

20 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following my letter last Friday, I am writing to update you on the actions we have taken this week to ensure that all children receive fair and accurate results following the secondary transfer process.

Once again we want to apologise for any distress or anxiety we may have caused you and your family. Our priority is to provide a fair outcome for all children, and I would like to assure you that we are taking all necessary action to ensure this is the case.

Our focus has been on the impact of the error to determine if the two questions affected how children responded to the rest of the paper in a range of different circumstances so that all children who took the Transfer Test get fair results that reflect their ability.

Based on analysis by experienced statisticians at GL Assessment, we have taken a close look at the questions that followed the two incorrect questions and the Verbal Skills paper as a whole. This analysis has shown that the test has performed well and within the expectations required of an admissions test. We believe that this analysis reaffirms the reliability and accuracy of the results.

Both GL Assessment and The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools (TBGS) are in agreement that no retesting is needed or advised. A number of parents have contacted us to emphasise that the prospect of children resitting any test would put them under undue pressure and we can confirm that this has been ruled out.

We will be undertaking further analysis, which will be subject to independent verification, over the coming week. The results of that will be shared with you in week commencing 30 September, when we will also be able to provide you with details about how the error occurred and how we will be changing our procedures to ensure that such an error cannot happen again.

Thank you to all the parents who have contacted us directly. I would also like to extend our thanks to all of the primary schools and grammar schools who have been involved in the test administration process. The headteachers, Year 6 teachers and all staff have acted both promptly and professionally throughout. We want to emphasise that the issue was caused by our mistake on the test paper, and not through any response by schools involved in the process. As such, we kindly ask that all future comments and enquiries from parents about this matter be directed to us at Bucks@gl-assessment.co.uk rather than to your primary school or TBGS, and we will respond to your enquiries directly.



Yours faithfully,



Alastair Durno
Head of Admissions Testing, GL Assessment

