



2nd March 2026

Year 5 Transition to Secondary School

Dear Parent/Carer,

The time is fast approaching when parents and carers of children in year 5 will need to start thinking about the next step in their education – the move to secondary school.

Secondary School Applications

The [Transition](#) area on our school website includes useful links to help you explore the secondary school options available locally. We recommend that you visit as many secondary schools as possible and attend their open days to find out more about what they offer. Parents will be able to apply for a secondary school place between 1st September and 31st October.

11+

CSSE ([The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex](#)) has its own website for parents considering a selective school for their child. Notes on the 11+ process also appear at the end of this letter.

11+ Familiarisation Sessions

This year, we will be continuing our familiarisation sessions after school. Please note – these are familiarisation sessions and *not* extra lessons. As places in these sessions are limited, we are offering those children who are interested in joining the sessions an opportunity to sit a past paper over the next couple of weeks. We will then send you the results together with an offer of a place at the familiarisation sessions **should your child score highly enough to be in with a chance of passing the 11+ test.**

Maths Sessions		English Sessions	
Thursday	16 th April	Tuesday	2 nd June
Thursday	23 rd April	Tuesday	9 th June
Thursday	30 th April	Tuesday	16 th June
Thursday	7 th May	Tuesday	23 rd June
Thursday	14 th May	Tuesday	30 th June

We are also offering a set of 3 CGP workbooks at a reduced price **£14.85** to support any familiarisation work your child does at home. Once ordered, we will then ask for payment via Arbor.

To register an interest in the familiarisation sessions and / or place an order for these books, please complete the [online form](#) by midday on Friday 6th March.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Woolf

Year 5 Year Group Leader



Year 5 11+ Notes



These notes are designed to support the information available from CSSE.

What is the 11+?

The 11+ is a series of tests sat by children to gain a place in year 7 at several local schools. The purpose of the 11+ test is to select the children who have the **potential to thrive** in an environment which provides a **highly academic** curriculum and a range of **challenging** pursuits.

- English Test
 - 60 minutes plus 10 minutes reading time
 - 60 marks
- Maths Test
 - 60 minutes
 - 60 marks
- Weighted 50% each



Age standardised

No verbal Reasoning

Tests are deliberately hard

The 2019-2022 papers are available to download from the CSSE website: <https://csse.org.uk/practice-material/>. Please take time to look through these yourselves before showing them to your child.

Is a place at one of these schools the right choice for my child?

Does your child have the following qualities?

- Curiosity and enjoyment of learning and problem solving
- Perseverance and ability to complete challenging tasks
- Understanding of all concepts taught at primary school
- Enjoyment of a wide range of literature and/or non-fiction texts
- Creativity demonstrated in sustained writing
- Ability to make connections between various areas of knowledge
- A good memory
- Imagination and original ideas
- An ability to work at pace and assimilate information quickly

Headteachers of CSSE Schools believe that children should also:

- Have a sound understanding of the National Curriculum in maths and English
- Be familiar with reading and responding to texts which require a reading age of greater than 11
- Understand the rudiments of spelling, grammar and punctuation

To tutor or not to tutor?

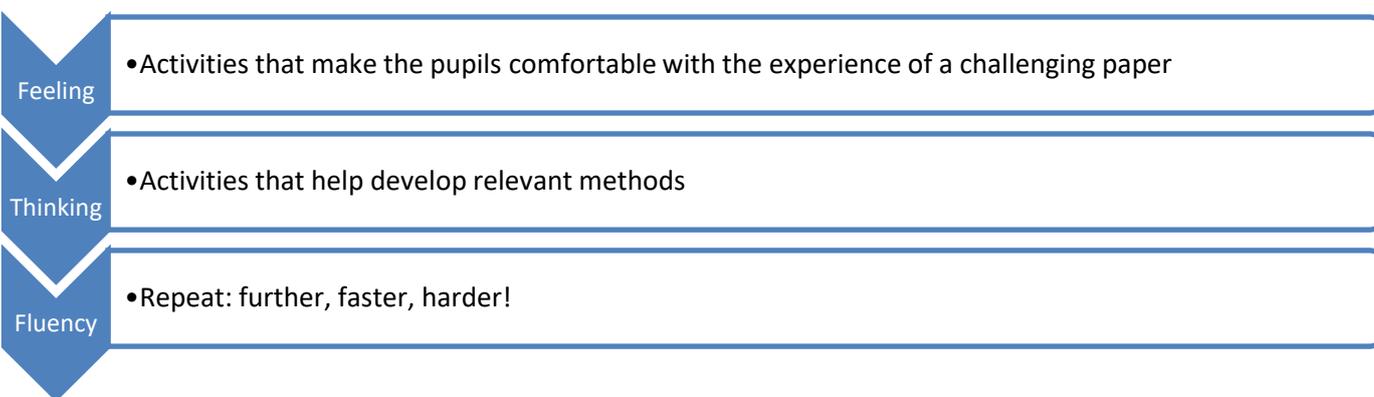
Whilst it is advisable for children to spend a few hours familiarising themselves with the style of responses required in the papers, this can be done at home, using materials that are available.

Headteachers at the CSSE schools share a concern that extensive coaching for the 11+ is inappropriate, ultimately counterproductive and may jeopardise a child's ability to cope with the demands of a highly academic curriculum.

Important dates (please see CSSE website for any changes)

- Mid May 2026 – CSSE registration opens
- June – deadline to register for the 11+
- 19th September 2026 (Saturday) – 11+ test day
- Mid October – results sent out

Preparation



Reading – [Project Gutenberg](#) – free classic texts

Vocabulary – Word Dynamo App and [Vocabulary.com](#)

Maths – [Centre for Innovation in Mathematical Teaching \(CIMT\) – Book 7](#)

CGP 11+ Workbooks as mentioned above

Our price - £14.85 Online Price £30.20 (incl. delivery)

CGP Website - [11+ | CGP Books](#)



Any questions?

Either contact Mrs Woolf through the school office or the CSSE directly on 01245 348257 or check on their [website](#).