

The Borden Assessment Procedure for Admissions to Year 7 (Optional) September 2023

The information below should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

‘The Admission Policy and Oversubscription Criteria for September 2023’

‘Kent County Council’s Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary Admissions – 2023/2024’

1. The school will admit boys through the Kent PESE (Procedure for Entrance into Secondary Education) procedure. The school will **also** admit boys through success in the Borden Assessment procedure where a boy has been unsuccessful in the Kent testing process.
2. If an applicant wishes their son to take the optional Borden Assessment Procedure in addition to the Kent PESE tests they need to register to do so between 9.00am Wednesday, 1st June 2022 and 4.00pm on Friday, 1st July 2022.
3. The registration form will be available from the school office or can be downloaded for completion from the school website from Wednesday, 1st June 2022.
4. There is no online registration facility available.
5. Registration is open to boy’s resident in the UK and the children of UK service personnel and other Crown servants returning to the UK who will transfer to secondary school in September 2023.
6. Testing will take place at Borden Grammar School, Sittingbourne on Saturday, 10th September 2022.

Testing will be in two parts:

A paper-based test which will consist of three papers which will assess:

- a) verbal ability
- b) numerical / mathematical reasoning
- c) non- verbal reasoning

The test will be broken up into these three sections

An English paper to assess Reading and Writing skills and which will be marked. (Not computer based or multiple choice)

The advantage of doing the Borden Test in addition to the Kent Test is that if your son is a ‘near miss’ with the Kent test but does well in the Borden test, he may be accepted by Borden without having to wait for the appeals process in May 2023. This reduces stress levels all round.

Kent and Borden Assessment Procedure Tests - FAQs

1. Why have we got a separate test to the Kent test?

We have introduced the Borden Assessment Procedure to give students a second opportunity to meet the threshold for entry into Borden and provide the same experience for both potential Borden and Highsted students. It allows us to award places earlier in the admissions timeline and reduce the number of students and parents who have to wait for the appeal process to conclude before knowing which school they will be allocated.

2. Will the Borden Assessment Procedure test be similar in format and style to the Kent Test?

The Borden test is designed by GL assessment, the same company that produces the Kent Test and so will be similar in style. There will be mainly multiple-choice questions and some extended writing on the English comprehension designed to test reading and writing (see above).

3. Will the Borden Assessment Procedure involve Verbal, Non-Verbal reasoning and Maths? Are there any familiarisation materials?

There will be papers testing verbal ability, numerical / mathematical reasoning and non - verbal reasoning plus an additional English paper (see above). The familiarisation materials for the Kent Test on the KCC website are useful in this respect.

4. Can they take the Borden Assessment Procedure without taking the Kent test and visa versa?

You must take the Kent Test to be eligible to take the Borden Assessment Procedure. You do not have to take the Borden Assessment Procedure to gain entry to Borden, a successful Kent Test result on its own will do. The Borden Assessment Procedure is optional.

5. What happens if they pass one and not the other?

A pass in either of the tests will mean that you are assessed as 'Grammar' and can apply to Borden.

6. How can I help my son prepare for these tests?

There are lots of ways you can help your son prepare for these tests. Familiarising them with the style of questions and doing practice papers is an obvious way to help. Kent County Council have a familiarisation booklet on their website and the link to that is below:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-3

There are also commercial products such as 11+ practice papers and software that can easily be found using search engines or popping into bookshops. The Kent and Borden tests are set by a company called GL Assessment and so any practice which includes these style of questions will be useful. Software that has been recommended by parents is Planet BOFA which requires a paid subscription. Borden is also trialling free FROG familiarisation software through selected primaries for disadvantaged students in order to widen access. If you feel this applies to your son, for example, you are in receipt of free school meals, please contact your primary or Miss Irinoye at Borden.

Finally, please try to keep stress levels low with your son in the run up to these tests. We would always advise against tutoring, but practising little and often helps to take some of the stress away. Please always reassure them that, as long as they do their best, that is all you can ask for.