



Lower School Entrance Assessment for UK-based candidates' entry in September 2021

Some adaptations have been made to our usual assessment process for children coming into the Lower School (into Years 6, 7 and 8) next September. After much internal discussion, plus feedback from some of our major feeder schools - and taking into account government guidelines about social distancing that will undoubtedly be staying with us for some time to come – the School has determined that inviting children to sit our entrance assessments in January at Oakham will be neither safe nor practical this year.

Our chief consideration is to ensure that our process is properly accessible and fair for all. Our research makes clear that the children sitting assessments at their current school (or at home) is also not feasible – at least not for everyone.

Therefore, following the example of the public examinations earlier this year, the Head of Lower School will request information from children's current teachers and Heads to provide him with an accurate reflection about each child's level, scores and potential. The return date for this information, which will include comprehensive data from diagnostic tests and personal comment, as well as discussions with Headteachers where it is deemed necessary, is **Monday 18 January 2021**.

The children will also be invited to have a virtual face-to-face interview, of no more than 15 minutes, with one of the Lower School Housemasters/Housemistresses or the Head of Lower School. The School is setting aside **Saturday 16 or 23 January 2021** for this opportunity. Details about which date and how to book a slot will be sent to parents of registered children in due course.

Once the Head of Lower School and his team have analysed the information they receive, they are confident that they will be able to make an informed decision about whether Oakham is the right fit for the candidate's future education.

Letters with the outcome will be sent to parents by the end of January 2021.

The Head of Lower School wishes to reassure parents that the School has put in place a robust assessment process for September 2021 entrance that is transparent, fair and – most importantly - in the best interests of the children's current and future learning.

Any parents wishing to discuss this further are encouraged to contact Mr Adrian Morris, Head of Lower School, on acm@oakham.rutland.sch.uk or 01572 758700.