

HALIFAX EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Boys

Circular No.42/61

Education Offices,  
West House,  
Halifax.

2nd June, 1961.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Selection for Secondary Education, 1961

I am happy to inform you that, as a result of the selection tests which have been held during recent months and after consideration of school records and recommendations, the Selection Board has decided that your son is capable of profiting from a grammar school education. You will be aware that there are two boys' grammar schools under the Authority, namely the Crossley and Porter School and Heath Grammar School. You are asked to express your wishes by indicating on the enclosed slip the name of the school which you prefer. As accommodation in each school is limited I cannot promise that it will be possible for everyone to be satisfied, but you may be sure that your wishes will be very carefully considered. If you have no particular preference it would be very helpful if you would indicate this fact in the appropriate space on the slip. In recent years, to prevent overcrowding, it has been necessary to disappoint some parents who have a strong preference for one or other of the two schools. The number of those disappointed could be reduced if parents who have no special reasons for stating a preference would make this fact clear in Section 2(c) of the attached acceptance slip.

Though the Committee is able on present information to offer you this place, its retention will depend upon your son's progress in the school and it must be clearly understood that the Education Authority has the right and the duty to review the position from time to time and to effect transfers between secondary schools of various types.

It will be realised that the award of a grammar school place has been made to your son on the basis of his present promise. His success and happiness at the school will, however, depend also upon other factors, for example, the degree of co-operation which is likely to exist between the parents and the school. It should be realised that a grammar school pupil needs to spend a considerable time on homework and that the obligations attaching to the privileges of higher education cannot be ignored. It is essential, if you accept this place, for your boy to have proper facilities for doing homework and for entering into the corporate life of the school. Your signature on the acceptance form is taken to indicate your full understanding and acceptance of this condition.

One further consideration remains. Though the normal minimum school-leaving age is 15, the grammar school course is of such length and variety that no pupil is able to complete it at that age. Accordingly it is important that a boy who accepts a place in a grammar school should be prepared to stay at least until the end of the school year in which he reaches the age of 16. You are advised to consider carefully the implications of this requirement before you sign the acceptance form which is a solemn undertaking to abide by these conditions. Not only is it essential in your son's interests for you to promise that he will remain at school for at least five complete school years, but it is also necessary for the Authority to ensure that its grammar school provision is used to give the maximum benefit to the children of the town.

Will you be good enough to indicate your acceptance of these conditions on the enclosed form and return it without fail to school or to this Office by Thursday, 8th June. A form of agreement will then be prepared for your signature in which you will be asked to enter into an undertaking that your son will continue in attendance at least until July 31st, 1966, and that during his stay at the school he will abide by the school rules.

If you have any difficulty or doubt you will be very well advised to seek an interview immediately in order to discuss the position with your son's present