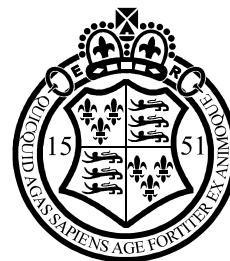


King Edward VI Grammar School

Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3SX
Tel: (01245) 353510 Fax: (01245) 344741
E-mail: office@kegs.org.uk
Website: www.kegs.org.uk



Headteacher: Mr Thomas Sherrington BSc (Hons) MSc NPQH

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

Dear Parents,

Proposed Change to Admissions Criteria for 2013/14

I wish to consult as required by the statutory regulations, on our proposed admissions arrangements for September 2013.

Please respond by 29 February 2012 to admissions@kegs.org.uk if you wish to comment on any of the under-mentioned proposals, before our governing body meet to determine the admissions arrangements.

There are two elements to the Year 7 proposal and one element to the Year 12 proposal, on which we are consulting. The first two elements relate to Year 7 admissions only and do **not** apply to sixth form applicants. All other elements of our Admission Policy (see attachment) remain the same and we have no intention of increasing the size of our intake.

1. Introduction of a Priority Area such that a minimum of 90 places are made available to candidates living within a 12.5 mile radius (Year 7 entry)

Prior to 2009, admission to KEGS was based solely on ranking in the 11+ entrance test. No more than 20% of the intake lived beyond the area described in this proposal. However, the geographical spread of the intake to KEGS has changed significantly in the last two years such that now 40% of students live more than 20km/12.5 miles from the school and 40% of students travel for 60 minutes or more to reach the school. In addition to the impact of long journey times on a growing number of students, this change has put significant pressure on our capacity to play an active role in the communities in which our students live, as all good schools should.

The proposal is to introduce a priority area of radius 12.5 miles, centred on the War Memorial in Chelmsford, from which at least 80% of the intake should be taken; this equates to 90 students from the 112 places at KEGS. The distance chosen is the straight-line distance to the edge of Essex along the A12, at the M25 junction. The remaining places would be awarded in order of 11+ rankings, without geographical limit. This would achieve the following:

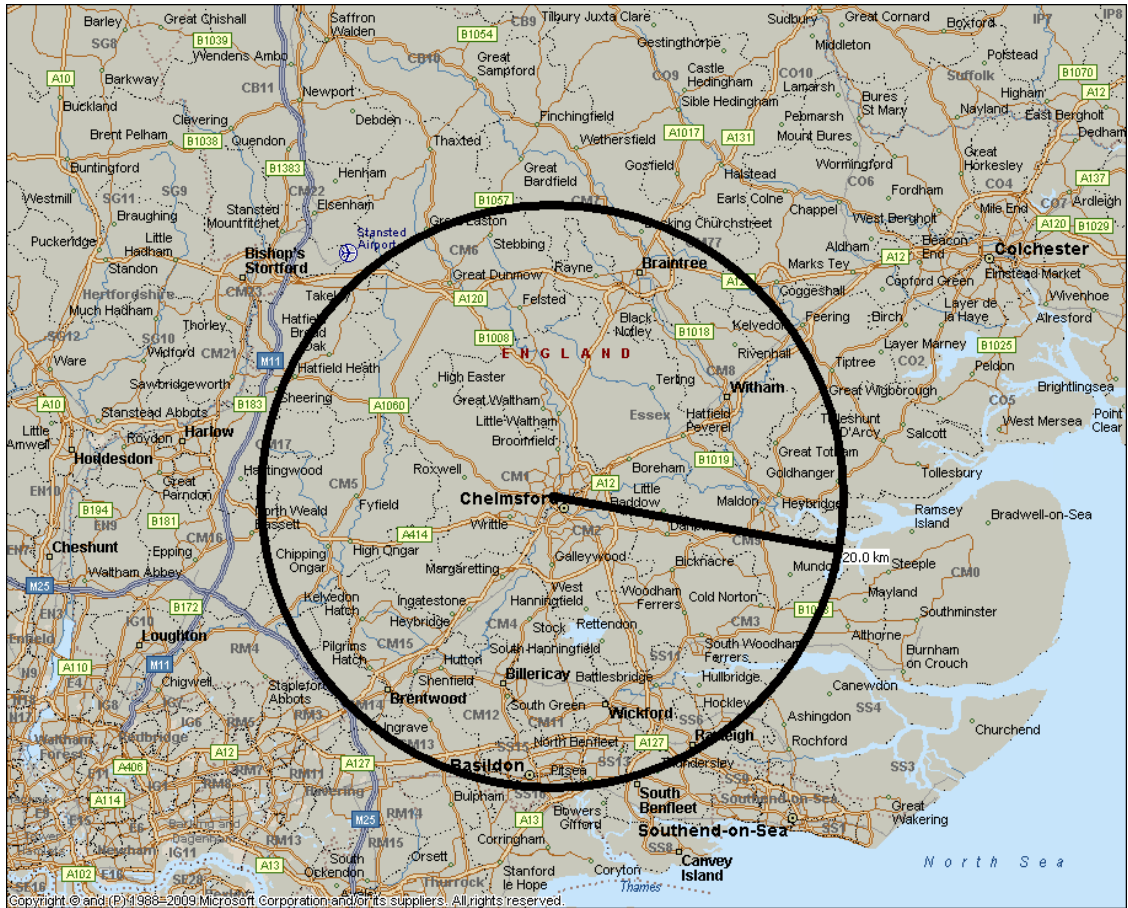
- a) the community that KEGS serves would be permanently anchored around Chelmsford and Essex.
- b) the number of students with very long journey times would be reduced, and those travelling the greatest distances would tend to be those nearer the top of the ability range and, therefore, be more likely to cope.

Importantly, the model does no more than preserve the pattern of admissions up to 2009, prior to which, no more than 20% of students travelled in from outside 12.5 miles.



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2. To open up to 10% of places to students who, in addition to scoring highly on the 11+, demonstrate that they have 'significant musical aptitude'. (Year 7 entry)

KEGS has a strong musical tradition; involvement in musical activity is a core element of the school's ethos. This proposal is designed to strengthen that ethos further, whilst having a positive impact on the whole school and broadening the range of aptitudes on which entrance to the school is based. As a guide, **significant musical aptitude** would be defined as being equivalent to Grade 5 Distinction in an ABRSM practical exam, as evidenced through certification or by a musical aptitude test conducted at KEGS. The details of the testing process are still to be confirmed and will comply fully with the Admissions Code.

It is our view that musical aptitude represents a bona fide alternative measure of general intelligence and talent and that it is a positive step to include this strand alongside the 11+ test in order to enable a broader range of students to gain access to the school. As part of the application process, students can apply for consideration as a musical aptitude entrant. Those that meet or exceed the required musical standard and also perform above a minimum cut off mark in the 11+ exam, would then be ranked by their 11+ score. As a guide, the cut off will be around 10 – 15 marks below the general standard for 11+ admission. The actual cut off will be communicated to parents in advance. Places would then be offered to the 11 highest ranked musical aptitude students. The remaining 101 places would be available, as before, purely on the 11+ score.

Importantly, the priority area criteria, with an overall 90 places offered within the 12.5 mile radius, will apply over and above the musical aptitude strand and the mechanism for determining the allocation of places will ensure this.

3. Requirement for all students applying to join the Sixth Form to have gained at least a C Grade at GCSE in a modern foreign language by the end of Year 11, with effect from September 2013

All students entering our Sixth Form must have gained at least Grade C or higher at GCSE in a modern foreign language by the end of Year 11.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Sherrington
Headteacher