

2023/2024



**COTSWOLD
EDUCATION**

Your local 11plus experts



LEARNING IN COMMUNITY

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Our Vision

Our vision is to be a centre of educational excellence, inspiring students to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and confident individuals to make the most of life's opportunities. We want to support children of all abilities and backgrounds to appreciate the love of learning.

Hi there!

It's great to be able to give you an insight into what we do and what we believe. As a regional business we have unrivalled experience of the local education landscape and have been supporting hundreds of local families prepare for secondary school and beyond. We've got particular expertise in grammar school preparation but are developing a broad range of fun and educational events and courses. We want children to enjoy learning and encourage them to take an active part in their own educational development, even if they don't know it!

We love creating new ways to learn together – last year we started our 11+ Masterclasses and this year we are excited to announce our new Spy Experience for children aged 9-11. Have a look inside this booklet to find details of all our events this year and please get in touch if you're not clear about anything.

You can find us at most of our events where we will be happy to have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. If you'd like to have a more focussed discussion about your education planning then please book a consultation and we can have a more in-depth chat.

We look forward to meeting you and please let us know if you would like us to create something new you'd like to see.

Ian and Liz

Dr Ian Todd and Mrs Liz Forston
Directors: Cotswold Education



OUR HISTORY

2011

THE BEGINNING

Cotswold Education was established by Dr Ian Todd plus 2 other partners. In our first few years we ran Parent Information Mornings plus 3 Mock Tests. Each test usually had 25 families.

2015

COTSWOLD EDUCATION GROWS

The Hub (now known as 11+ Summer Camp) ran for the first time with 16 children

2019

WELCOME LIZ!

Liz Fortson joins Cotswold Education as a Partner. In person Parent/Carer evenings began.

2020

LOCKDOWN BEGINS

In Lockdown we ran free Fun Friday online puzzles on Social Media and our Mock Tests were transferred online. Our first On Location Test ran in August when Lockdown was lifted. We decided to keep a mix of online and in-person events from here!

2021

GET READY FOR THE 11+ FUN DAY

We ran our first Year 4 Fun in Summer, which proved to be a success! This event continues today.

2022

ALL CHANGE FOR 2023...

In August we heard that the Grammar School Test would change to GL format. All papers and courses were revised, updated and rewritten by our fantastic team.

2023

MASTERCLASSES WERE INTRODUCED

Following your feedback, we introduced our Masterclasses, which we've heard have been hugely helpful! We plan to continue this into 2024.

In the last year, we have met a total of 420 families!

ABOUT US

Beginning in 2011, Cotswold Education is a family-run business of experienced educators based in Gloucestershire.

We have personal experience of the whole primary and secondary education system in Gloucestershire including grammar school application and school appeals. Our children sat the Grammar School Test and some now work with us as well!

We aim to provide high quality education events and courses to support children and their parents/carers. We specialise in the 11+ entrance exam and are looking to expand our learning experiences to new areas such as our Spy Experience.

We believe that all parents/carers should have access to high quality information and run a mixture of free and paid for events.

Get in touch



www.cotswoldeducation.co.uk



cotswoldeducationuk@gmail.com



07976 218062

Find us on social media!





Meet the Team

We have a wonderful team of talented tutors that lead our events. Each member of our team has extensive experience in the education sector and are passionate about what they do! Our team includes private tutors, tutors specialising in the 11+ exam, primary school teachers, a teacher with SENCo experience and a Higher Level Teaching Assistant with experience supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs .



Liz and Ian run Cotswold Ed. Ian is the founder and was previously Head of Biology at Bath Spa University. Prior to this, he was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire with extensive research experience at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Liz taught in the Primary Sector for 10 years and was departmental Head of English and Primary Lead teacher. Liz moved to America where she taught in the Gifted and Talented Programme. Both have tutored for the 11plus and you may notice some of their now adult children on the Cotswold Ed Team!

We also have a member of the team who focuses on Social Media and Marketing. All of our team are up to date enhanced DBS checked and a Qualified Paediatric First Aider is available at all of our events.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

Your 11+ Journey

There are seven Grammar Schools in Gloucestershire. Each school has its own admissions criteria. Please check with the school's website if you wish to check any information about an individual school.

Getting Started

Moving from primary to secondary school can be overwhelming at the best of times, particularly if this is the first time you have experienced this process!

At Cots Ed, we are with you for the whole of your Grammar School journey from finding out more about the Grammar School process up to taking the actual test and any subsequent appeals you may undertake. We run regular Parent/Carer Information evenings (see page 8 for Year 4 and page 9 for Year 5) that are free to attend. You can also find more information on the "Getting Started" section of our website.

What is the 11+ Test?

The Gloucestershire 11+ Test is currently based on GL Style Assessment. This was new from September 2023 entry, but anyone with older children may be aware that this isn't the first time Gloucestershire has used this publisher!

The GL 11+ Test asks questions based on Verbal Reasoning (21 types), Comprehension, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning. There are two papers that last approximately 50 minutes in duration that are divided into timed sections.

Do I need a tutor?

To pass the eleven plus you definitely don't need a tutor, but it is very likely that without a tutor your child will need support from their parents or carers. As with any test that your child will take (from SATs through to GCSEs and beyond!), having an idea of what the test will look like and how to answer the questions is very helpful.

GL Assessment, which is the test provider for Gloucestershire, provides free materials to use for practice and there are other suitable materials on sale. The verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning sections take a bit of getting used to as the types of question are new to most of us, but certainly not so difficult that most adults couldn't help their child prepare. The English and Maths sections are related to the school curriculum.

It's said that you can get into grammar school without tutoring, and people say that was the case with their child. However, the reality is that having some preparation is incredibly useful, even if formal tuition is not used.

A tutor can be helpful, especially if they are experienced with GL tests and can provide guidance. If you don't want to or are unable to use a tutor, then keep an eye out for our free parent/carer information evenings. We will be talking about what the test involves, as well as tips and tricks for how you can help your child prepare. We also provide group tuition, short courses and highly recommend our mocks, which give your child a genuine sense of what the exam conditions will be like.



6 My child has SEND needs

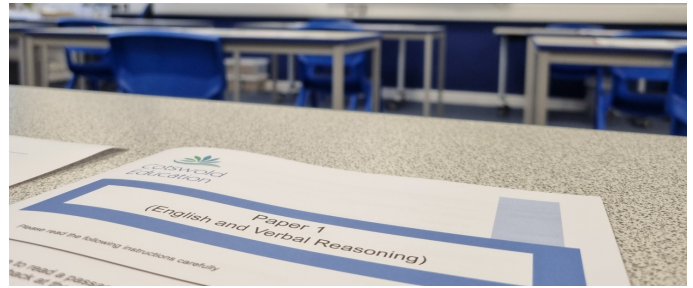
If your child has SEND or medical needs, you might be wondering whether taking the 11+ exam is the right path, or if there are any access arrangements that may help them.

What access arrangements are available?

The schools will all adhere to the Equal Opportunities regulations. For example, the Pates Admissions Policy states 'The School acts at all times in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and will therefore consider a request for reasonable adjustments from the parents of any disabled child who wishes to attend the school for the Test. Parents should notify the School when they register if their child will need additional support on Test day.'

In order to apply for reasonable adjustments, you will need to provide recent evidence of any diagnosis, or a recent My Plan/My Plan+ or EHCP. The grammar school may also contact your child's primary school to ask for further information.

Examples of types of reasonable adjustments may include: extra time, rest breaks, smaller group in the classroom, an individual room, a pre-test visit, an early entry time, a reader, a scribe or toilet breaks. This is not a complete list, so please contact the school directly to ask for more information on what support your child may be eligible for.



What support do Cots Ed offer?

At Cotswold Education we want to make every child's test preparation as comfortable as possible. We are a fully inclusive organisation and aim to make reasonable adjustments for any child who may need them in order to access our events.

All of our in-person events are in fully accessible spaces with an accessible toilet available. Our online events can have closed captions provided for any pupil or parents with a hearing impairment.

We provide a SEND room at selected Mock Tests for pupils with identified SEND needs. These may include adjustments for extra time and rest breaks as well as a quieter space in which to sit the test. We can also offer early entry to pupils who may need a quieter start to the test. Children may use any equipment that they are authorised to use at school (e.g. overlays, ear defenders etc).

For all our in-person or online events, please get in touch with a member of our team if your child has any specific needs that we may help with. We have a qualified SENCO on our team who will be able to offer advice and help to any parent with a child with special educational needs. We also have a trained SEND Teaching Assistant on our team, with experience of a wide range of SEND.

Events & Bookings

We run both online and in-person events. Our online events usually take place on Zoom. For details of in-person events, please look at the details for the event you are hoping to book.

All bookings are made through our secure booking site, which is linked to our website. If you have a child receiving free school meals, please contact us as we offer a number of discounted or free places at our events.

If you need to cancel a booking or if you or your child is ill on the actual day, please let us know as far in advance as possible so we can discuss this with you.

If you haven't already, it's worth signing up to our mailing list to receive regular updates about any changes to the 11plus test as well as information on upcoming events and discounts.

We take safeguarding very seriously. All staff members have a full DBS and we have a Qualified Paediatric First Aider at each event. Our safeguarding policy can be found on our website. When you sign up for an event, you will be asked information about your child including whether you are happy for us to take photos/videos, information on allergies and any other needs we need to be aware of. You are welcome to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Personal Consultations

We're always happy to answer your questions about our events and to chat over a cup of coffee at our mock tests. We can also help by email or over the phone.

Sometime you might like to have a longer discussion about supporting your child or other aspects of 11+ preparation. If so please book a personal consultation with us for a more in depth planning session.

Join our mailing list!

Scan here



Year 4 Support

Online Parent/Carer Information Evenings

When your child reaches Year 4, it's natural to start thinking about what their next step in their school journey will be. If it is the first time you have gone through this process, it can feel overwhelming to know where to start, particularly regarding grammar schools!

Our Online Parent/Carer Information Evenings take place on Zoom and for Year 4 parents we focus on general ways you can support your child before they start more formal preparation for the 11plus test. We discuss fun and entertaining ways to help your child to improve a range of skills which are beneficial for the 11+ test and beyond!

We will consider games and activities that you can use to make learning fun, whether or not you end up applying for grammar school.

Get Ready for the 11+ Fun Day!

Summer learning to help develop skills and build confidence!

Our Get Ready for the 11+ Fun Day is the ultimate summer get together for Year 4 children who are moving into Year 5 in September 2024. It is suitable for children who may be considering taking the 11+ but is also great for any child moving into Year 5, since the skills developed will be appropriate for all aspects of the curriculum.

We believe that a good learning environment should be varied and include a mixture of traditional classroom style teaching alongside team work, play and games. All staff are experienced teachers and educators that know how to draw on your child's individual skills and learning styles.

We will focus on developing a range of English, Maths and Non-Verbal skills that appear in the national curriculum and in the 11+ test. Your child will use and develop skills like logic and team work to solve team-based challenges.

The Fun Day includes:

- Active Ice Breaker session
- Puzzles and games using English, Maths and Non-Verbal skills
- Individual and team working activities to develop social skills and collaboration
- A fun environment to build confidence and encourage learning
- Free light refreshments (dietary needs catered for on request)
- No hidden extras! Just provide a packed lunch

Places are limited to ensure a great experience for all the children. We recommend you book early to reserve your child's place!

“ —

If school was like this every day I'd actually enjoy going!

— ”

Online Parent/Carer Information Evenings

At the start of Year 5 it's time to start thinking about your grammar school journey—if you haven't already! Knowing where to get high quality information and “what is right” when it comes to grammar school preparation can be difficult, particularly when there are often many views shared on forums and social media!

Our Online Parent/Carer Information Evenings take place on Zoom and aim to give all parents/carers the information you need to support your child. We believe that parents/carers should have access to high quality information to aid you in making informed decisions about what school is best for your child. These evenings are free to all and there is no expectation that you book onto one of our paid events.

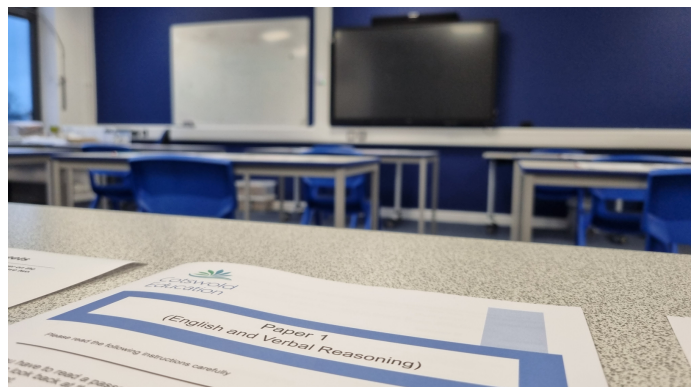
At Home Assessment Test

One of the most common questions we are asked is “how will I know if Grammar School is right for my child”. Unsurprisingly, there is no easy answer to this question and there are number of factors to consider. We talk more about this in one of our blog posts on our website. Visit the “Getting Started” page to find out more.

Assessment Tests are one way you can start getting an idea of how your child will perform in the actual test. The test includes the four key areas (English, Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning) assessed in the Gloucestershire 11+ Grammar School exam.

During the information evenings, we will discuss all aspects of the Grammar School process from learning about Gloucestershire Grammar Schools and the 11+ test, to how you can help your child prepare, with or without a tutor.

From time to time we run special sessions on particular aspects of the application process such as results day drop in sessions and a meeting on filling in the Common Application Form. Please keep in touch to get the latest information on our free sessions.



We'll send you a report outlining the potential suitability of grammar school for your child. It should be recognised that this assessment is early in your child's grammar school journey. They may or may not have had some previous experience with the question types and improvement in academic achievement is rarely linear. Therefore we would recommend that you use this assessment alongside other data such as previous school reports, Cognitive Ability Testing (CATs tests often used by schools in the autumn term of year 5) and most importantly your own knowledge of your child when deciding if or how much 11+ preparation is right for them.



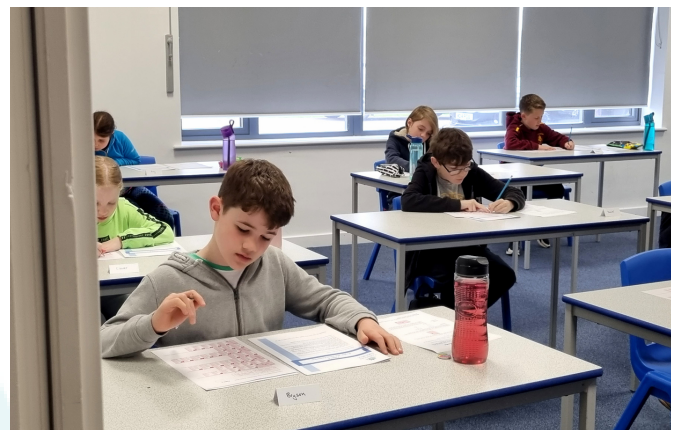
11+ MOCK TESTS

Our GL Style 11+ Mock Tests give an authentic experience of what sitting the 2024 Grammar School Entrance Test will be like. The tests comprise of two full length papers taken under supervised exam conditions in a secondary school venue. The test is taken with other children to help build your child's confidence in this environment. The tests are designed to be relatively challenging, whilst enabling all students to gain experience of test conditions. There is a refreshment break between the papers.

Parents/Carers are welcome to stay and chat with our experienced staff over free refreshments. We'll also have a range of books and other resources for you to browse and buy. You don't have to bring anything with you other than a snack and drink for your child during the break between papers.

After your child sits the paper, you will receive an extensive, individually prepared report with raw marks, percentage marks and ranking position, which will be emailed to you within 14 days of the test. We also provide a summary of your child's performance and recommendations for how they can improve their scores.

We will send you your child's marked answers sheets after the test with a link to a feedback video going through all of the questions and giving the correct answers. We even include some useful hints and tips in these videos, which will help with future tests.



CAN MY CHILD SIT MORE THAN ONE TEST?

We write all of our mock papers ourselves each year so we can guarantee that your child won't have sat the paper before. Each date also has a different paper, so your child can sit as many mock tests as they want. Please note that the papers on the Morning and Afternoon sessions are the same so please don't book two tests on the same day.

»»» Why sit a Mock Test?

Practicing 11+ questions is really helpful but this on its own doesn't necessarily prepare your child for what it will be like to sit the actual test. This is where attending a mock test can be really helpful. Sitting a mock test gives your child the chance to practice being in an environment with peers, under exam conditions. This can help them feel more comfortable with the environment and children often show a marked improvement over several mocks.

The actual pass mark for an 11+ exam changes yearly, so your child's ranking can tell you more about how likely they are to get into the school of their choice than the individual scores on the practice paper.

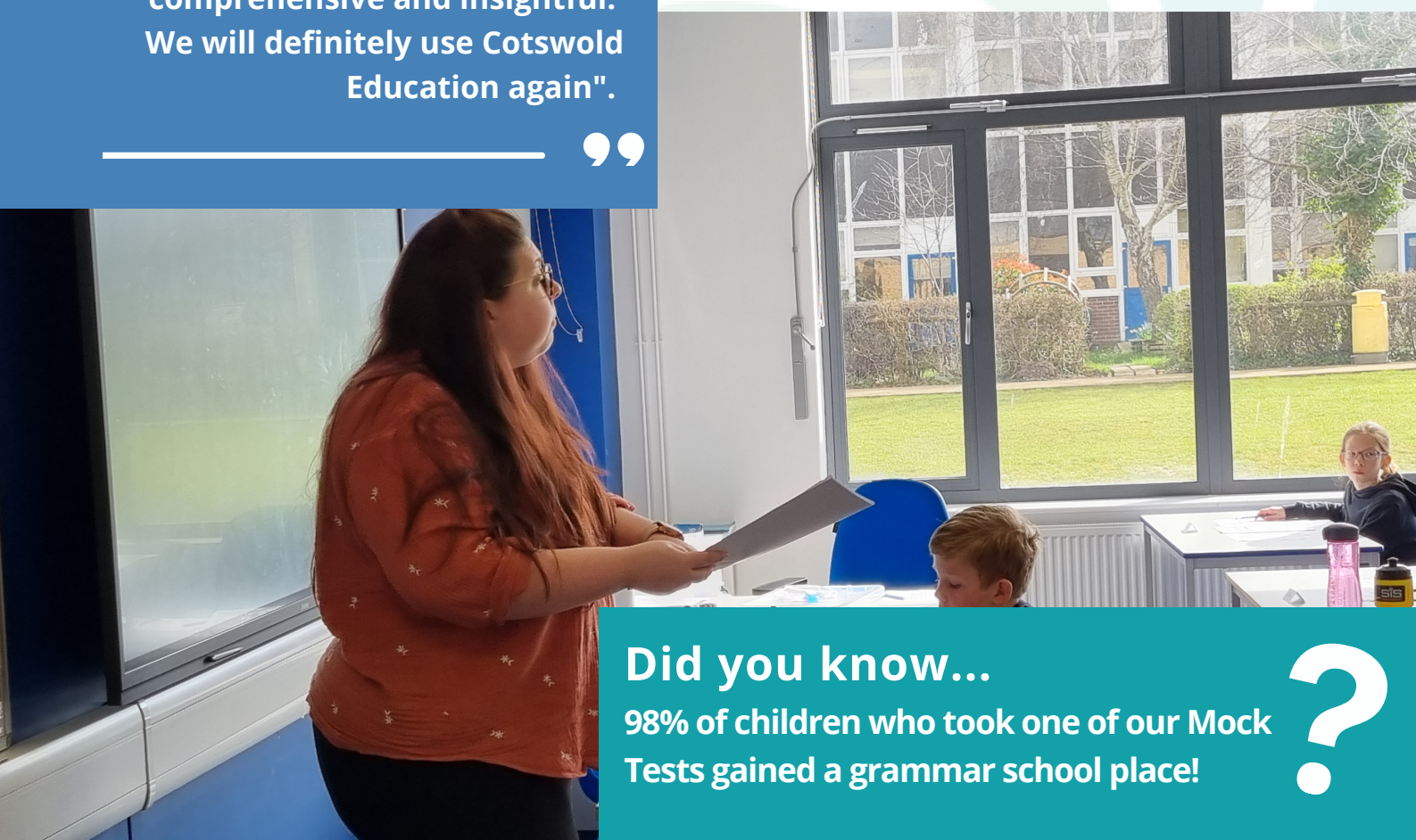
We have been running mock tests for over 12 years. This means we are able to provide you with a ranking that will give you a good idea of what school your child is likely to get into.

“ A GREAT SUPPORT IN PREPARING FOR THE 11PLUS

We found the mock exams extremely useful in preparing our son for the 11 Plus. The exams were conducted in a realistic manner and the feedback was comprehensive and insightful. We will definitely use Cotswold Education again".

»»» Exam Access Arrangements

We are able to offer exam access arrangements at the mock tests indicated below. For more information on exam access arrangements and how we can support your child, please refer to page 6.



Did you know...

98% of children who took one of our Mock Tests gained a grammar school place!



11+ SHORT COURSES, GROUPS & MASTERCLASSES

All courses, groups and masterclasses have restricted places so we can make sure your child gets the most out of the day. We recommend you book early to reserve your child's place.

Weekly Group Tuition

NEW

After listening to parent feedback, we are introducing a new group tuition course!

The two tuition courses each run over 10 weeks and support your child with progressing from Stage 1 (New to the 11+) all the way through to Stage 3 (Ready to Go!).

The course is run by two of our staff who are highly qualified teachers with 11+ tutoring experience. We have low staff: student ratios for these sessions. Each session will be online and focus on the material for that week. There will then be "homework" set each week that we estimate should take your child no more than an hour to complete. The second course will also incorporate practice tests to start gaining confidence in 'real' 11+ questions.

11+ Book Club

NEW

New for 2023/2024, our free book club is intended to nurture a love of reading within the Cotswold Education community. It is specifically designed to foster growth in reading ability through the careful selection of books from across a wide variety of genres. All books are of suitable academic level for children in Year 5 preparing for the 11+ exam.

This will be a monthly online book club where we will provide a selection of books each session, related to a particular genre. From here, the group will select the book for each month.

We will provide appropriate questions that can be used as a guide for discussion, matching the chosen book, and an activity relating to it for children to complete if they wish.

More details to come as the Book Club develops!

The Spring Short Course and Grammar Crammar

Both of these courses run for five mornings in one week and last 2 ½ hours per day with a 15-minute break. The Spring course is suitable for children who are new to the 11plus and also for those who have done some basic studying, but would like some more practice and skill development.

The Grammar Crammer, which runs in the summer, will be more intensive and assumes that the children are aware of the key question types. We will support the children to increase their depth of knowledge whilst teaching a range of strategies with tips and techniques, that many children have found useful in helping them achieve high scores in the test. Both courses are provided by two highly qualified and experienced teachers and 11+ tutors and do not duplicate one another.

Each session includes elements of English, Non-Verbal Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Skills. The sessions are interactive and encourage the students to engage in active learning. By the end of the course, your child will feel confident in tackling a range of GL style 11+ questions, but they will also have enhanced knowledge of the school curriculum to help them in their day-to-day lessons.

Each course includes a booklet of optional extension activities for your child to carry out independently or with their family following each session, helping students to further develop their understanding of the 11+ test topics.

11+ Masterclasses

New in 2023, we started our Masterclasses following feedback from parents/carers wishing there was a way that their child could get support for specific topics of the test. You asked, we listened!

Each Masterclass is dedicated to one topic in the 11+ test. The sessions take place online and last for one hour. As with our other online events, we encourage your child to take part in the interactive elements, but they are welcome to just sit and listen if they would like. The masterclasses begin by focusing on understanding the topic we are discussing before moving onto tips, tricks and shortcuts to help your child answer these questions more quickly and accurately. There is no limit to how many sessions your child can join.

We run Masterclasses on:

- Verbal Reasoning (four different sessions)
- Maths (Arithmetic Tips, Fractions, Shapes & Angles)
- Non-Verbal Reasoning
- Comprehension
- Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar
- Ready for Anything (extra potential topics)

We add masterclasses throughout the year based on feedback and suggestions, so sign up to our mailing list to keep up to date!

11+ Summer Camp

Our 11+ Summer Camp is dedicated to supporting your child with 11+ preparation whilst responding to the more relaxed summer dynamic. Teaching is delivered in small groups using a low staff:student ratio.

Sessions have been carefully crafted to improve all elements of the grammar school exam using a mixture of digital learning, workbook based activities and practical, kinetic, dynamic group work. The camp runs over two days and covers all four elements of the test.



The days include:

- Active icebreaker session
- Sessions on how to tackle comprehension tests
- Sessions on verbal reasoning question types and how to solve them
- Sessions on tips and tricks for mathematical tasks
- Sessions on non-verbal reasoning

Every child will receive a reference booklet with extension activities they can practice at home. We provide light refreshments and can cater for various dietary needs. No hidden extras, just provide a packed lunch!

11+ Online Revision Day

Our Online 11+ Revision Day is a day-long interactive event that aims to give your child the opportunity to do some last minute revision in a relaxed learning environment on Zoom. There will be lots of tips and tricks about how to approach a broad range of topics to help save time and to grow confidence on how to approach question types.

There are sessions on Comprehension, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning, with a focus on revision and tackling GL style questions.

Our team will be using video and audio but there is no requirement for you to use video, although it is nice to see who is taking part! We encourage all children to participate with the interactive parts of the course and we promise not to make anyone feel awkward.

We suggest that parents are with their child or nearby, in case they need assistance. There will be time for children and parents to ask any questions they have about preparing for the test.

SPY EXPERIENCE

TRAINING DAYS

15

Trainee Agents wanted!



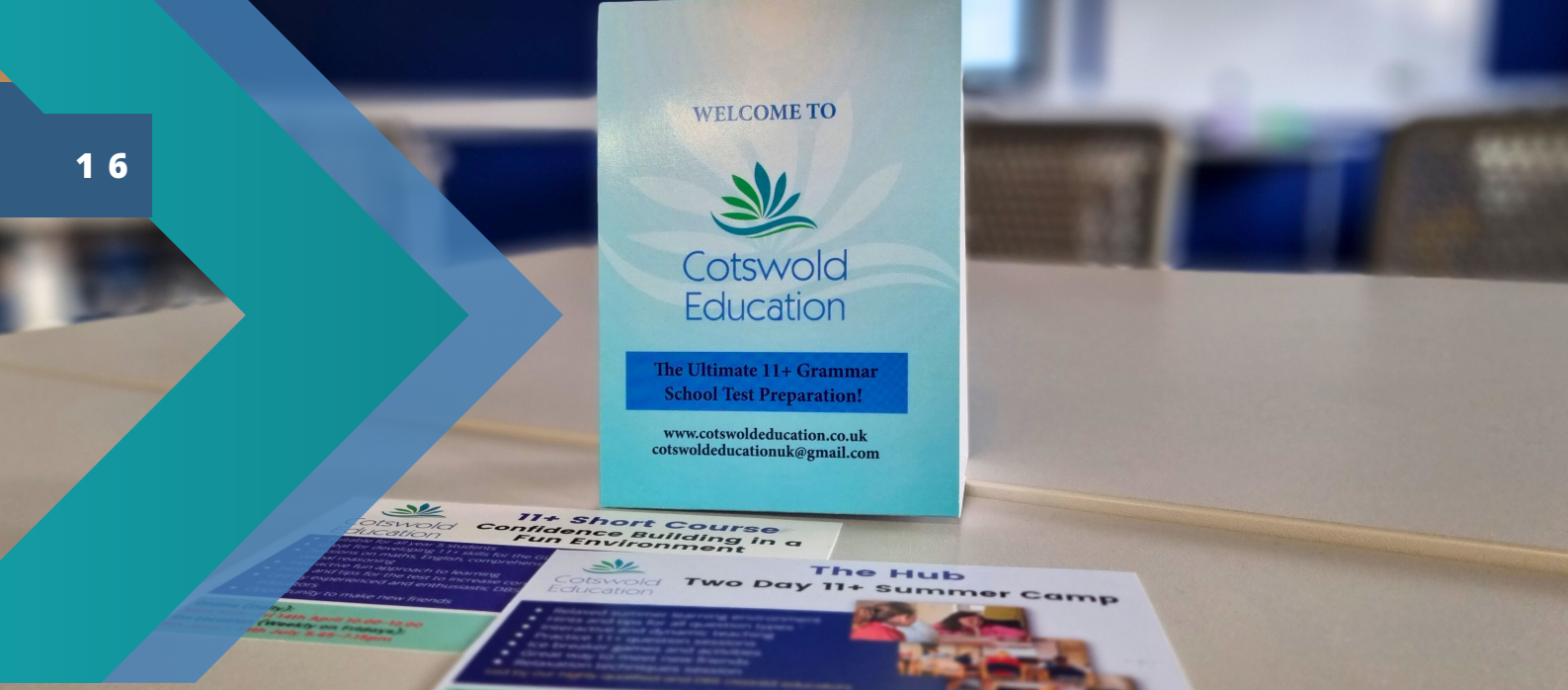
Our Spy Experience Training Day is a great experience for children aged 9-11 that love solving puzzles, cracking codes and using gadgets!

The training day is an immersive experience where Trainee Agents will learn about:

- Surveillance and information gathering techniques
- Developing observation skills to be more aware of the world around us
- How to create and crack codes using a number of methods
- Self-defence and safety skills for agents on-location
- Developing field skills and how to use everyday objects for ingenious espionage activities

We also have a fantastic range of gadgets including thermal imaging cameras, hidden cameras, walkie talkies, gadget pens, hidden safes, field microscope and many more. Our amazing laser tag game has been a big hit in our previous events!

Follow us on social media or sign up to our mailing list for updates on our Spy Experience Training Day!



Why choose us?

At Cotswold Education, we are here for you for the whole of your grammar school journey. We can offer individual consultations, signpost to resources and help you with applying for grammar school, and with completing appeals if the results weren't what you hoped!

As a family-run business beginning in 2011, we have personal experience of the whole primary and secondary education system in Gloucestershire, including grammar school applications and school appeals. Some of our children went to Grammar School and we know all too well what it is like to go through this process! Our own experience has shaped how we run Cotswold Education and we have gathered a wonderful team of talented teachers and tutors.

All of our staff have experience in the education sector either as primary/secondary school teachers, higher education or 1:1/group tutors. We are also educators ourselves, which has allowed us to design and run high quality education events and courses for both children and parents.

This year, we have been able to draw on the wealth of experience from two of our staff members, who have experience support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. From this, we are proud to present our SEND offer and have been able provide exam access arrangements for our Mock Tests.

We write all of our GL Style papers and courses.

This means we are able to collect historic data to provide you with a rank and a good estimate for what schools your child may get into if they had sat the real paper. Our mocks are popular, meaning your child's ranking will be from a large cohort

We offer an authentic mock test experience

Our events take place in a Secondary School, where possible, and children generally do not know each other when they get there. Each child has their own table, which not all mock providers do!

We provide both in-person and online events

We know that not everyone likes being online, whilst others may not like or be able to meet in person. We offer a mix of online and in-person events throughout the year.

We offer competitive prices

Our prices are competitive with additional discounts and offers for our courses and mock events. We also offer free resources such as our Parent/Carer Information Evenings.

We can provide test access arrangements

We are able to offer a SEN room and we have a SENCo on the team who can offer advice on the 11+ process. Our in-person events are wheelchair accessible

We know Gloucestershire

Our staff live in Gloucestershire and are able to use local knowledge of the process and Gloucestershire GL Test to be able to answer your questions at our events.

We listen and are constantly developing

We value all of the feedback we get and this has led to the creation of new courses and events for both last year and this year!

Spy Experience

We offer a "Spy Experience" that teaches 11+ skills in a unique, fun and interactive way.



17

“
Very detailed and useful feedback, a realistic test stretching the child's ability - some other providers seem to provide overly easy tests which isn't what a mock should be.

June 2023



“
Cotswold Education has been such an amazing find for our family. My daughter sat the 11plus 2 years ago... Her result in the mock test was almost exactly how she ranked in the actual test. My son is now preparing for the 11plus and I can't imagine using any other company than Cotswold Education. They are a lovely supportive group of people which makes a stressful period so much easier. I can't recommend enough!

May 2023



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Find us on social media

