23rd January 2018

Dear Parents

INFORMATION REGARDING CSSE 11+ EXAMINATIONS – 2019 ENTRY

I am writing to inform you of the Consortium’s 11+ examination procedure for 2019 entry. Registration for the 11+ exam will be from 5th June 2018 to 20th July 2018 inclusive. CSSE schools will hold open days / evenings during June / July 2018.

CSSE 11+ SIF registration commences from 5th June 2018
CSSE 11+ SIF registration closes on 20th July 2018
Tests will take place on Saturday 22nd September 2018

Paper Lengths

English Paper
The English Paper will comprise of:
- Comprehension, grammar and vocabulary questions
- Two pieces of continuous writing
- Applied reasoning (literacy / verbal)
The paper will last 1 hour with an additional 10 minutes reading time and will be worth 60 marks in total.

Mathematics Paper
The mathematics paper will comprise of:
- Questions consistent with the national curriculum
- Applied reasoning (mathematical / non-verbal)
The paper will last 1 hour and be worth 60 marks in total.

Please see a parental guideline for 11+ preparation which is also available on their website www.csse.org.uk.

Please note that the most recent past papers from September 2017 will go on sale on 1st February 2018. An order form will be available from their website (please see the above link).

Yours sincerely

Miss N Hawkes
Head of School
Preparing for the 11+ /statistical information for guidance

The purpose of the 11+ test is to select the children who have the potential to thrive in an environment which provides a highly academic curriculum, which also has depth and breadth, and a range of challenging pursuits. Such children will have demonstrated some of the following:

- curiosity, enjoyment of learning and problem solving
- perseverance and completion of challenging tasks
- understanding of all concepts taught at primary school
- enjoyment of a wide range of literature and/or non-fiction text
- creativity in sustained writing
- ability to make connections between various areas of knowledge
- good memory
- imagination and original ideas
- ability to work at pace and assimilate information quickly
- appreciation of numerical conventions
- ability to apply mathematical concepts

The Headteachers of the CSSE schools believe that in addition to the above, children should:

- be familiar with reading and responding to texts with a reading age greater than 11
- understand the rudiments of spelling, grammar and punctuation

Whilst it is advisable for children to spend a few hours familiarising themselves with the style of responses required in the papers, this can be done at home, using materials and papers available on the CSSE website.

Headteachers share a concern that extensive coaching for the 11+ is inappropriate, ultimately counterproductive and may jeopardize a child’s ability to cope with the demands of a highly academic curriculum.

The precise difficulty of papers can vary and entry requirements are based on standardised score calculations which depend on the performance of the cohort. In addition, application numbers for any particular schools may vary over time and this will affect entry cut off scores. It is therefore impossible to give any exact guidelines about how well candidates need to do on 11+ papers in order to be offered a place in a school.

However, based on recent data and assuming an equal performance on English and Maths, the following are rough guidelines of the percentage score necessary on the papers:

- 55-60% for the Southend grammar schools’ priority area and other Southend schools
- 65% for out of area places at most of the Southend grammar schools
- 65-70% for Colchester County High School
- 70% for CRGS and for KEGS priority area
- 75% for KEGS out of priority area