



## Tuition Course Information

October 2023 to September 2024

Thank you for your interest in our Year 5 tuition course. The following will give you an overview of the tuition we offer at 'Twist'.

The course is designed for Year 5 children and is taught over three terms from October 2023 to July 2024 plus two additional sessions in late August and early September (a total of 34 weeks during the year). We offer an additional (optional) five day intensive revision and exam practice workshop during August.

Our course is specifically designed for children who will sit the Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test. The provider of the Bucks Transfer Tests is currently GL Assessment. The children will be tested on verbal, mathematical and non-verbal skills. The Bucks Transfer Test consists of two papers. The first paper tests verbal skills and will include English comprehension, English technical and verbal reasoning questions. The second paper tests mathematical, non-verbal and spatial skills. The following areas will be covered in our course:-

- **Verbal ability**

- Comprehension
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Vocabulary
- Verbal Reasoning

- **Numerical ability**

- The four rules of number including word problems
- Shape & Space
- Data Handling
- Units & Measures
- Number Knowledge (place value, rounding, number sequences, fractions, percentages etc.)

- **Non-verbal ability**

- Solving problems involving pictures and diagrams
- Spatial reasoning

. The course aims to:-

- build core skills, focusing on developing the verbal, mathematical and non-verbal reasoning skills required for the Bucks selection tests.
- teach exam technique specific to selection papers and answer sheets.
- provide a friendly, supportive atmosphere whilst delivering a highly structured course designed to build both skills and confidence

There will be a maximum of 10 students per group and each group attends one session lasting 1.5 hours every week during term time. Classes are run from Monday to Friday in the afternoon/early evening and on Saturday mornings.

All classes are taught by fully qualified teachers with extensive experience of teaching Years 5 and 6 in Buckinghamshire schools. All course materials will be provided. The course has been designed by Helen Aldous who has over twenty years experience teaching in Buckinghamshire schools, including five years as a deputy head teacher. Helen has now been tutoring with Twist for over fifteen years.

- Students are given homework every week. Initially, this may take only 45 minutes to 1 hour per week but will increase as the course progresses.
- We give honest feedback and will advise parents if we feel that their child is unlikely to attain the qualifying score for a grammar school place. In some instances, parents see an overall improvement in their child's performance at school and decide to continue with the course regardless of the predicted outcome. Written reports are issued at the end of every full term.
- The percentage pass rate for our students has averaged in the mid-eighties in recent years.

In addition to the term time course, we offer an optional Summer Revision & Exam Practice Workshop. This runs for 2 hours per day over 5 consecutive days with a choice of weeks in August 2024. The workshop includes an intensive revision of some of the more difficult subject areas plus two full exams (4 separate papers) taken under conditions intended to simulate the actual transfer test as closely as possible.

Bookings for the term time course may be confirmed from October 2021 onwards, at which point a £75 deposit is payable. Everyone with a confirmed booking will be contacted again in February 2023 and asked to complete a group preference form. We will request your top five preferred days and times. Should the demand for any particular group exceed the number of places available then we will allocate places in accordance with reservation numbers. At that stage a further deposit of £100 is payable to secure the allocated group.

Bookings for the summer course will not be taken until December 2023. Priority for places will be given to term time students.

**All information is correct as of 21st July 2023**