**STRANDTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NORTH ROAD BELFAST BT4 3DJ**

April 2020

Dear Parents

As you are aware, we have already begun the process of preparing our Year 6 children for their possible participation in the AQE transfer examination later this year. **Currently, the AQE tests are due to proceed as planned. However, parents should continue to check the AQE website for updates on the application process at the following address:**  <https://aqe.org.uk/>

The application process for entry to Year 8 in September 2021 will commence shortly and I felt it might be helpful to write to you to explain the steps which you need to take if you wish your child to be entered for the tests:

* **The AQE application process opens on 29th April 2020 at 9am and closes on 11th September 2020 at 4pm.** AQE Registration Forms may be downloaded from the AQE website <https://aqe.org.uk/>

or obtained from the AQE Office Tele (028) 9022 4002.

* The Registration form will ask you to nominate three schools (in order of preference) in which you would like your child to sit the tests. If any participating school is oversubscribed, then places will be allocated on a “first come – first served” basis. The nominated schools do not necessarily have to be ones in which you may later apply for entry. It is also at this stage that you request application for access arrangements (eg extra time) if applicable.
* There is a fee of payable to **AQE** (although this fee is waived if the registration form is accompanied by proof of entitlement to free school meals). **At present there is no further information on the cost. Please check the AQE website for updates on this.**
* All schools will hold parent information evenings and familiarisation days prior to the first test to explain their procedures and show the children where they will be sitting the test. Check schools’ websites for dates and times.
* Further information (including a list of participating schools, registration form and previous years’ papers) are available from the AQE website.
* The dates for testing will be **Saturday 7th November, Saturday 21st November and Saturday 28th November 2020.** Results will be issued on **Saturday 30th January 2021.**
* It should also be noted that a few schools, including Campbell College, Lagan College, Our Lady & St Patrick’s college, Hunterhouse and Wellington College admit some or all of their pupils on the basis of a **GL Assessment Test** (date to be confirmed). Further information may be obtained from these schools’ websites.
* Further information about the transfer process will be provided at the Year 7 parents’ meeting in September.

Yours faithfully

C Devine – Head of Year 6

V Hutchinson (Mrs) – Principal