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APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

Tuesday, September 22nd 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Applications for secondary school are being taken and are due to the local authority before October 31st. We are aware that some applications have already been sent but would advise that you may amend your preferences at any point up to the closing date of 31 October 2020.

The application form allows parents to make three choices for a secondary school place. Selecting a school as one of your three choices, **does not guarantee** a place at that school for your child. We are also aware that some families have only used one of their choices in order to increase their chances of obtaining a place at their first choice. Including only one choice on your application form does not increase the likelihood of admission to a secondary school and we would advise you to use all three choices.

We felt that we should write to parents and carers at this point in the process as a result of some anxiety and disappointment for a number of our families in past years. This year, several of our former Y6 pupils are still without a secondary school place that families are happy with as a result of making three choices of schools that are over-subscribed and fill up straight away with pupils from feeder primary schools. (In particular All Saints, Tipton and Silverdale). We advise you to include at least one of the schools named on your letter in your choices to avoid a similar situation. Newfield and Mercia had huge increases to their waiting lists this year.

Clearly, families are free to make what they consider to be the best choices for their child and when they are initially unsuccessful in their applications, we are happy to support the pupils with a supporting letter should the case go to appeal. This year we supported families through the appeal process and still found some pupils were unsuccessful in obtaining a place at the school they applied for. We very much hope to spare families the worry of finding themselves without a suitable secondary school place for their child as a result of three selections to over-subscribed schools. Our advice is for families to access the online open evenings of all the schools they are interested in early in the Autumn term before making their selections. We would be happy to chat with families about options, over-subscribed schools and the process for applying if this would be helpful.

Ann Farrar
Head of School.

