



## Preparing for school beyond St Michael's

St Michael's pupils will move onto a range of schools both at ages 11 and at 13.

We encourage all pupils to complete their education at St Michael's until 13. This is a great age to move on, as the increased maturity and independence of a child by this age often makes transition to senior school easier. As well as looking at schools which suit parents in terms of location and personal circumstances, we work hard with parents to select a school for their child which fits both their personality and academic ability.

All pupils who stay on in Years 7 & 8 will sit the Common Entrance Exam, consisting of the following papers: English, Mathematics, Science, French, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Latin (optional). However, many senior schools also request that pupils sit an additional entrance exam in order to gain a place. These tests vary in content, but usually focus on English, maths and reasoning skills. For Sevenoaks School, these tests take place in the April of Year 7; however, all other schools examine pupils in the Michaelmas Term of Year 8. In these cases, pupils will still need to sit Common Entrance in the summer of Year 8, but they will already have a confirmed place at the school, and their results for CE will be used of setting purposes only. A minority of schools still require a particular percentage at CE to gain a place, including Tonbridge School. If the school feels that a pupil is not being adequately challenged by the CE syllabus, pupils may sit a scholarship exam for their chosen senior school. For this, extra lessons are provided by Heads of Department to help with tackling these more challenging papers. All pupils are offered a practice interview with a senior member of staff to help with this part of the selection process.

Some parents look to move their children at age 11. If parents are looking at state funded senior schools, this is the appropriate time. Pupils can be entered for the 11+ tests which take place in the September of Year 6 if they wish to gain a place at a selective grammar school. If they achieve a pass, then they will be offered a grammar school place. If not, they will be offered a non-selective school from the choices made by the parent upon registration. For independent school entry into Year 7, pupils will again be required to sit entrance tests, usually consisting of an English, maths and reasoning paper. These tests take place either in the Michaelmas Term or early in the Lent Term of Year 6. St Michael's offers extra preparation sessions for both 11+ tests and these subsequent independent school exams. In addition, pupils will also be offered an individual interview practice with a senior member of staff to help with this part of the selection process.