

Letter to Primary Schools

Dear Principal

Following the announcement from the NI Commission for Catholic Education (Monday 30 March 2009) that a test may be used in the present unregulated system, our Trustees and Board of Governors have decided to continue with academic selection for Admission to Assumption Grammar School in September 2010. This arrangement has been agreed among 28 other Grammar Schools across Northern Ireland and includes local and Belfast Catholic Grammar schools.

At this stage, we would still prefer to have a regulated Department of Education commissioned test and hope that, in the longer term, a better system of transfer will be in place for all children. The tests which will be used are composed by GL Assessment and will include English and Maths. GL Assessment is the new name for nferNelson and is considered to be a leading provider of independent tests and assessments over the past 25 years. The two tests, one in English lasting 50 minutes and another in Maths lasting 45 minutes, will take place in the grammar school on Saturday 21 November 2009. As St Patrick's Grammar School and Assumption Grammar School are part of the consortium using the GL Assessments, we propose to have a joint meeting for Primary School Principals in Assumption Grammar School on Tuesday 28 April 2009 at 3.30 pm. Parents can be informed that I will hold a meeting for them at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 28 April 2009 in Assumption.

The table below summarises the planned timetable of events beginning with the registration forms being made available from 1 May 2009. These forms will be available on the school website www.assumptiongrammar.org.uk and from our school Reception. Primary Schools who wish may receive copies of these forms to pass on to parents. Parents may also be informed that assistance in completing these forms is available from Assumption Grammar School (tel no 02897 562250).

PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF ARRANGEMENTS

**For Northern Ireland Consortium of Grammar Schools 2010 using NFER English
and Mathematics Assessments**

| Date | Event |
|------------------------------|---|
| Monday 18 May 2009 | Registration Forms and Guidance Notes available from participating Grammar Schools (obtained from school websites or by post) |
| Friday 18 September 2009 | Completed Registration Forms returned to Grammar Schools |
| Saturday 21 November 2009 | NFER English and Mathematics Assessments held in Schools |
| Friday 27 November 2009 | Deadline for Special Circumstances claims for those who sat 21 November 2009 assessment |
| Saturday 12 December 2009 | Supplementary NFER English and Mathematics Assessments held in school centres |
| Friday 18 December 2009 | Deadline for Special Circumstances claims for those who sat Supplementary assessment on 12 December |
| Saturday 30 January 2010 | Results of NFER Assessments issued to homes by participating schools (posted Friday 29 January 2010 - 1 st class) |
| Friday 5 February 2010 | Deadline for request for remark |

NB The following dates will be at the discretion of ESA

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Friday 26 February 2010 | Parents complete and return Transfer Forms to ESA naming post-primary school preferences |
| Friday 19 March 2010 | Post-primary schools receive first preference transfer forms from ESA |
| Saturday 29 May 2010 | ESA informs P7 parents of the school to which their child has been accepted |
| Friday 11 June 2010 | Deadline for Appeals to ESA |

This has been a difficult time for those of us involved in Primary and Post Primary Education. However, we have obeyed the wishes of the NICCE and have awaited patiently their policy statement which became available on Monday 30 March 2009. Please feel free to contact me at school.

Mr Paul McBride
Principal