

For Year 5 & Year 4 parents
via in area primary schools

09/03/2026

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Dear Parent

I am writing to you to inform you of a change to the method of testing used by the North Yorkshire Council with regards to 11+ admissions testing at Ripon Grammar School.

For testing in September 2026, the tests will comprise a verbal skills test and a non-verbal reasoning with mathematics test, as follows:

1) Verbal Skills

This paper combines Key Stage 2 reading comprehension and spelling test with verbal reasoning questions. All questions are multiple choice.

The new paper replaces the Verbal Reasoning paper which has been used in previous tests and which used only verbal reasoning questions without the KS2 English comprehension element. The Verbal Skills test is in two parts, English and Verbal Reasoning

- English – consists of a passage to read and then answer questions about it. Approximately 14 questions. Followed on by some exercises in spelling and grammar. Approximately 12 questions
- Verbal reasoning questions – Approximately 32 questions

2) Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) with Mathematics

This paper combines sections on non-verbal reasoning and Key Stage 2 mathematics. All questions are multiple choice.

The new paper replaces the non-verbal reasoning paper which has been used in previous tests and which used only non-verbal reasoning questions without the KS2 mathematics element. The test is in 3 Sections:

- Two non-verbal reasoning sections of twenty questions in each section. Instructions are given with practice questions before the timed sections.
- Mathematics section has approximately 25 questions
There are no practice questions for this section.

The test material will continue to be provided and marked by GL Assessment.

Parents are encouraged to ensure that their child is familiar with the types of questions set on these two papers. Free familiarisation materials for verbal skills and non-verbal reasoning with maths are available from GL Assessment on their website

<https://11plus.gl-assessment.co.uk/pages/free-materials>

By combining elements of verbal and non-verbal reasoning the papers will continue to test academic potential irrespective of schooling and background. By adding a new KS2 element the tests will also respond to the teaching and learning which is conducted in your child's school.

The North Yorkshire and Ripon Grammar School websites will be updated with further details.

We hope this information clarifies the testing in September 2026 and we encourage you to enter your child for the tests.

The application round for testing for entry in September 2027 will open by 30 April 2026 on the North Yorkshire website

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/selective-schools>

Yours sincerely

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