



11 September 2020

Variation to The King's (The Cathedral) School's Admissions Arrangements September 2020

Entrance Test - 3 October 2020 (Cancelled)

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is with sincere regret that I need to inform parents and carers that we shall no longer be able to proceed with the plans for our Entrance Test for academic entry on 3 October 2020. The recent changes in public health advice have meant that we can no longer safely organise a test for as many as 350 children, across 60 feeder schools and safely welcome them, and their parents/carers, onto our site. In the current circumstances, in which schools are working so hard to maintain social distancing and the year group 'bubbles', it would simply not be safe to try to do so.

For that reason, I am writing to parents, carers and primary schools to confirm the cancellation of the entrance test which had been scheduled for 3 October 2020. We have written to the Secretary of State for Education, as we are obliged to do in such circumstances, for his permission to vary our Admission Arrangements in these very unusual circumstances. Subject to the Secretary of State's permission, governors shall not be offering any places for academic entry in September 2021. The intention is that these places will be offered in a fair and consistent way, according to our published oversubscription criteria, and the Admissions Code.

I'm sure parents and carers will want to be reassured that we have exhausted all possible avenues for proceeding with some form of academic selection, for these 12 places. Please be assured that, amongst other things, we have looked at the following alternatives:

- fair and consistent online assessments;
- hosting the Entrance Examination in multiple venues;
- using KS2 data from primary schools;
- hosting the Entrance Examination in primary schools.

For practical reasons to do with the number of schools from which our pupils come every year, and the staffing implications of liaising with so many different schools, not to mention the very challenging timeframes within which we have had to work, I'm afraid none of these options has provided us with a viable alternative. We also have to work in a context in which SATs test for KS2 pupils were cancelled this year.

For these reasons, governors have had no option but to seek permission from the Secretary of State to proceed differently over this particular aspect of our published Admissions Arrangements. The arrangements for auditioning for music places in Year 7 will not be affected. Further information about auditions for the Cathedral Choir (Year 3) can be found on the Peterborough Cathedral website.

I appreciate that this decision will be very disappointing to some families. Please be assured that we have spent a great deal of energy trying to avoid it but, in the current circumstances, have no other option.

Applications for places at the School can be submitted in the usual way and we hope to be uploading the information for our Virtual Open Evening very shortly. In the meantime, if you have any further queries regarding the School's Admissions Arrangements, please contact the Registrar, whose email can be found on the Admissions pages of the School's website.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Ayling', written in a cursive style.

Darren Ayling
Headteacher