

# Brabyns Preparatory School

## Guide to Choosing the right Senior School for your Child

Senior Schools are at the forefront of parents' minds at the start of Year 6 are going through this process. Choosing the right School is a big decision, and whilst some families know straight away which School they prefer, others may be deciding between two or more Schools. The whole process often turns out to be more stressful for the parents than the child, especially as how the child performs on the day of an exam is out of their hands.

We have provided information below that you may find useful whatever the age of your child; if you have any further questions please see Mr Sanders, or your child's class teacher. To find out about life in Year 6, please see Mrs Lawford, or any child in the class.

It can never be too early to start thinking ahead and being prepared for decisions in the future. One of Brabyns' key strengths is that it gives children a choice of Schools at the age of 11, ensuring they find the School most suited to their character and ability. The children also benefit from all that our Year 5 and 6 has to offer. This includes being a 'big fish' here at Brabyns, which certainly aids their confidence and enjoyment of School life, as well as being a Year 5 Buddy or a Captain with various responsibilities when in Year 6.

Over the last 10 years nearly 85% of our children have moved on to Independent Senior Schools and the majority to the selective Schools. We excel in preparing our children for their exams, ensuring that children have both the skills and the knowledge to do their best on the day, including a mock exam day away from School. Interview preparation is tailored to individual cohorts and children's needs. There isn't a focus of 'cramming' and being an 'exam hot-house'; we are still developing the whole child whilst focusing on a set goal.

One of the key skills for children is being able to work independently, as they normally have to sit 3 handwritten exams, each up to an hour in length, for each School. This is something that is given greater focus as the children progress through the Juniors. We also incorporate Reasoning preparation into our Junior curriculum as there is more and more emphasis placed on this area each year.

### Senior School Information

There are around 700 independent senior Schools in the UK, and about 10 locally that we mainly feed in to. They cater for children aged 11-16/18. There are boys only, girls only, as well as co-educational senior Schools, according to your preference. Senior Schools range in size and facilities and subject offered accordingly.

There are numerous factors by which you can judge a senior School; it is very easy to focus on academic success, but a School is about so much more than that. When as parents you are choosing a School for your most precious gift in life, it is important to have that feel for the School

that you know your child would thrive in, as hopefully all our parents had when they came to choose Brabyns.

Results from previous years can be viewed [here](#). You'll see the range of Schools the children attend and will hopefully be reassuring and pleasing.

**The questions below are ones most parents tend to ask themselves when choosing a School:**

**Will your child be happy there?**

Consider the ethos, style, academic or broad range, teaching style, special interests.

**Do you like the ethos of School?**

This may be set by the Headteacher, but all staff and children contribute to it – how does it feel when you are visiting the School? Can you picture your child fitting in there?

**Does the School fit the basic requirements of you and your child?**

Age range, gender, religious denomination, boarding, type of qualifications to be achieved, subjects offered.

**Does the School have the facilities that your child needs?**

Swimming pool, theatre, music etc. Additionally, do they provide value for your money?

**Does it have extra-curricular activities your child would use?**

Range of activities and trips. What are the costs of these?

**Is the location optimum for you?**

How important is the area? How long will your child's day be? (Remember any after School activities as well). Is your area well served by a bus-route or other form of travel?

**Does it have a good academic track record?**

Exam success, high or low pressure environment, leaver destinations, teaching quality

**The Sixth Form.**

Is there one? What subjects are offered? Careers and HE Guidance, Leavers' destinations

**What are the School standards like?**

Read the School's latest Inspection report which should be on their website or can be found by searching on <http://www.isi.net/>.

## **What is the School approach to discipline and pastoral care?**

Will your child be guided in the right way to make appropriate life decisions and given the support they need, as well as having suitable boundaries

## **Does it give you value for money for what you want?**

Value for service delivered, fit with your budget, extras.

More information can be found by searching on the internet, [the Independent Schools Council](#) is a website that may be of particular use.

Below are some sample exam papers the children will be taking – you'll see a lot is asked of a 10/11 year old! Try sitting down to do one under 'exam conditions' to see what it feels like to be a Year 6 child. It will help you understand the standards your child is working towards.

[Maths Paper](#)

[English Paper](#)

[Reasoning Paper](#)

[Sample Essay Titles](#)

[Sample English Questions](#)

[Stockport Grammar Questions](#)

[Cheadle Hulme Questions](#)

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