

The Borden Assessment Procedure for Admissions to Year 7 (Optional) September 2024

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

'The Admission Policy and Oversubscription Criteria for September 2024'

'Kent County Council's Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary Admissions – 2024/2025'

1. Boys who have taken part in the Kent PESE (Procedure for Entrance into Secondary Education) procedure will also be eligible for admission if they reach the required standard through the **Borden Assessment Procedure**, as set out in Section 3 the school's Admissions Policy.
2. The Borden Assessment Procedure is an optional, **additional** opportunity to assess eligibility. The main principle of admission to the school is to maintain the character of a selective, single sex school. We promote excellence and expect boys to exhibit a strong work ethic and commitment to academic study.
3. 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.
4. 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 Thursday, 1st June 2023 and 4.00pm on Monday, 3rd July 2023.
5. The registration form will be available from the school office or can be downloaded for completion from the school website from Thursday, 1st June 2023.
6. There is no online registration facility available.
7. Registration is open to boys 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 2024.
8. To be eligible for the Borden Assessment Procedure boys must have sat the Kent Test.
9. Testing will take place at Borden Grammar School, Sittingbourne on Saturday, 9th September 2023. There are no other opportunities to take the Borden Admission Procedure.

Testing will be in four parts:

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

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

The advantage of doing the Borden Test (Borden Admission Procedure) **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 Grammar School without having to wait for the appeals process in May 2024. This reduces stress levels all round.

Kent and Borden Assessment Procedure Tests - FAQs

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.

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.

Can boys 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.

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. You must however have sat the Kent Test.

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 and Borden Grammar School have free familiarisation material on their website and the links are below:

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf

<https://ddlnk.net/29N0-1XW2R-5196F3AED10FB638A967YC005994FAEF8EF7BE/cr.aspx>

There are also commercial products such as 11+ practice papers and software that can easily be found using search engines or visiting bookshops. The Kent and Borden tests are set by a company called GL Assessment and so any practice which includes these styles 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 school or Miss Johnson at Borden Grammar School.

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.