiffin Girls has a designated area covering multiple postal districts. Latymer prioritises an inner area while Redbridge grammar schools share a common catchment. Bexley offers places to the top 180 scorers regardless of address with others allocated by distance. Slough defines priority areas within its policy and Watford grammar schools are partially selective with places allocated through academic ability, music aptitude and distance. Dame Alice Owen's offers a combination of academic and music places alongside catchment priority and Newstead Wood operates a nine mile catchment. These rules mean that a high score alone may not guarantee a place if you live outside a priority area. Please find also attached a list of schools and their details.

Preparation can begin in Year 4 with light familiarisation, regular reading and building vocabulary and problem solving skills. In Year 5, preparation usually becomes more structured with the use of practice materials, past papers and timed activities. Some families also choose tuition, either in small groups or one to one, to provide structure and feedback. It is important that preparation remains balanced, with a focus on confidence, enjoyment and strong learning habits rather than excessive pressure.

To apply, parents need to register their child for each school's entrance test during the summer term of Year 5, usually through the school's admissions website. Children then sit the tests in early September of Year 6. Parents must





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complete the Common Application Form by 31st October, listing grammar or selective schools alongside other choices. Some schools may also require additional forms, for example for musical aptitude places.

The tests themselves assess a range of skills. Verbal Reasoning focuses on language, vocabulary and logical thinking. Non Verbal Reasoning assesses patterns, shapes and visual problem solving. Maths is based on the Key Stage 2 curriculum but often includes more challenging problem solving questions. English may include comprehension, grammar, punctuation and sometimes creative writing. Different schools place different weight on these areas depending on their assessment model.

Families often support preparation using resources such as Bond 11+ books and CGP materials which cover all areas of the tests. Some schools provide sample papers and many families use mock tests to build familiarity with timed conditions. Where appropriate, tuition may also be used, beginning gently in Year 4 and building in Year 5. Alongside this, strong reading habits, discussion and confidence building at home remain essential.

We encourage families to stay organised throughout the process by keeping a record of key dates such as registration windows, test days and the CAF deadline. It is important to check each school's admissions website for the most up to date information and to be realistic about catchment criteria. Parents should also consider a balanced set of school choices on the application form, including strong local comprehensive options.

A simple timeline may be helpful. In Year 4, focus on reading widely, building vocabulary and introducing light practice. In Year 5, begin more structured preparation, register for tests in the summer term and use practice papers over the summer holidays. In Year 6, children sit the tests in early September, parents submit the CAF by 31st October, results are used to finalise choices and school offers are made on 1st March.

We hope this information supports you in understanding the 11+ process. If you are considering grammar or selective schools, starting early and preparing gradually will help your child feel confident and well supported.

Also important to remember is that Ealing has many excellent high schools to choose and apply from in the Autumn term – details of that process will be sent at the start of the Autumn Term for the current Year 5s.

If you would like any further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,
Miss Kondo
Headteacher

