

## Information from Secondary Transfer Meeting

Secondary schools will be running their open days and evenings differently this year, due to health and safety restrictions as a result of Covid-19. Some schools have set provisional dates for socially distanced open events, which they will publicise on their website. Please do not attend these dates without checking with the school first that they are still going ahead.

Virtual tours and talks - some schools have produced virtual tours showing you around their school. Others will be inviting prospective students and parents to meet Head Teachers and staff online and find out more about the school. Many schools need you to sign up, even for virtual tours.

This year more than ever, it will be important to use both Lewisham and individual school's websites to find out what schools are offering and when. It is really important that you visit and research as many schools as you can, whether physically or virtually.

Please make a list of all the schools you are interested in and compile a list of dates when visits, etc. may be available. I would suggest you regularly check both Lewisham and individual school's websites for up-to-date information.

I would recommend signing up for regular email alerts via the Lewisham website - these will keep you on track!

### **MAKING THE DECISION**

Whether you visit the school, or take part in a virtual tour it is important to:

- Include your child;
- Have some questions/checklist in mind of what you think is important;
- Look at a range of schools;
- Remember things are changing (buildings, facilities, quality of teaching, results) – don't go on old reputations or what others have said;
- Each child is different and different schools suit different children.

As always it is really important to look closely at the admissions criteria – all schools differ slightly and it is important to get all forms, etc. in on time or your child will go to the bottom of the list.

**<b>You need to consider whether your child has a good chance of getting in.</b>** There is no point putting a school on your list if you are too far away and have no chance of getting in. Criteria are usually in this order:

- **<b>Looked After Child;**
- **Medical/social reasons - exceptional and would need proof from professionals;**
- **Brother or sister at the school;**
- **Distance;**
- **Faith - certain schools</b>**

To find out whether you may be successful, please look at last year's application information - you can find it online or in the booklet and check this against how far you are from the school. You can check out distances from your home using google maps.

Please remember lots of schools are over-subscribed, so it is important to **look at local ones first.** It is important to know how much of a gamble you are taking by putting your child down for a particular school.

If you live in Lewisham, you apply to Lewisham – even if you want to apply to schools in other boroughs. You can apply for schools in any borough, but you need to be aware of distance!

If you do not live in Lewisham, you will need to apply via your council website. You can choose Lewisham schools if you wish, but again should be aware of distance.

Lots more information is available at:-

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school>

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

All applications need to be done online.

You have up to 6 choices (you can make fewer but remember it doesn't make choices more likely if you only choose 1 or 2). If you only put 2 and don't live close enough for those, you will be given whatever schools are left – therefore, I would suggest putting as many as you can, but not putting a school you definitely do not want.

**List schools in order of preference** - think carefully. You will be offered a place at your highest ranked school, so make sure you are clear that you want the school at the top of the list.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

1/9	Applications open
Sept/Oct	Visits – mainly virtual
31/10	Closing date for applications – as this in half-term I would advise you aim to get it in by the last day of half-term (Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October)
2/3	Results emailed out with results
16/3	Deadline to accept places

## Apply Online

- You need to register now & get a password so you are ready to apply at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk);
- If you have already applied for a school place online (either Primary or Secondary school) you should use the same log in as you have before;
- Once registered you will be sent a username and instructions to validate and a 2<sup>nd</sup> email with your password;
- Check your spam/junk mail filter if this does not arrive;
- **<b>KEEP this information safe as you will need it for future admissions</b>**;
- If you do not get a response, then admissions have not received your email;
- Lewisham libraries or our school office will help you - due to present restrictions, it is important that once you know which schools you want, if you need help you give us plenty of warning to be able to arrange a time;
- Submit by Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October (we would encourage by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct the last day of this half-term).

## INFORMATION NEEDED

- Your child's name should be exactly the same as written on birth certificate/addresses correct (may be required to prove with council tax statement, child benefit);
- You must let the council know if you have changed address;
- Take care with the name of school;
- DfE numbers are vital;
- Tick box for any school providing additional information

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Some schools ask for additional information. It is best to thoroughly check the website of the schools you are applying to.

In summary:

- Both Prendergast School and Haberdasher Aske's offer places for talented musicians – if this is something you wish to consider you will need to look for details on their website. Please note applications need to be made soon e.g. Aske's closing date for this is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September;
- Some schools will consider children's medical and social needs - please check individual school websites as dates vary for submitting this information. This would need to be supported by professional documents;
- Some church schools – Bonus Pastor, St Matthews and Trinity all have supplementary forms that need to be included. Information is available on their websites and should be obtained from and returned to the school by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

If you think your child has exceptional medical/social reasons and therefore needs a particular school, please give me a call and I will happily advise.

If you're thinking about independent schools – deal with them direct.

**<b>ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH.</b>**