

## Aim Higher Newsletter July 2025

Aim Higher concluded its first term last week on 3rd July 2025. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome the Year 5 students into Borden Grammar School for these sessions!

Our first session for Year 5 students began back in Term 5 on 12th May 2025, where we welcomed two classes of 30 Year 5s to Borden on Tuesday and Thursday for an icebreaker session. However, with an unprecedented amount of applications, we felt the 60 places were simply not enough to meet the demand and therefore we decided to expand to be able to accommodate another 60 students! We therefore welcomed 120 students to Borden for Aim Higher in Term 6, beginning on 10th June 2025, running for 4 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays until our final session on Thursday 3rd July.



The Aim Higher sessions across Term 6 were dedicated to the four components of the Kent and Borden tests: Non-Verbal Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, Maths and English. With 60 students coming, I delivered a session to one of the groups of 30, with other members of staff kindly offering to take the other 30 on each day. A variety of Borden catered challenges were set to make the practice as fun and interactive as possible!

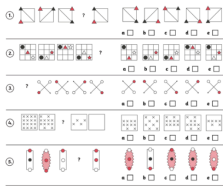
### Mr Tomlin needs your help...

- He needs to set up for the open evening but his supplies to make Borden Grammar School look the best are secured in a locked box.
- He needs to find the code!
- Solve the following non-verbal reasoning clues to get the 3 letters of the code to open the box!



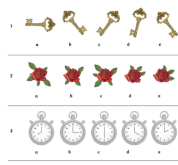
**Clue 1:** Look at the five sets of patterns below. Each set of patterns has an image missing. Choose the image that best fits the pattern from the five options provided.

The option (a-e) that is selected the most often for the completion of the patterns provides the first letter of the code!



The first letter for the code is:

**Clue 2:** Look at the three sets of images. In each set, one image is different to the others. Which image is odd in each set? The associated letters will finalise the letter code to open the box to help Mr Tomlin with the open evening!



The last letter for the code is:

The overall 3 letter code to help Mr Tomlin open the box is:

**Week 1** was a session on Non-Verbal Reasoning. Miss Irinoye and Mrs Williamson on Tuesday and Thursday respectively kindly offered their time to deliver the sessions. The aim of this session was to get familiar with reasoning with abstract figures to identify patterns and establish the new figures in the sequence. The challenge set was to help Mr Tomlin open his box of supplies by solving the non-verbal reasoning clues to find the code. Everyone gave it a good go and by the end of the session, everyone was successful in solving the NVR clues to find the code to the box of supplies for Mr Tomlin!

**Week 2** surrounded Verbal Reasoning and exploring the relationships between words. Due to the diversity by which the Kent Test can ask of Verbal Reasoning questions, the challenge was set to complete as many of these questions as possible in the 30 minutes. Miss Pickett and Ms Wrighton kindly offered to run these sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, and by the end, all students had an insight into the types of Verbal Reasoning questions asked in the Kent and Borden tests.

#### Task 4: Letters for numbers

	Sum	Answer
1) If A = 7, B = 9, C = 15, D = 16 and E = 14, what is the answer to the sum written as a letter?	E + B - A =	<input type="text"/>
2) If A = 9, B = 11, C = 16, D = 4 and E = 7, what is the answer to the sum written as a letter?	D + C - B =	<input type="text"/>
3) If A = 4, B = 12, C = 9, D = 17 and E = 8, what is the answer to the sum written as a letter?	D - B + A =	<input type="text"/>
4) If A = 6, B = 10, C = 9, D = 7 and E = 11, what is the answer to the sum written as a letter?	E + A - D =	<input type="text"/>
5) If A = 15, B = 6, C = 18, D = 7 and E = 17, what is the answer to the sum written as a letter?	C - D + B =	<input type="text"/>

#### Task 3: Same meaning

1)	(bird, fowl)	(bend, dodge)			
2)	(holiday, journey)	(fall, stumble)			
3)	(tool, equipment)	(observed, spotted)			
4)	(branch, stem)	(follow, hunt)			
5)	(sphere, orb)	(dance, event)			
1)	avoid <input type="checkbox"/>	animal <input type="checkbox"/>	move <input type="checkbox"/>	duck <input type="checkbox"/>	miss <input type="checkbox"/>
2)	trip <input type="checkbox"/>	vacation <input type="checkbox"/>	falter <input type="checkbox"/>	slip <input type="checkbox"/>	ramble <input type="checkbox"/>
3)	apparatus <input type="checkbox"/>	saw <input type="checkbox"/>	noticed <input type="checkbox"/>	view <input type="checkbox"/>	machine <input type="checkbox"/>
4)	track <input type="checkbox"/>	offshoot <input type="checkbox"/>	stalk <input type="checkbox"/>	look <input type="checkbox"/>	twig <input type="checkbox"/>
5)	ball <input type="checkbox"/>	disco <input type="checkbox"/>	circle <input type="checkbox"/>	celebration <input type="checkbox"/>	round <input type="checkbox"/>

### There's a problem... The mystery of the missing microphone

Borden Grammar School is hosting an open evening but Mr Tomlin's microphone has been stolen!



Here are the list of suspects with key information about them.

Solve the following maths problems to find out who the culprit is!

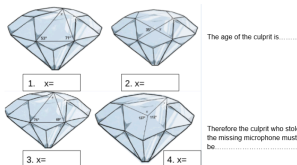
Name	Wearing a tie?	Age	Favourite historical ruler
Mr Mulligan	Yes	50	Julius Caesar
Miss Irinoye	No	29	Cleopatra
Mr Westby	No	35	Julius Caesar
Mrs Brooker	No	42	Julius Caesar
Mr Brinn	Yes	56	Henry VIII

**Clue 2:** Look at the statements below and decide if they are true or false. If there are more true statements than false statements, then the culprit is wearing a tie. If there are more false statements than true statements, then the culprit is not wearing a tie.

Statements	True	False
$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{6}$		
30% of £70 is £20.		
$\frac{1}{3}$ is the same as 0.75.		
$\frac{1}{10}$ is the same as 85%.		
In a pattern of 3, 7, 11 and 15, the next two numbers are 19 and 23.		
$12A + 3B = 10A + 9B$		
15% of £300 is £45.		
$185 - 43 = 132$		
3, 9 and 12 are all factors of 54.		

Answer: There are more \_\_\_\_\_ statements. Therefore, the culprit is \_\_\_\_\_ wearing a tie.

**Clue 3:** Find the missing angles of the shapes below to identify the culprit. The angle that appears twice will give you the age of the culprit.



**Week 3** involved the Maths segment of the Kent and Borden tests. Whilst the Thursday session had to be cancelled due to a trip change, the Tuesday groups were set the challenge of solving the mystery of the missing microphone. With Mr Morris and Mr Engel kindly agreeing to run one of the sessions, students were set a variety of different types of Maths questions to rule out some suspects of who may have taken the missing microphone. They were tasked with solving multiplications, fractions and angles. On completing the Maths tasks, the students worked hard to find out that the person who had the missing microphone was in fact Mr Westby! Some valuable Maths practice was completed that week!

**Week 4** was our final week of Aim Higher and was therefore English practice. Ms Wrighton and Mr Holley kindly ran the sessions, which involved practicing reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar. The challenge was set this week for students to find the location of the Borden mini bus which was potentially lost in various locations around Sittingbourne. Students needed to complete the English tasks to solve all 3 clues to find the location of the Borden bus. After a lot of hard work, the students managed to successfully identify that the Borden mini bus was in fact lost in Sheerness! A variety of English tasks were completed, making for valuable English preparation for the Kent and Borden tests.

### There's a problem... The Borden mini bus is lost!

Borden Grammar School is on a football fixture but has got lost in Sittingbourne and the surrounding areas.



Here are the list of the key places it could possibly be.

Solve the following English problems to find out whereabouts the mini bus is!

Place	Near the sea?	Average temperature	Has a church?
Queenborough	Yes	21.42	No
Teynham	No	25.62	Yes
Sheerness	Yes	20.31	Yes
Murston	No	18.38	Yes
Kemsley	No	24.67	No


**Clue 2:** Look at the words listed in the columns. Each column provides the same word but only one of them is spelled correctly. Identify the correctly spelled words and decide which column has the most amount of correctly spelled words in it.

A	B	C
government	goverment	govermunt
immedialtly	imediatly	imediatlly
interupt	intarupt	intarupt
necessary	necessary	necessry
ocassion	ocasion	ocassion
independent	independant	independant
essary	ecessary	ecessary
basicaly	basicaly	basicaly
believe	believe	believe
appearance	appearance	appearance
across	across	across
beginning	begining	beginning
conscious	conscious	conscious
disappear	disappear	disappear
embarrass	embarrass	embarrass
characteristic	characteristic	characteristic
privilege	priviledge	priviledge
interference	interference	interference
address	address	address
generally	generally	generally

If column A has the greatest number of correctly spelled words then the average summer temperature of the city is **between 20 and 23 degrees Celsius**.

If column B has the greatest number of correctly spelled words then the average summer temperature of the city is **above 23 degrees Celsius**.

If column C has the greatest number of correctly spelled words then the average summer temperature of the city is **less than 20 degrees Celsius**.

The temperature of the city is: 

To round off the first term, I wanted to give a huge thank you to all of the staff who have supported me in putting these sessions on in Term 6. Special thanks must go to the teaching staff who volunteered their time at the very last minute for us to be able to increase the capacity of Aim Higher. Without them, Aim Higher would fundamentally not have worked for this term and we would have been letting a lot of people down (over 100!). The Office staff, as always, have been absolutely excellent in supporting behind the scenes. They use their time taking calls, responding to emails and creating name labels for Aim Higher just to name a few, and it would simply not run without them!

Likewise, I must extend this thanks to the wonderful Year 12 team who have supported week in week out. Alongside their studies, they have given up their free time to assist and support



with the running of Aim Higher, some of which did so during their exam week, but also came back from their work experience voluntarily to help out with the sessions. (And when they couldn't, lovely Mr Parrott stepped in to save the day!) The Year 12s carried themselves with utmost professionalism and leadership, embodying both the Borden values and representing the school to a high standard in assisting these sessions. Thank you so much to Skye, Iqra, Joshua, Elena, Ariane, Jayden, Jake, Naomi and James for taking the time to help with these sessions. They would certainly not be as stress free or successful without you!

Finally, a special and individual thank you must go to Mrs Brown. As one of our excellent LSAs at Borden, she volunteered out of her own time to assist with the sessions. She has been supporting students with completing the activities, as well as supporting me in running the sessions and dealing with the logistics of having 60 Year 5s on site! It certainly could not be as smooth, nor as effective without her wonderful help and support!

For now, Aim Higher will be taking a break until September. I will be back in contact in early September with the plan for Aim Higher going forward.

Thank you for all of the support so far from students and parents, and we look forward to both welcoming back and maybe even seeing new faces at Borden Grammar School for Aim Higher in September!

All the best,

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