

Secondary Admissions to Year 7

For September 2026



Secondary School Applications

- Applications need to be made using the following website.

www.kent.gov.uk/ola

If you are interested in your child attending a grammar school then you must register for the Kent Test (applications close on 1st July 2025) - details of this process were shared at the meeting held on 23rd May 2025.

	Open	Close
Secondary school applications	Monday 1 st September 2025	Friday 31 st October 2025



Applying for a place in Year 7....

- ▶ Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) can be completed on line www.kent.gov.uk/ola
- ▶ Parents are invited to express **up to 4 school preferences, ranked in order of their preference**
- ▶ Parents can give reasons for preference including details of any siblings still on roll at that specific school
- ▶ A place will be offered (on National Offer Day - March 2026) at the highest available ranked preference which the child is eligible to attend.
- ▶ If a school cannot be offered at a school named on the form, a place will be offered at an alternative.
- ▶ Pupils with an EHCP do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process

Accepting a place in Year 7....

- ▶ On Offer Day - **Monday 2nd March 2026** - parents will be given
 - ▶ Name of school offered
 - ▶ Reasons why child is not offered place at other schools named
 - ▶ Information about statutory right to appeal for other schools named on SCAF
 - ▶ Information about how to request a place on a waiting list. *Parents cannot request a place on a list for a grammar school unless the child has been assessed as suitable for a grammar school.*
 - ▶ Date to accept or refuse the offer and where or when to lodge an appeal.
- ▶ If your child has an EHCP then your application does not follow the main admission process and is directed via KCC Special Educational Needs Services.

Secondary School Questions / Advice



Before completing your application for a secondary school place we advise parents to.....

- Visit as many school websites as possible (we would normally recommend visiting the schools at a range of different times)
- Take your child with you where possible but do try and visit on your own too.
- Look at the school's website and how they promote themselves.
- Look at the oversubscription criteria for each school you would like to apply for.
- Go to Open Days/Talks/Taster Days/Online Events.
- Talk about if your child can easily get to school....be realistic, think about transport options.

Continued...

- What subjects are offered?
- Applicable to your child's interests?
- What qualifications do they offer.... How are they delivered?
- Sixth Form facilities?
- % that go on to College/University/Apprenticeships?
- Development plans for the next 3 years?
- Ask about your areas of concern eg. Discipline, SEN, pastoral support.



Secondary Admissions Team

Phone: 0300 41 21 21

kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk



Key Dates 2024-2025

Action	Date
Applications for Secondary School Admissions opens	1 st September 2025
Closing date for Secondary School Admissions	31 st October 2025
National Offer Day: school allocations sent via email after 4pm and via 1 st class post	2 nd March 2026
Deadline for lodging appeals	30 th March 2026





Schools in the area

- ▶ The Lenham School
- ▶ Valley Park
- ▶ The School of Science and Technology (SST) Maidstone
- ▶ The Maplesden Noakes School
- ▶ St. Augustine's Academy
- ▶ St. Simon Stock Catholic School
- ▶ Cornwallis Academy
- ▶ New Line Learning Academy
- ▶ Homewood School
- ▶ The North School
- ▶ Towers School
- ▶ The Abbey School
- ▶ Westlands School
- ▶ Maidstone Grammar School
- ▶ Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
- ▶ Invicta Grammar School
- ▶ Oakwood Park Grammar
- ▶ Highworth Grammar
- ▶ Norton Knatchbull School
- ▶ Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
- ▶ Highsted Grammar School
- ▶ Borden Grammar School

The application form will ask for 4 school choices placed in preference order. If you are not given your first choice you can appeal but, the school you would prefer **MUST** be listed on your application form.