

20 January 2016



Re: PA Mock Tests for Prospective Year 7 Students

Dear fellow Parent / Carer,

On behalf of your Parents' Association, I would like to wish you a very happy New Year.

In 2016, your PA is planning to arrange a series of familiarisation tests ("Mock Tests") for students in Year 5 who plan to apply for places at grammar schools and we would like to invite you to join us in this effort.

Why is the PA arranging mock tests?

1. As progressive government funding cuts are widening the school deficit, we aim to raise funds by charging £60 per candidate. This is part of our "Ensuring Excellence" campaign and reflects our determination to protect the high standards through which the school has developed such a good reputation.
2. We have seen a proliferation of providers offering aspiring grammar school students Mock Tests. We know we can offer a challenging practice test that better simulates the actual Stage 1 Selective Eligibility Test (SET) for admission to St Olave's than any other provider. The detailed test results we provide will enable parents to identify whether their child needs assistance in one or more of the test sections: Comprehension, Mathematics, Verbal and Non-verbal reasoning. We also plan to provide percentile rankings within the cohort tested.
3. To ensure that the school admits the best possible candidates, we intend to offer free places to eligible candidates who may otherwise be unable to afford a mock test.

How can you help?

- a) Please publicise these tests amongst your friends and parents from your children's primary school. If you regularly visit a primary school, we can provide you with a poster to display there. Details of the test and how to register are available at: www.saintolavespa.net. Tests will be open to both boys and girls.
- b) Volunteer to join the team running a test. They are on Saturdays/Sundays in May and June. We need between 12 and 15 people at each session and volunteers will spend about 2½ hours. Please e-mail pa@saintolaves.net with your contact details if you can help and we will send you a list of dates/times.
- c) We are particularly looking for volunteers with training/qualifications in First Aid and/or handling children with special needs. Please join us if you have these or encourage qualified friends/relatives to do so.

Thank you for joining us in Ensuring Excellence at our children's school.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

With regards,

Ravi Savur
Secretary – St Olave's Parents' Association

"Factors that are important in determining high standardised test scores in children include parental involvement in the PTA"

Freakonomics by Steven Levitt

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