



Headteacher

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A Grammar School with Academy Status

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Dear Colleague

I write to inform you that in Autumn 2013 we are changing the method of testing used to select girls for admission to Year 7 at Chelmsford County High School from September 2014 onwards. The tests used will be different from those used by The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE). For some years we have been concerned that many parents have associated entry to this school with the need to invest in intensive coaching for their daughter. We have aimed, therefore, to introduce a set of tests which assess a broad range of abilities and provide a level playing field for every girl regardless of her family circumstances.

We shall be using CEM 11+ Entrance Tests. CEM, based at Durham University, is internationally recognised for its pioneering work in developing monitoring systems for schools and colleges. It is a global leader in the design, development and supply of assessments and the largest educational research unit in a UK university. All tests used are extensively trialled and schools and local authorities who have adopted the test have reported that they select appropriate cohorts of children for a grammar school education.

The tests are specifically designed to be reliable and valid testing instruments, appropriate for assessing children at the beginning of the Autumn Term in Year 6 of the English school system. No practice papers are available other than a familiarisation paper which will be available to parents on application to sit the tests. The tests are designed using a range of paradigms to measure verbal, non-verbal and mathematical reasoning skills. They are administered in two 45-minute papers.

We believe that not only will the new tests provide a more accurate reflection of each girls' innate ability but also be consistent with the School's fundamental policy of being transparently open to all girls who meet the academic standards required to thrive in a selective school.



For entry in 2014, the CCHS tests will take place at the School on **Saturday 14th September 2013**. Parents will be required to inform us of their intention for their daughter to sit the tests by following a procedure which will be published on our website in due course. It is worth noting that the results of the tests will not be transferable to other grammar schools, this will mean therefore that girls who may wish to apply to other grammar schools will need to sit the separate CSSE tests.

You will wish to inform parents of your pupils about this change but we ask that parents do not contact the School until they send us the application to sit the test form in the summer of 2013.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Chapman', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Nicole Chapman
Headteacher