

ENTRANCE TEST SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What time do I need to arrive at the school?

Session 1 Morning

Please arrive between 8.00am and 8.15am not earlier

Session 2 Afternoon

Please arrive between 12.45pm – 1.00pm not earlier

Please can we request that there is only **1 adult per child** for both arrival and collection. The family member must strictly abide by latest government advice on social distancing and keeping safe and ensuring that your daughter has a face covering to wear in communal areas.

Where should I park? There is **NO parking for parents available on the school site**. Please note that Beards Lane is a cul-de-sac and will only be available to pedestrians and vehicles for residents only.

You may wish to consider parking at Stratford Park Leisure Centre and walking across the railway bridge to the school - this takes approximately 10 minutes. There will be a charge for parking at this venue. Alternatively, an adult and a student may be dropped off at the pedestrian access to the school from Cainscross Road. Please note that if your daughter arrives late **she will not be able to sit the test** in order to ensure fairness and the smooth running of the test arrangements.

Where do I go?

For Groups A-I **Session 1**

For Groups A2-F2 **Session 2**

Main Gate Cainscross Road

For Groups J-S **Session 1**

For Groups G2-P2 **Session 2**

Gates by Railway on Beards Lane

You will be asked to leave her with one of the Stroud High School staff at the entrance to the gates, depending on her allocated group. Signs will be displayed to show you where to go. **Please ensure she wears the peel-off label on the test day**. Your daughter will be in a group with others from her primary school. **Please be aware that it is not possible for parents to come into the school for toilet facilities. Your daughter will be able to access the toilets as soon as she has been checked in.**

Can I stay and wait for my daughter?

No – it is not possible to stay on the school site during the entrance test.

Can I change the session which my daughter has been allocated to?

No unfortunately this is not an option.

What time will she finish?

Your daughter will finish the test at *approximately* 11.15am for **Session 1** and *approximately* 4.00pm for **Session 2** but please note this is an anticipated finish time. Please return to the entrance where you left your daughter and wait for her there. If your daughter has special access arrangements this time may be different and you will be advised accordingly.

What should she bring with her?

- Her peel off **label** – visible on clothing
- Two sharpened HB pencils and a rubber (not in a pencil case)
- A pencil sharpener
- An appropriate drink (not a fizzy drink) and a snack (nut-free), if required, for the break in a clear, labelled plastic bag
- The completed **Test Day Identity Form** (copy enclosed), duly signed and with a recent photograph of your daughter fastened to it
- Face covering/mask with a sealable plastic bag to put it in once in the test room

Your daughter may wear a wrist watch (please ensure it is not data-enabled and does not 'beep' or make any other noise) she will be asked to take off her wrist watch and place it on the desk before the test starts

Does my daughter need to wear school uniform?

No - it is important that your daughter feels comfortable for her entrance test. She may wear casual, comfortable clothes - there is no need for her to wear school uniform. Please note that if your daughter wears a coat it will be left in the registration area and not taken into the test room. Please ensure there are no valuables in the pockets as the school does not accept any responsibility for any valuables brought on the day.

Does my daughter need to wear a face covering?

Yes please, we ask that all students wear a face covering whilst in communal areas in the school. Once in the test room they can remove their face covering. It is also important that they have a **sealed bag** in order to safely store the mask or covering to ensure it does not come into contact with desks or other facilities in school. After taking their mask off, students will need to use hand sanitiser. Whilst we will have supplies in every room, for convenience you may wish for your child to have their own which they could use immediately once they have taken off their mask.

What should she NOT bring with her?

- Mobile phones
- Any potentially web-enabled sources of information such as iwatches, iPods, MP3/4 players, cameras or wrist watches that include a data storage device. Such equipment must not be brought into the test room
- She will not need a ruler, calculator, scrap paper, protractor or study notes and must not bring any of these items with her
- Rucksacks or large bags
- Other personal belongings (apart from necessary medications)

What is the exam room like?

Your daughter will take the test in a classroom with approximately 10 girls in each group (unless your daughter has special access arrangements). Students from the same primary schools will be placed together as much as possible. Older students from the school provide support for the students both before the tests begin and during the break between tests. There is a clock, in clear view to all candidates, in the test room.

If a child becomes upset, distressed, shows any signs of illness or is a noticeable distraction to others they may be removed from the test room. The invigilator would make this decision taking careful consideration of removing the child versus the distraction being caused. Parents would be contacted to discuss this and if the test can be conducted at a later date. However should a child put their hand up as feeling anxious or distressed the invigilator may make the decision that it is in the best interests of the child to be removed and continue the test in a different room once settled.

The invigilator will report any concerns if any candidate breaks the rules and the school reserves the right to disqualify the candidate. Please ensure that this is explained to your daughter if this is the first experience of a formal test.

What is the format of the tests?

There are two papers, each administered in about an hour. Each paper comprises several individually timed sections. There are worked examples describing how to answer the questions at the start of each section. The answers have to be completed on a separate answer sheet which will be computer marked. Both tests are conducted under strict exam conditions and timed. Instructions are provided by a prepared audio soundtrack or by the invigilator. A familiarisation test is available on the school website. We recommend that your daughter completes the familiarisation test in order to understand how to record her answers on the answer sheet (which is separate from the question booklet). There will be a 20 minute break between the papers, away from the test room, where your daughter, will be able to relax, and go to the toilet.

What if my daughter needs the toilet during the test?

Please be aware that if your daughter needs to leave the room to go to the toilet, any time taken in doing so is lost. It is not possible for this time to be made up to her. She will be encouraged to visit the toilet before the test and during the break between papers.

Can she do rough work?

She may do her rough work on the question booklet – please note that scrap paper is not provided and may not be used.

What if my daughter is unwell on the day of the test?

If there are any usual circumstances, such as illness (see below ref Covid-19) or bereavement which might affect your daughter's performance on the day of the test please inform us in writing before the day of the test if possible. If special circumstances become apparent on the day of the test or you find it impossible for your daughter to take the test on 17 October please phone the school on 01453 764441 or email admissions@stroudhigh.gloucs.sch.uk. If you decide to withdraw your daughter from the test please email or telephone the school as it is helpful for us to know who to expect - there is no explanation necessary.

Covid-19

If your daughter 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 NOT 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 test will take place on Monday 2 November for those children who, for medical reasons, could not sit the Entrance Test on the 17 October.

Parents/carers of a child coughing, or who becomes unwell during the Entrance Test will be contacted and requested to collect their child immediately.

Hand sanitising units will be available for use in each test room and at entry points into the school and we will be asking every student to use these facilities throughout their time at the school.

Following your visit if you develop any COVID symptoms within 14 days please notify the school immediately.

How are we keeping your daughter safe whilst in school?

Increased cleaning and sanitising in all areas around the school. This involves cleaning surfaces frequently with regular attention to door handles, banisters, toilets and wash basins as well as each room will be cleaned between the two sessions on the day. Providing hand sanitiser to use in every room, work area and at all entrances and exits in the main buildings. Staff will also be wearing face coverings in communal areas at all times.

When will I find out my daughter's test result?

You will receive an email from Stroud High School to advise whether your daughter has achieved the qualifying standard for entry to the school. Please note that you will receive separate correspondence from each of the grammar schools that you elected to share your test result with. The results will not be available prior to the deadline for you to complete the Common Application Form (CAF) to the Local Authority which is 31 October 2020. We aim to send the results by the end of November, this may change depending on the current pandemic and lockdown measures which may have been put in place.

Familiarisation Booklets

There are familiarisation materials available on the website under the Admissions 2021 section at the bottom. We strongly recommend that your daughter completes these booklets if not already done so in order to understand how to record her answers on the answer sheet (which is separate from the question booklet).

Results

We aim to send an email by the end of November with the results. Please note that you will receive correspondence from each school you have expressed an interest in by sharing your results. Please be aware that this date may change due to the current situation and we endeavour to update you on any changes via our website.

Key dates

Entrance Test	Saturday 17 October 2020
Local Authority 'Common Application Form' deadline	31 October 2020
Local Authority Allocation Day	1 March 2020

Please note:

This information is produced by Stroud High School based on the most up-to-date information available at the time, and may be subject to change.