

Support for students and parents in the absence of familiarisation tests

What have we decided?

The Consortium considered a number of different ways in which we could offer familiarisation tests and at the same time maintain the safety of staff and students within strict social distancing guidelines. However, we felt that this was not possible and therefore took the decision to cancel familiarisation tests for all Lincolnshire Grammar Schools.

What does it mean for my child?

For the vast majority of students this will have no impact. When we do the 11+ each year the raw scores (how many questions the children get right) are standardised so that the average child will get a score of 100 and children in the top 25% will get a score of 110 or more. If the raw scores are lower in any given year then the standardisation will still give an average child a score of 100. We also ensure that 25% of the total Year 6 cohort in Lincolnshire gain a qualifying score. This means that even if the raw scores are lower, the same number of students will qualify (get a total standardised score of 220 or more over both tests).

What about if I do not live in Lincolnshire?

Each year the standardisation is designed around Lincolnshire children and this same standardisation is then applied to students who do not live in Lincolnshire. Students outside of Lincolnshire will therefore be neither advantaged nor disadvantaged.

What can I do to support my child now there are now familiarisation tests?

GLA have some practice papers available on their website for free and these can be found here: <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/11plus-series-11-plus-practice-papers/11plus-familiarisation-materials/>

You should use these to do a practice test for your child under timed conditions. All of the instructions for parents can be found in The Parent's Guide.

Familiarisation is the key word here and, for some, doing the same test again a week or so apart is a useful activity. Whilst your child may remember some of the questions, the key thing is to practice answering questions within a strict time-frame.

What about the actual tests in September?

We have moved these on by a week to the weekends of 18/19 September and 25/26 September. The reason for moving them is to give students as much time as possible back in their classrooms to settle down before taking the test. We feel it is crucial that parents receive the result of the test before they have to complete their Secondary School Application Form. These dates are the latest we can go in order to get results to parents before 31 October.

It is not yet clear what social distancing rules will be in place in September. However, we are working on several plans and will keep parents and primary schools up to date as far as we are able.