

AQE Update 1st January 2021

1. Subsequent to the Minister of Education's statement of 31st December 2020 the Board of AQE Limited would like to provide further clarity to parents and candidates who are concerned about the potential impact of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic on the Common Entrance Assessment.
2. The Department of Education, in its explanatory letter to schools dated 31st December 2020, stated that 'Primary school pupils will be taught remotely until 8th January, after which they will attend school for face to face teaching'. It also stated 'External exams due to take place in January will be facilitated compliant with public health guidance'.
3. Having considered the Minister's statement and the letter issued to schools, the Board has decided to offer all three assessment sessions on the planned dates (9th, 16th and 23rd January 2021) to provide as many candidates as possible, whose parents have chosen to register with AQE, the opportunity to sit at least two papers. Parents may want to consider whether it is appropriate for their child to sit two papers only, but will be welcome to sit a third paper if they choose to, and are in a position to do so.
4. Candidates who sit at least two papers will be awarded an age standardised score, the 'AQE Standardised Score (based on the results of two papers)'.
5. For those candidates who are only able to sit one paper, AQE Limited will also provide an age standardised score, the 'Single Standardised Score (based on the result of one paper only)'. The score may be used as evidence for application to grammar schools (for example, to support an application for Special Circumstances), but it is essential to check the Admissions Criteria published by individual schools.
6. Those candidates who sit two papers will be issued with a Statement of Result and candidates who are only able to sit one paper will be issued with a Confirmation of Single Standardised Score (based on the result of one paper only).
7. If parents consider that their child's performance was adversely affected by events which would constitute Special Circumstances, please refer to individual

grammar schools' Admissions Criteria which outline the process, including the supporting evidence required.

8. For those candidates who are unable to sit any papers please refer to individual grammar schools' Admissions Criteria for available options, for example, Special Provisions.
9. The health and wellbeing of the candidates and staff are AQE Limited's first priorities during the pandemic and we want to reassure parents and candidates that AQE Limited, in conjunction with our Member Schools, will follow all relevant and current health and safety guidance from the PHA/DE and all of our centres will be required to risk assess the hosting of the CEA.