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12/09/2019

Dear parents,

We are now approaching the end of this assessment process and on Monday 23rd September, the children will sit their entrance examinations for Wirral. It goes without saying that the children have worked exceptionally hard throughout this year. It would be fair to say that many children have found some aspects of the preparation arduous but it should be remembered that throughout all of their work and study, the children will have expanded their range of vocabulary dramatically, not to mention all the transferrable skills that the preparation will have given them.

We understand that the children are sitting the assessment in the afternoon session. If this is not the case, then please let me know as soon as possible via the reply slip below. Children would normally be expected to be in school for the morning of the assessment and then collected however, if a parent wishes to take their child to the examination directly, please indicate this below. Children leaving school from Avalon will need to leave around 11am so we will provide them with a packed lunch to take with them. It is very important for good concentration and sustained effort in the afternoon session that they eat a full and nutritious lunch beforehand.

Finally, I have sent a list of reminders (below) I think would be useful to go through with children prior to Monday. The key aspect is **“keep going”**. **If something is challenging, don't get stuck and move on.**

It just remains for us to say that all the staff wish all the children every success and we are all very proud of them and how hard they have worked.

With all best wishes,

Mr Ashton

- Breathe, tell yourself “I’m going to give it the very best I can”

General

- Work quickly but carefully.
- Read the instructions carefully. Don't mix up synonyms with antonyms.
- If you break your pencil, drop your rubber etc. put your hand up and ask an invigilator.
- **Move on, don't get stuck - If there is a question you can't answer, guess then move on. There may be easier marks to gain in this time, you can always go back to it.**
- If you have powered through a section and finished a little early, then take this time to go back through that section and check your answers.
- **Never** leave any question unanswered. If you leave a question blank, you have automatically got that question incorrect.
- If you have a bad section, don't panic, just go again for the next section.



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- Keep going and going until somebody tells you to put your pencil down.
- If the time is running out, just ensure that you have put an answer in every box, even if these are complete guesses.

The answer paper

- Check your name and date of birth are correct. **Tell someone if it's not.**
- Fill in the answer boxes completely.
- Rub out any mistakes properly.
- Don't write anything on the answer paper other than the answer. All working should go in your question booklet.

Comprehension and vocab questions

- Skim read the text, read the first section, scan for the answer.
- If it is a long text, don't panic, just work quickly.
- Look out for "all of the above" questions. They can be tricky
- Try and narrow your choices down using elimination
- Look at prefixes such as "dis" and "un"
- Don't guess until the final minute.
- **Move on, don't get stuck - If there is a question you can't answer, guess, then move on. There may be easier marks to gain in this section, you can always go back to it**

Maths

- Use written calculations if you panic about mental calculations.
- Estimate the answer first. It can save you time.
- **Move on, don't get stuck - If there is a question you can't answer, guess, then move on. There may be easier marks to gain in this section.**

Non VR

- There are likely to be a great number of NVR questions, don't panic. but move quickly and do as many as you can. The examiners may have given you more problems than you can possibly do in the time given just to be sure you don't run out.
Move on, don't get stuck - If there is a question you can't answer, guess, then move on. There may be easier marks to gain in this section.

- Finally, be proud of yourselves! Stay calm, don't panic, just do your best!





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Reply slip for grammar school arrangements
Please return to the school office as soon as possible.

[] My child _____ will be in school for the morning of the assessment and I will collect them at _____ from the school office. School will provide a packed lunch.

[] My child _____ will not be in school for the morning of the assessment. They will be having lunch at home and I will take them to the assessment directly,

Signed _____

Dated _____