



Thursday, 10th September 2026

Dear Year 6 Parents,

ISEB Common Pre-Test

We understand that this can be an anxious time for parents while the pupils are preparing for their 11+ assessments, so we hope that the information below answers some of the questions you may have about the ISEB Common Pre-Test preparation and assessments.

In school, we are using Atom Learning which mirrors the layout and question style that ISEB offer. Pupils are practising with the online format whereby they submit an answer, move on, and are unable to return to change an answer. All Year 6 pupils, regardless of whether they are sitting the ISEB Common Pre-Test or not, will be given two opportunities to sit mock tests. There will be an informal mock this side of half-term and a formal exam condition style mock the week immediately following half-term.

ISEB Pre-test at Ripley Court

Children who are sitting the ISEB Common Pre-Tests at Ripley Court will be completing their assessments on either **Monday 16th November, Tuesday 17th November or Wednesday 18th November 2026**. Rather than the children sitting the test in one block, they will be completed over the morning, with allocated breaks.

Registering your child for the ISEB Pre-Test

Like last year, parents must register their child for the ISEB Common Pre-Test. When registering, please select 'Common Pre-Test' as the type of test. If you would like your child to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test at Ripley Court, please select our school as the Invigilation Centre. If you would like your child to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test at their chosen senior school, please select the senior school as the Invigilation Centre. To register your child, please use the following link [Login - ISEB](#). Click on Guardian Portal to access the registration page.

ISEB and Additional Needs

Where appropriate, and in agreement with senior schools, pupils with SEND can be given additional time of 25% to complete each test element. Parents will need to request this for pupils as part of their registration in the ISEB Guardian Portal.

Information and FAQs for Parents can be found here [Common Pre-Tests information for families - ISEB](#)

ISEB Content and Preparation

The ISEB Common Pre-Test assesses pupils in 4 areas – English, Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

- The Verbal Reasoning tests measure a pupil's comprehension, reasoning and logic. The Common Pre-Test focuses on using letter, word and language-based questions. Pupils will be assessed on their knowledge of vocabulary and definitions.

- The Non-Verbal Reasoning tests assess logic, critical thinking and problem-solving skills using figures and diagrams. There will be two types of questions: analysis and pattern spotting of 2D figures and diagrams, and 3D shape and diagram manipulation and visualisation.
- English question styles include reading comprehension, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling and grammar.
- Mathematics content is in line with the National Curriculum; candidates are assessed on National Curriculum topics taught up to the end of Year 5. The test will include arithmetic and problem-solving questions.

It is worth noting that the children are allowed rough paper and pencils to aid them throughout each of the four sections. The chosen invigilation centre will provide these.

ISEB does not provide practice tests, except the Walkthrough examples (see below). Furthermore, when pupils come to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test, there will not be any practice questions. Each question on the ISEB must be answered and pupils cannot go back to previous questions. While taking the tests, pupils are able to track their development by looking at the progress bar that moves steadily across as the child completes the questions. For pupils who find the progress bar causes them anxiety, it can be hidden from view by clicking on the bar.

ISEB Walkthrough

The ISEB offer a Walkthrough which helps pupils to become familiar with the ISEB Common Pre-Tests. The Walkthrough enables children to:

- Find out more about the test on the instructions page
- Explore the best setup for their page with accessibility features
- See the style of questions that might be asked
- Familiarise themselves with how to select the correct answer

Pupils will not see correct answers or the instruction page during the actual ISEB Pre-Tests.

You can access the Walkthrough via this link [Assessment \(eva.tech\)](#). Please take the time to complete these with your children before they sit their 'Mock Pre-Test' before half-term.

I strongly encourage you to register your child for the ISEB, if applicable, by October half-term. I will write to you again after half term detailing exactly which day, of the three above, that your child will be sitting the tests.

If you have any questions about the ISEB Common Pre-Tests, please do not hesitate to contact me at westernkayeh@ripleycourt.co.uk.

Best wishes,

Mrs Harriet Western-Kaye
Deputy Head (Academic)