

Admissions September 2022



SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

22 July 2021 (mid-day)	Preferred deadline for Registration for 11+ with school of choice
9 September 2021 (mid-day)	Final Deadline for Registration for 11+ with school of choice
16 September	Open Evening 5-8.30 pm
18 September	11+ Examinations: CEM Paper1: CEM Paper 2
1 October	Last date to submit Special Consideration requests
1 or 4 October	TBC Mop-Up Day for absent 11+ students (pre-arranged with the College)
18 October	TBC Guidance letters distributed
31 October	Deadline for Submission of Common Application Form to LA
1 March 2022	National Allocation Day
1 April	Date to submit an Appeal to LA

STRUCTURE OF THE 11+ TEST

RATIONALE

The introduction of the CEM papers has provided us with much greater statistical information on each candidate's performance – we receive separate scores for the various components of the tests.

We realised very quickly that there was a very high correlation between the scores achieved by candidates in the Mathematics section of the CEM papers and the performance of candidates in the separate Mathematics paper. We have therefore deemed it unnecessary to subject our students to a domestic paper when CEM scores are providing the same information.

There is also a standard Comprehension question in the CEM papers in exactly the same style we had been setting in our own English examination, making this aspect of the 11+ redundant as well.

CEM PAPERS

These are papers produced by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at the University of Durham.

They were successfully used for the first time in September 2015 and test a wider range of skills than the GL Assessment Verbal Reasoning papers that we have used previously.

There will be two CEM papers and they will assess verbal ability (comprehension, vocabulary and verbal reasoning) numerical reasoning and non-verbal reasoning.

Unlike GL Assessment, CEM do not make practice papers available commercially – the rationale for this is that the test outcomes will be more likely to reflect natural ability and the capacity to work independently, than the impact of private tutoring.

Because the papers are scanned and analysed by the provider we need to ensure that the results are received in good time to issue our guidance letter and with this in mind we have programmed the two CEM papers to be taken on one day.

Another advantage for the school is that the instructions to students and timings are available on a CD played in each examination room so that we can be certain they will receive the same instructions and each room will have independent and equal time allocation.

The scores will be handled in the same way except that our ranking of students on this test will be by combined score rather than the better of the two – each paper tests different skills and therefore scores have to be added together and cannot be averaged.

The selective stream at The Spires College

- ▲ In **Key Stage 3** (Years 7 and 8) our selective students enjoy a particularly academically rigorous curriculum, including two modern foreign languages
- ▲ In **Key Stage 4** (Years 9, 10 & 11) our selective students follow a highly academic pathway including Triple Science. We also recommend that students follow the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) pathway
- ▲ In the **Sixth Form** our selective students have access to a full programme of A level subjects and we prepare students for entry to the very best universities

