

# FlatCash Selective Education *on the Doorstep*



**Expanding grammar schools and selective education has been described as an issue of parent choice. £320 million has been planned for new schools that could be selective.**

This non-political guide seeks to provide evidence, so parents can make an informed choice in East Sussex. There are currently 163 grammar schools across England. Arguments in favour of selection:

- Greater social mobility, helping the brightest children from poor homes.
- Stronger exam results.
- Enhanced experiences and successful alumni

However, by contrast it can be shown that **investment in existing schools** over time has been proven to be the key to improving performance, leadership and collaboration. Non-selective Inner London achieved substantially better outcomes with students from poorer backgrounds. Many high achieving countries (Shanghai, Finland, Canada and Japan) have removed selective systems in preference to **well-funded comprehensive structures**.

## Social Mobility

There is no evidence that a selective system improves social mobility.

- Evidence shows children from deprived backgrounds are *much less* likely to attend grammar schools than better off children, even the high attaining poorer children.
- In 2015 12% of year 7 pupils in grammar schools were not in the state system in year 6, suggesting that a lot of children move from private schools into grammar schools at age 11.

In a selective system, parents do not choose the school, the school selects the children. Many families pay for tutoring to help their children with the 11plus; costs can be up to £2000 per year. Efforts to “tutor proof” tests have not succeeded and not all students who are tutored succeed, approx. 75% do not get in.

Evidence suggests those who do not get in, do worse. The “secondary modern” schools in selective areas are not truly comprehensive and students often achieve less well. Educational outcomes and earning inequalities in later life are much worse than they are for those from a comprehensive system.

## Strong Exam Results

Comparing comprehensive schools outcomes against selective schools is not a like for like measure. However .....

- In East Sussex, many *more able* students within Good/Outstanding comprehensive schools perform at least as well at GCSE, making as much progress, often better than those in grammars.
- In many East Sussex School Sixth Forms, high attaining students achieve as good or better grades than their grammar school counterparts, securing places in Oxbridge or Russell Group Universities. In almost all cases, students secure their first choice university place.

## Enhanced experiences

- Sport, Arts, Debating, Enrichment opportunities, national level competition and international experiences, are equally available in our local comprehensive Colleges and open, free to all.
- The impact on mental health of those who fail the 11plus is marked; many feel they are a failure at age 11. Studies show many who do get in experience high levels of anxiety linked to “keeping up” in an intensive environment.
- International reports on wellbeing say children in selective education systems tend to have “lower expectations for further education” than those from a comprehensive approach, “pupils have lower expectations and feel less confident in education systems with selective schools”.

***As a matter of parent choice, regardless of political persuasion, please hold our politicians to account for choices on funding for all our schools in East Sussex.***