



Head Start
Education and Tuition

Head Start Education & Tuition
Poppy Lodge,
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27th July 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE

**NEW PROSPECTIVE COURSE TIMETABLE
FOR ASSESSMENTS, SUMMER SCHOOL & REVISION PHASES OF STUDY**

Dear Parents,

I hope that this correspondence finds you and your family members well and in good health at this current time. We are delighted to have been given the go ahead and secure the use of the wonderful conferencing suite at the prestigious Crowne Plaza, Marlow, exclusively for our Summer School weeks 2, 3 and 4. These beautiful facilities have been rigorously prepared and checked for safe use in light of the Coronavirus pandemic and we are thrilled to welcome back all of our pupils into the classroom.

I am writing to you with an update on the Head Start Education and Tuition course of study for the remainder of 2020 through to the 11+ Secondary Transfer Test. You may have been aware of the proposal by The Bucks Grammar Schools (TBGS) to postpone the 11+ Secondary Transfer test to November from the originally scheduled date in September. On 24th of July, the Department for Education published its guidance on selective school admission and advised testing should be moved to late October/November. In line with that advice and their initial proposal, TBGS has now confirmed the tests will taken in the week commencing 2nd November 2020.

This is the outcome we were hoping and preparing for as it allows for the children to catch up on a significant amount of education both at School and with us at Head Start. However, whilst the extra time is welcomed it also means a two-month gap in between the end of Summer School and the 11+ test. We have therefore decided to reschedule our courses in order to postpone our Revision Course and also include; the previously cancelled Mock Examinations; the 2-day Learning and Assessment which will be reconfigured as an Ultimate Revision course and, hopefully; a Week 5 of Summer School. We believe that this will help ensure that our students are fully and adequately prepared for and don't experience any loss of momentum leading up to, the 11+.

The prospective course schedule will be as follows...

PROSPECTIVE TIMETABLE FOR PHASES 4, 7 & 8
11+ Examination week Commencing 2nd November 2020

DATE	DAY	COURSE
Aug 3 rd – 7 th	Mon – Fri	Summer School Week 2
Aug 10 th – 14 th	Mon - Fri	Summer School Week 3
Aug 17 th – 21 st	Mon - Fri	Summer School Week 4
Aug 24 th – 28 th	Mon - Fri	Summer School Week 5 (TBC)

Sep 12 th	Sat	Revision
Sep 19 th	Sat	Revision
Sep 26 th	Sat	Revision
Oct 3 rd	Sat	Revision

Oct 10 th	Sat	Mock Tests 1 & 2
Oct 17 th	Sat	Mock Tests 3 & 4

Oct 26 th – 30 th	TBC	2-day Ultimate Revision Course
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W/C 2 nd Nov	TBC	11+ Practice Test *
W/C 2 nd Nov	TBC	11+ Secondary Transfer Test *

*Please note this is the actual 11+ Practice test and Secondary Transfer Test which the Children take at School. This is not a Head Start course. A copy of The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools FAQ's regarding the change in Secondary Transfer dates has been included within this letter for your information. The full list of FAQ's and news regarding the date change can be found at www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/faqs.

It is our belief and hope that this reconfigured course schedule will benefit our pupils and parents significantly and that every one of our pupils will be able to take advantage of the additional contact time with our wonderful teachers and the continued exam practice.

We appreciate that this has been a challenging and uncertain time for everyone but hopefully this is the light at the end of the tunnel and the certainty we have all been searching for. We want to thank you once again for your patience, understanding and flexibility as we continue to meander through this difficult time together and look forward to seeing you at Summer School.

Your Sincerely,



Gillian Gray
Course Director

FAQs (<https://www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/faqs>)

Later test dates for 2021 entry due to Covid-19

Subject to permission from the Department for Education, TBGS is planning to test children later than usual this year. The FAQs below provide more information about the reasons for this and answer questions raised by parents.

Why is TBGS planning to test later this year?

Schooling has been severely disrupted for children since March. Most Year 5 children will have had little or no time at school from 20 March until September. TBGS considered several options but did not consider it fair for these children to take the test at the usual time. Testing later will allow more time for children to settle back into school. Later testing will also allow schools more time to get used to the new working practices with more children on site.

When will TBGS be able to confirm the preferred new dates?

The new dates are dependent on approval from the Department for Education. We will confirm dates as soon as we receive the necessary permission.

The government has said that all children will be back at school in September. Doesn't that mean that testing should go ahead as originally planned?

The government has not yet published details as to how this is going to work however TBGS believes it is fairer for children to have time to settle back into school before they are tested.

What are the key dates for 2021 entry? Updated 24 July 2020

5 May 2020, 3pm - registration opens for parents of children who **do not** attend a Buckinghamshire LA primary school

25 June 2020, 3pm - registration closes

27-30 October practice and Secondary Transfer Test (out of county children)*

2-5 November practice and Secondary Transfer Test (children attending Buckinghamshire primary and Partner schools)*

31 October 2020, 3pm - deadline for secondary school applications

30 November 2020 - Secondary Transfer Test results*

1 March 2021 - National Offer Day

*** Owing to Covid-19 TBGS has moved these dates to later in the Autumn term than previously planned.**