

January 2010,

Dear Parents,

I would first like to extend my thanks for your interest in Saltus and for your application for your son or daughter to enter our Secondary 10 class for the academic year 2010-2011.

I am certain that you, as well as your son or daughter, have a number of questions about the forthcoming admissions test, and in anticipation of such you will find attached an overview for your information.

I would urge you to read the document carefully since it contains details not only of the test itself, but also of the procedures to be followed upon completion of the test with respect to both interview and application for bursaries.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. AnnD Boorman, the Admissions Secretary, at 292-6177.

In closing, I would like to wish your son or daughter every success in the test.

Yours faithfully,



Malcolm Durrant
Deputy Headmaster

Saltus Admissions Test 2010 for entry into Secondary 10.

Why does Saltus have a test for entry into Secondary 10?

Each year, Saltus receives applications from parents of students in the last year of middle school who wish to consider the possibility of transferring their son or daughter into private education rather than entering a public senior secondary school. The Saltus Admissions Test for entry into Secondary 10 has, therefore, been designed to identify those students with the academic potential to benefit from a Saltus education at the upper levels of the school.

What would entry into Saltus at the Secondary 10 level offer a student?

Students entering Secondary 10 will be embarking upon the (I)GCSE examination course. This is a two-year programme in which students will normally take required courses leading to (I)GCSE examinations in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). In some cases, however, the Modern Foreign Language requirement will be waived if it is considered inappropriate for an individual student.

In addition to these required courses, students will choose five others – one of which must be a science - from the following list: History, Geography, Business Studies, Economics, Accounts, Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology, Information Technology, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Combined Science. A Learning Support option, allowing for time to be spent with our Learning Services staff, exists for those students who would benefit from a lighter workload.

All students will also follow a course in Physical Education. Further details on all of these courses are available to students who are offered places and who wish to attend the school.

Following the two-year (I)GCSE course, Saltus students have the opportunity to enter our highly successful two-year SGY Programme, based upon the Advanced Placement Examinations of the College Board, which prepares them for colleges and universities overseas.

As a laptop school, students use information technology in all aspects of the curriculum.

At all levels, students are encouraged to participate in a full range of extra-curricula activities.

What is the Saltus Admissions Test?

The Test, devised primarily by the Heads of English and Mathematics in the Secondary Department, is designed to assess a candidate's level of mastery in those skills covered in a student's middle school years in both English Language and Mathematics.

What form will the Admissions Test take?

The Mathematics paper is of one and one half hour's duration. The English paper is to be completed in two hours.

What will a candidate be required to know for the Mathematics section of the Admissions Test?

Students should be familiar with the following concepts:

Algebra:	Solving linear equations Straight line graphs Factorization (common factor) Expanding brackets
Arithmetic:	Percentages and their applications Time, distance and speed (including graphs) Ratio and proportion Standard form Circumference and area of a circle Volume of a cylinder
Geometry:	Polygons Constructions Pythagoras theorem Scale drawings Angles associated with parallel lines

Students should bring appropriate mathematical instruments, as well as a calculator.

What will a candidate be required to do in the English section of the Admissions Test?

1. The Reading Section:

The Reading Section assesses a student's reading skills. Evidence of the student's understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts, in relation to each question and to the assessment focus, is looked for, rather than the quality of written expression. The task includes a range of questions in different formats, which the student answers on the question sheet.

2. The Writing Section:

The Writing Section assesses a student's writing skills in terms of sentence structure and punctuation, text structure and organization, and composition and effect.

Who will be responsible for grading the Admissions Test?

The staff responsible for setting the Test will grade the student responses.

Is there a separate Scholarship Examination?

No. The Saltus Admissions Test is designed in such a way that students deserving of recognition for true scholarship can be identified. Any such Academic Entrance Scholarships will be awarded without application being made.

When and where will the Admissions Test take place?

The test will be held in the Secondary Department. Candidates should report to the Secondary Department Office no later than 8.30 a.m. on the morning of the test. They will then be directed to the location where the Test will be taken.

The Admissions Test will be taken on Friday, March 5, 2010 and will be timed as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Mathematics Paper
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - candidates will be allowed a brief recess
- 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 a.m. – English Paper

Students will be available for collection at 1.00 p.m.

What will students need to bring for the test?

Students will be expected to bring reliable pens, pencils, a ruler and appropriate mathematical instruments.

What information must the applicant submit?

All applicants must supply the following information:

- Completed application form, with accompanying application fee
- A copy of the student's official transcript
- School Report, English Report, and Mathematics Report to be completed by appropriate personnel from the applicant's current school. These Report Forms are available from the Saltus Admissions Office.

All material should be returned directly to Saltus in an envelope marked, "For the attention of The Admissions Secretary", to arrive no later than Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

To confirm that your son/daughter will sit the Admissions Test please complete the enclosed response slip and return it to the Admissions Secretary by Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

What happens after the Test is taken?

Parents of candidates selected for interview will be notified by telephone as soon as possible following the marking of the examination papers.

At interview, parents will be informed of further stages in the entry process and have the opportunity to seek clarification on any concerns they may still have.

If a student is not successful in gaining entry into Secondary 10, is it possible to enter at a lower level?

If it is felt, based upon the results of the Test, that a student is not ready to enter Secondary 10 but nevertheless has the potential to benefit from a Saltus education, it is possible that the student could be considered for entry into Secondary 9. This decision would be taken entirely by the school and would be dependent upon a number of factors including the availability of space.

Scholarships and Bursaries:

Saltus is fortunate to benefit from a number of bursary awards made possible by the generosity of a variety of donors. These awards fall into two categories: **scholarships**, based purely upon academic merit, and **financial aid**, which is determined by genuine family need.

Any Academic Entrance Scholarships, as outlined above, will be awarded without application being made.

Parents wishing to apply for financial aid should indicate their intention on the enclosed response slip. They will then be given a Financial Aid Form at interview if so contacted. The Financial Aid Form must be completed and returned to the attention of the Deputy Headmaster by March 31, 2010. An application for aid naturally carries no guarantee that an award will be made.

Recipients of financial aid, as well as any scholarship winners, will be notified as soon as decisions have been made.

Saltus Admissions Test 2010 for entry into Secondary 10.

Please return to the Admissions Secretary, Saltus Grammar School, P.O. Box HM 2224, Hamilton HM JX, by Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

I confirm that my son/daughter will sit the Admissions Test on Friday, March 5, 2010.

Student Name:

Current School:

I have supplied the Saltus Admissions Office with the following documentation:

- ✓ Completed application form, with accompanying application fee
- ✓ A copy of the student's official transcript
- ✓ School Report, English Report, and Mathematics Report completed by appropriate personnel from the applicant's current school.

I *have / do not have *another child/other children currently at Saltus

Name:..... Form..... House.....

Name:..... Form..... House.....

I *wish / do not wish to receive a Financial Aid Form

Parental signature:

Date: