

Independent Schools

Make the right choice

INDEPENDENT schools pride themselves on developing the full potential of each student whatever their ability.

Research shows that the main reasons stated by parents for choosing independent schools are: small classes with individual attention, high standards of education and examination results, good discipline, encouragement of a responsible attitude to school work, development of social responsibility and

extra-curricular activity. But how can you help your child get into such schools and take full advantage of what they have to offer? Gerald Vinestock, regional director for the Independent Schools Information Service, answers some of the questions often put to him about entrance to independent schools.

Is there a single exam like the 11-plus? Alas, there isn't! Each school sets its own examination. Although this presents some problems for parents and

the children sitting the exams, it is reasonable that each school should have the chance to test pupils in the way that it wants, in order to be sure that school and pupil are going to match.

Do schools have exams? Yes - certainly for 11-plus entry. If parents are seeking entry for children aged three or four, then schools don't have any formal exam. Often, however, they will invite parents and children to visit the school and sometimes children are



asked to spend a morning in school prior to acceptance.

Can I find out what is in the exam papers? Schools vary considerably in the content of papers. Some supply past or sample papers, some give an outline of the contents away. In most cases, however, there will be an English paper with a passage for comprehension and a chance to write a story.

There will be a mathematics paper, testing basic mathematical skills and usually, in addition, questions which test ability rather than

knowledge in other areas of mathematics. Many schools also set a verbal reasoning test of some sort.

Surely this favours those from Independent Prep schools.

Won't their pupils be specially prepared for the exam? Of course, prep schools prepare for exams, but a high proportion of those entering independent schools at 11 have come from maintained primary schools.

That is why the papers try to test ability, not just knowledge.



Birkenhead High School *An Education For Life*

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This Saturday: 16 June, 9.30am-12noon

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Everyone welcome!

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Highfield School

76 & 96 Bidston Road,
Prenton CH43 6TW

Say your own Farewell

All friends of Highfield School are warmly invited to a picnic on the lawns on

Thursday 5th July
2pm - 6pm

Bring your own picnic, enjoy it on the lawns and look around the school for the last time.

For more details please phone
0151 652 3708





PRENTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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- A firm but fair discipline;
- Various clubs and sporting activities;
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- Nursery Grant available for 3 and 4 year olds.

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For an information pack please call the School Secretary on:
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