

## Starting Secondary School in September?

**The anxious wait for news of secondary school places is almost over for pupils and parents.**

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, parents of pupils transferring to secondary school in September 2011 will receive an allocation letter from Gloucestershire County Council. All parents throughout the county will be offered one school place on the same day. Gloucestershire parents will have until 15<sup>th</sup> March to return their reply form.

Every letter will be specific for each pupil and will contain an explanation for the decision made. Further clarification about general issues can be found on the county council's website [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Charlotte Jones, Senior Admissions Manager, said; "This is always a stressful time for pupils and parents but our Admissions & Transfer Team have worked very hard to try to ensure that as many pupils as possible get one of their preferences. This year, at this stage, 97.5% have received one of their preferred places – a significant increase from past years, and 87% have been offered their first preference. This has been a huge exercise with 6708 pupils having been allocated a secondary school with Gloucestershire or neighbouring authorities. This includes 364 (5.43%) who are coming into Gloucestershire from other authorities."

"I would encourage parents to complete and return their reply forms as soon as possible, but definitely by 15<sup>th</sup> March. We anticipate that most parents will be happy with the place offered to them. For those who aren't happy, I would urge them to keep their allocated place as this will ensure that, whatever the outcome, their child will have a place at a school for September."

If parents ask for their child's allocation to be reconsidered, they can request for their child to be placed on the waiting list for the school(s). If places then become available, they will be allocated in strict accordance with the published admissions criteria for the school. The admission criteria and more information about waiting lists for every school in Gloucestershire is available on the county council's website [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or within booklets that are available at all schools, children's centres and libraries.

Individual copies of the booklets are available. For details please contact the Admissions & Transfer Team on 01452 425407.

The Admissions & Transfer Team will write to parents with the result of the reconsideration after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Parents who are still not satisfied with their allocated school will then be advised of the appeals procedure.

Cllr Jackie Hall, Cabinet Member for Schools, said: "Starting the next phase of education at secondary school is a big step and I wish all pupils and parents well for this exciting time ahead."