



Headteacher
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the opportunity to succeed

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 7 CAT Testing

This is an exciting year for all students in Year 7 as they establish new friends and routines. However, we also understand that it can be a daunting time.

In order for us to better understand and support our students, we would like them to take part in a CAT4 test. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference in learning. The date of the test is **Friday 29th September**.

While many other tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed. It will enable us to target support towards every child to help them reach their full potential.

Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability). CAT4 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

All aspects of the test will be discussed with Year 7 students prior to taking the tests. No preparation is necessary; it is important that your child does not become anxious as no pre-learning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests. It is important to note they cannot revise for these tests. We fully understand this may cause anxiety for some students, please be reassured that we are working hard to ensure that all our students are being supported. After the assessment is finished, we will be in touch again with the results and any advice that may be useful to their options choices.

Students will require a pair of wired headphones for the test. We have some headphones that can be given to students if they do not have any. However, students may prefer to bring their own headphones on the day of the assessment. Please contact me at school if you would prefer your child not to take the test.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Southwood
Deputy Headteacher

