

KENT TEST 2026

CATS

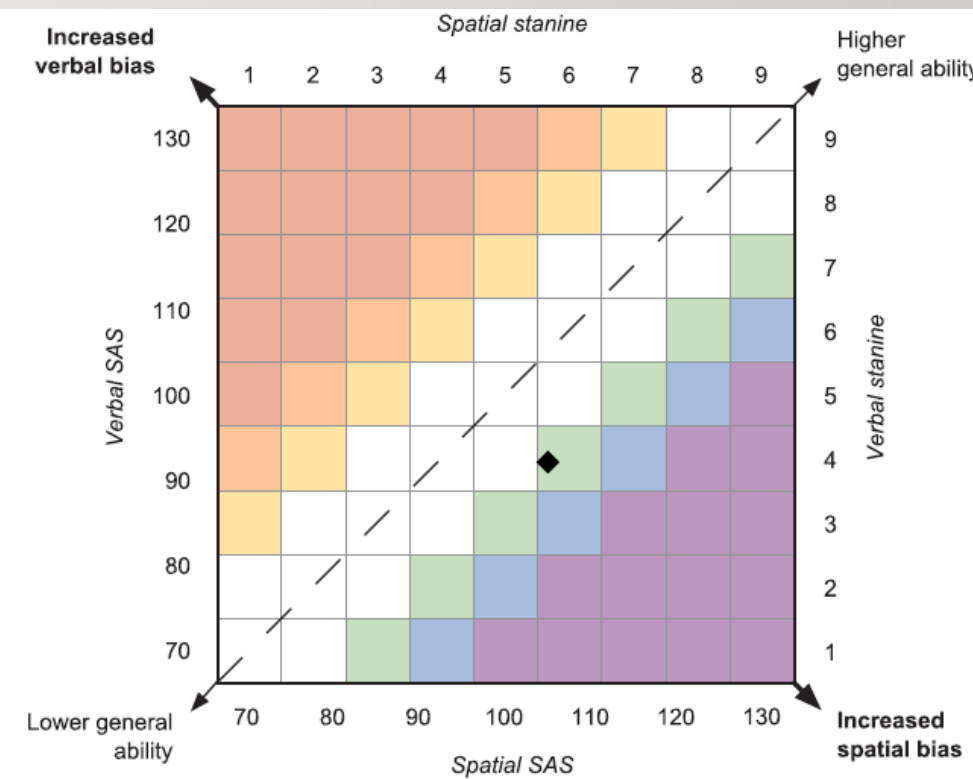
- CATs scores were sent home on the last day of term 5.
- Your child has taken the Cognitive Abilities Test Fourth Edition (CAT4) which assesses how well a student can think about tasks and solve problems using a range of different questions.
- Some tasks involved thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-verbal Reasoning), some with words (Verbal Reasoning) or numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and, finally, some questions were answered by thinking about shape and space together and imagining a shape being changed and moving (Spatial Ability).

Battery	No. of questions attempted	SAS	NPR	ST	GR (/30)	SAS (with 90% confidence bands)								
						60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140
Verbal	48/48	92	30	4	26									
Quantitative	36/36	131	98	9	5									
Non-verbal	48/48	113	80	7	18									
Spatial	36/36	105	63	6	19									
Mean	-	110	-	-	-									

Relationship between CAT4 scores

Description	Very Low		Below Average		Aver
Stanine (ST)	1	2	3	4	5
Standard Age Score (SAS)	70	80	90	100	110
National Percentile Rank (NPR)	1	5	10	20	30

- Extreme verbal bias
- Moderate verbal bias
- Mild verbal bias
- No bias
- Mild spatial bias
- Moderate spatial bias
- Extreme spatial bias



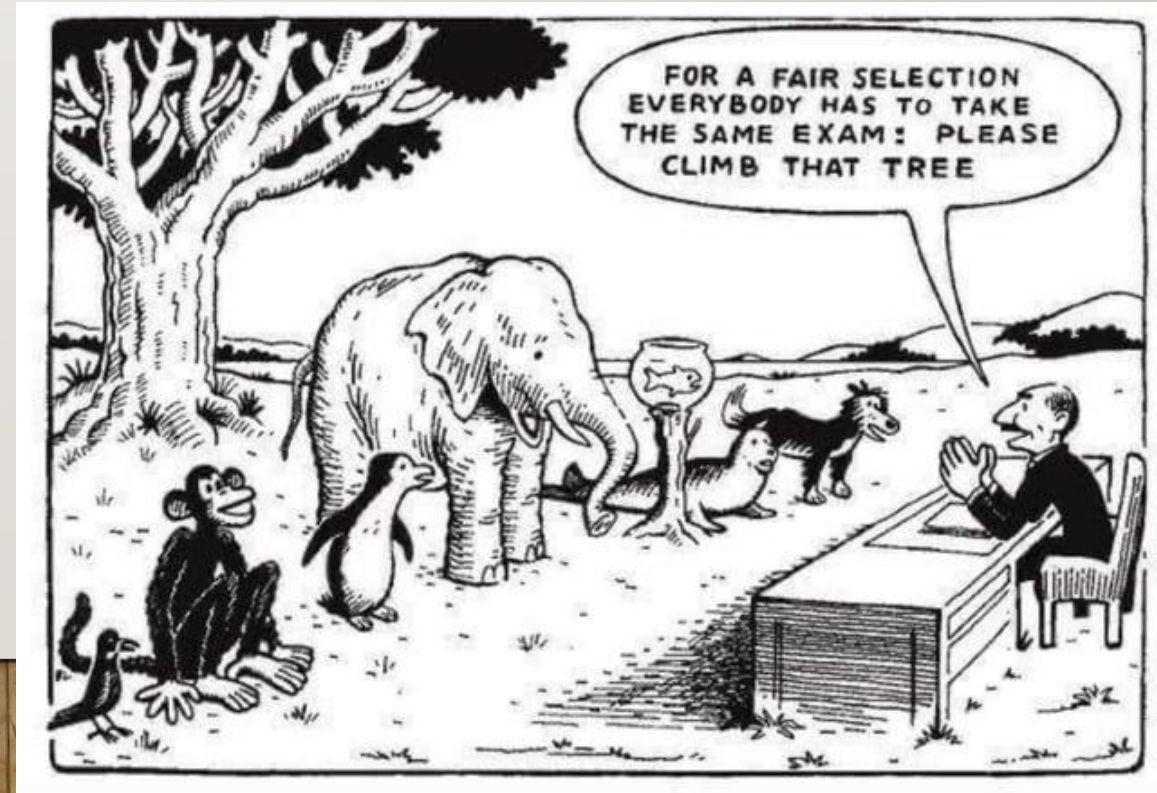
WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- Grammar or High school?
- Parents have to register their child for the test.
- If you are unsure, register for the test and then you can withdraw if you don't want to do it.
- Think about your child's work ethic, personality, attainment, CATs and feedback from tutors or teachers.
- It is your choice.
- Most of the information on this PowerPoint has been copied from KCC's website.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU REGISTER

- Many children will find the test difficult. Grammar schools in Kent provide for children in about the top 25% of the ability range.
- Where would your child be happy and flourish?

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid"



KEY DATES

- Kent Test will take place on Thursday 10th September 2026
- Registration for the Kent Test for children due to start secondary school in September 2027 opened on Monday 1st June 2026 and closes at midnight on Tuesday 1st July 2026.
- **KCC will not accept late registrations.**
- The results will be sent on Thursday 15th October 2026.

SEND

- If your child has a disability or special educational needs which will affect their access to testing, you need to discuss this with their primary school's [special educational needs coordinator](#) (SENCo – Mrs Vitiello) before you register them for the test as the school will need to apply for any necessary access arrangements. Requests will not be accepted after 1st July 2026.
- The online registration form asks you to confirm that you have discussed a request for access arrangements with your child's school.
- Please email myself or Mrs Vitiello via y5@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk to make us aware of this. We will then submit any evidence we have to support your request before the 1st July 2026.

SEND

- If you would like more information about the special arrangements process, email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.
- Once the panel has made its decisions about access arrangements, these arrangements cannot be challenged. However, it is something that can be raised during the appeal process.
- As a school, we send all the evidence we have to support a request for access arrangements, but ultimately the decision does not lie with us.

TEST PAPERS (THE MORNING)

- The tests are multiple-choice with a separate answer sheet. They are marked by a computer.
- The first test will be an English and maths paper and will take 1 hour. Each section will involve a 5-minute practice exercise followed by a 25-minute test. The English section will involve a comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions drawn from a set designed to test literacy skills.
- The second test will be a reasoning paper. It will take about 1 hour, including the practice sections and questions. It will contain a verbal reasoning section and a non-verbal reasoning section of roughly the same length. The non-verbal reasoning will be split into short sections, administered and timed individually.

TEST PAPERS (THE AFTERNOON)

- There will also be a writing exercise which will not be marked but may be used by a local headteacher panel as part of the headteacher assessment stage of the process. 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.

FAMILIARISATION PAPER

- This document explains the Kent Test papers for children who will take them, and parts of it will not be fully accessible to users of some assistive technologies.
- Any child with a severe visual impairment who cannot access test papers can instead be assessed by a head-teacher panel, which will look at their classwork and academic achievement. If you need to know more about the content of our familiarisation paper or how we assess students with visual impairments, please email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.
- [Kent Test familiarisation paper \(PDF, 2.6 MB\)](#)
- You can [request an alternative format](#) of this document.
- [View a range of free familiarisation material](#).

RESULTS DAY

- If you provide an email address when you register, your Kent Test result will be emailed to you on Thursday 15th October 2026. They can only send the results to the email address used to register your child.
- If you did not provide an email address, they will post your child's result to you on results day by first class post. You can ask your child's primary school for their test scores the day after results go out.

WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS

- Your child will get 3 standardised scores, one for English, one for maths and one for reasoning, and a total (aggregate) score.
- Standardisation is a statistical process which compares your child's performance with the average performance of other children in each test. A slight adjustment is made to take account of each child's age so that the youngest are not at a disadvantage.


Grammar school threshold 2025

To be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 332 or more, with no single score lower than 108. Test scores range from 69 to 141. The highest possible total score is 423.

APPLICATIONS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- The application process for secondary school in Kent for September 2027 entry opens on Monday 1st September 2026 and closes on Monday 2nd November, 2026.

Key Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026: Applications open.
 - Monday 2nd November 2026: Application deadline.
 - Monday 1st March 2027: National Offer Day.
 - Monday 15th March 2027: Deadline to accept or refuse a place.
- 

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Please check secondary school websites for open days and open evenings.
- Kent parents will be able to name up to 4 secondary school preferences.
- Some secondary schools hold their own entrance examination or banding tests. Please check their websites for further details.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ASSESSED AS SUITABLE FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

- Any Kent grammar school you apply for will consider your application, but this does not guarantee your child will be offered a place.
- Grammar schools are often oversubscribed, meaning they receive more applications than there are available places. Schools use their admissions criteria to rank all applicants in priority order, so it's important to read the admissions criteria for schools you are interested in.
- A Kent grammar school can only consider your child for a place if you have named it on your application and your child has been tested and assessed suitable for admission.
- If your child is not offered a place at the school, you will be able to appeal to an independent appeal panel and may be able to join the school's waiting list.

IF YOUR CHILD WAS NOT TESTED OR WAS NOT ASSESSED AS SUITABLE FOR A KENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

- You can still apply for a Kent grammar school but your application to that school will be refused when school places are offered.
- You will then have the right to [appeal](#) to explain why you think it is a suitable option for your child.

APPEALS

- An independent appeal panel will decide whether your appeal is successful. The panel is usually made up of 3 people, with at least one person who has experience in education and at least one layperson. They are independent of the school, trust and local authority.
- There will also be a clerk in attendance who is independent of the school and will deal with administration for the appeal, keep the official note of what is discussed and give independent and impartial advice on the appeals process and admissions law to the panel members.
- You will be informed of the date of your appeal at least 14 calendar days before it is heard and a complete copy of the appeals paperwork will be sent to you at least 7 calendar days before the hearing.

DECISIONS

- We will write to tell you the panel's decision as soon as possible. We cannot tell you the decision by telephone.
- If your appeal is successful, the school must offer your child a place. If not, then the school will not offer your child a place, and you can't lodge another appeal to the same school for the same school year, unless you can show your circumstances have changed since the first appeal.

LINK TO KENT TEST WEBSITE

- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>