



10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, at the end of Year 6 students normally sit National Curriculum tests in Maths and English. Due to the lockdowns last year schools did not have the opportunity to conduct these tests as they would usually do. This means that we currently do not have any reliable information about our student's prior attainment or ability levels which makes it difficult for our teachers to adjust work in lessons to challenge and support every student.

As a school, we wish to assess all our students to see what their needs are and how we can best help them learn and achieve. As part of this process, we will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) to all students in Year 7. This will take place on Monday 27th September from period 1 to period 3.

CAT4 is made up of a series of short tests which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. No preparation is possible or necessary and it is important that your child does not become anxious as no pre-learning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests. We will be communicating this to students before they complete the tests but we would be grateful if you could also have a conversation with them at home to reassure them about it.

CAT4 has many uses and can help your child and his/her teachers to plan appropriately and set targets for different Key Stages and for GCSE and A-level so that we know the level we should be working towards. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact me directly.

Yours faithfully,

Ms S Pearson
Assistant Principal
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