

St. Michael's School



Form 6

Information  
for Parents

September 2009

## **Moving into Form 6**

Last year you received a Form 5 information booklet as your child was about to move into Form 5. Now your child is moving into Form 6 and although a lot of the information in last year's booklet is still relevant, there are some changes and additions for the current year.

## **Secondary Schools**

Many of you will have started to narrow down the choice of future schooling options whilst your child was in Form 5. The Secondary Schools will be holding a number of Open Days and Evenings in the first half of the Michaelmas Term. Dates that we have already received from the different schools are on the Date List and reminders will be put in the Newsletter. At St. Michael's we will be holding our annual Education Fair on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September in the Hall. As last year, there will be representatives from about 12 local Secondary Schools present and there will be an opportunity for parents to view literature, meet with representatives and discuss future schooling options. Form 6 parents are warmly invited to attend this event, even if they attended last year.

## **Secondary School Admissions**

All Form 6 children received a flyer, from Southend Borough Council, before the end of the Summer Term in Form 5 about Secondary School Admissions in September 2010. It gave advice about on-line admissions and informed parents that the closing date for applications to secondary schools is midnight on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009. The date for Essex County Council is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Packs containing the Secondary School Admissions 2009/2010 booklet and a paper copy of the Single Application Form will be distributed from school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009. A number of meetings will be held for parents to give details of the admissions process for September 2010. The meetings will be held as follows:

14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm – 8.30pm  
Earls Hall Junior School, Westcliff on Sea

16<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm – 8.30pm  
Blenheim Primary School, Leigh on Sea

17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm – 8.30pm  
Thorpedene Junior School, Shoeburyness

Essex also publish a Secondary School Admissions booklet which will be distributed to parents in September.

### **11+ Selection Test**

It is a parental decision to enter children for the 11+ and parents should not feel under any pressure to do this if it is not their choice. Please advise us at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term if it is not your intention to enter your child for the 11+ selection test.

The 11+ test will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009. There will be three separate tests; one in English (40 minutes), one in mathematics (35 minutes) and one in verbal reasoning (50 minutes).

Verbal reasoning is worth 50% of the total marks, with

English and maths worth 25% each.

The English paper consists of a single comprehension passage and associated questions. Punctuation, vocabulary and spelling questions will be based on the comprehension passage. The maths test is set at National Curriculum levels 4 and 5. Candidates can expect some more searching questions to test problem solving abilities and depth of mathematical understanding. The verbal reasoning test is multiple choice and is also designed to demonstrate an ability to solve problems.

The Consortium 11+ Information Guide will be distributed to parents once they have arrived in school in September. It is also available on the CSSE website at [www.csse.org.uk](http://www.csse.org.uk). The Parental Information Guide contains a CSSE Supplementary Information Form (SIF) whereby parents register their children with the CSSE office to sit the 11+ tests. Registration forms should be sent to the CSSE office by 30th October 2009.

The CSSE Parental Information Guide does not contain a secondary school application form for parents. Parents must complete their Local Authority's application form for secondary school places, which will be distributed in September as already explained.

### **Preparation in school**

Preparation for the 11+ will continue in school as usual. Mrs Long and Mrs Walpole will prepare the children in English, maths and VR. The children work in two ability groups for English, maths and VR, set back to back.

Pupils who would benefit from extra support in VR have already been offered half an hour after school on Tuesdays from the last few weeks of Form 5. This will continue during the Michaelmas Term in Form 6. Pupils who need additional support in maths are invited, by Mrs Walpole, to attend a group at lunchtime on a Tuesday to help address any specific areas of difficulty, run by Mrs Blaney and these sessions are open to all pupils. Different children will be invited to attend each week, depending on the focus of the session. It is expected that, if invited, pupils attend these sessions. For pupils who need additional support in English, Mrs Long will continue to run a “Literary Lunch” one lunchtime during the week for the Michaelmas Term. This is a voluntary activity and will focus on oral comprehension and vocabulary rather than on written answers.

Before the 11+ takes place, Form 6 will have done two complete practice sessions under exam conditions and strictly timed. There will also be a Parents’ Evening for each of the Form 6 classes, before the application deadline, to enable you to make an informed decision whether to enter your child for the 11+ examination. Although advice will be offered, it is important that you realise that it is not our decision; it is a decision that you as parents make.

## **Entrance Exams**

Some children will be considering entrance to a school which has its own entrance exam, such as Brentwood. Whilst a lot of the 11+ preparation is in common with other entrance exams, there will be opportunities to look at some specific preparation before these entrance ex-

ams. However, please ensure that we know which schools you are planning to apply to.

## **SATs**

After the 11+ examination the focus for Form 6 moves to preparation for SATs. These are important national tests which the children take in English and maths. SATs are taken in the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The exams have to be taken on set days and the papers are marked and moderated externally. The results are sent to the secondary schools ready for the children's transition at the end of Form 6.

## **Homework**

Homework continues to be of importance to Form 6 and for the Michaelmas Term the focus will mainly be on the core subjects. As always, we would ask that the children have a routine so that they know when the homework should be done and that they have a quiet place in which to do it. Please check that homework has been completed before signing the homework diary daily. Staff will mark in red in the homework diary if homework has not been completed so that it can be seen clearly that work is outstanding. It is then expected that it will be completed. Reading and spelling should happen regularly and it is expected that, at times during the year, homework will take up to approximately an hour and a half of focused work each evening, excluding time to read and learn spellings. If your child is regularly spending considerably longer than this, please tell the Form teacher. If children miss work through unavoidable absence, please try to ensure that they catch up on any missing or outstanding work, wherever possible.

## **Special Study**

During Form 6, especially after SATs, the children undertake a Special Study in most of the different curriculum areas. This leads to a presentation of their work to parents one afternoon at the end of the school day towards the end of the Summer Term.

## **Expectations**

By the end of Form 6 at St. Michael's it is anticipated that most children will have achieved the following expectations in terms of independence, personal organisation and self-discipline:

- To show respect for all aspects of school life, in and out of school
- To wear the St. Michael's uniform with pride in school and in public
- To be focussed on their work, even without direct supervision
- To take responsibility for their actions, to understand the effect of them on others and to accept the consequences of their actions
- To have a full understanding of the Behaviour Policy and how it applies to them
- To be role models and to relate to and support younger pupils
- To be courteous to everyone, including their peers
- To attempt to solve problems before seeking help
- To be a team player
- To recognise diversity and to respect it
- To show self-motivation, without the need for reward
- To learn to give and take
- To value their positions of responsibility

## **Other Activities**

The children in Form 6 have many other activities to focus on during the course of the year, especially after SATs. These include an optional residential visit to France, the Form 6 play, orienteering and marine activities.

## **Key Dates**

Below is an outline of some of the key dates and events for pupils going into Form 6. Please confirm these with any information received from CSSE, Southend Borough Council or Essex County Council.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

7.30pm Education Fair at St. Michael's School  
for F5/6 Parents

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

5.30pm 6L Parents' Evening

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

5.30pm 6W Parents' Evening

### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Deadline for secondary school application  
forms for Essex County Council

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Deadline for secondary school application forms for Southend Borough Council

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009**

11+ selective entrance examination

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

Full end of term report

*Secondary Schools will be holding various Open Mornings and Evenings throughout the Michaelmas Term.*

*Dates for events in 2010 will be confirmed in due course.*

**Lent Term 2010**

Parents' Evening with Form Tutors and Specialist Teachers

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

End of term summary report

**Summer Term 2010**

**10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Key Stage 2 Tests

Final 6L Assembly, followed by coffee

Final 6W Assembly, followed by coffee

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Full end of term report

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