



September 2020

Dear Parent /Carer

In a response to feedback from parents and our desire to further improve assessment, students in year 7 will sit a set of cognitive ability assessments called CAT4. CAT4 is the UK's most widely used test of reasoning abilities for children. It is an assessment of developed abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement. This includes verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning and it provides an objective perspective on potential student achievement. Importantly, CAT4 also provides indicators for national tests and examinations, which will be particularly useful given the absence of national data this year. This information will be shared with parents.

There is no revision or preparation required for these assessments so please reassure your child about this. Staff will be available to support students with the process and structure of these assessments and will also provide positive encouragement. The assessments are screen based 'online' assessments and they will be carried out during lesson time. Students will be required to wear headphones during the assessments. These will be provided by the school, however if you prefer they can bring in their own plug in headphones, and these will need to be in a clear plastic bag. Staff, including our SEND team, will ensure any student with any additional needs is catered for during the assessments. Each section is 45 minutes and there are three in total. We have spaced these out over the dates below:

Date	Lesson time
Tuesday 15 th September	Period 1
Thursday 17 th September	Period 1
Tuesday 22 nd September	Period 1

While we know that teacher's professional judgement plays a vital role in understanding each child, these assessments will allow us to build an 'all round view' of each student's progress. This will allow us to measure assessment objectively, identifying any barriers to learning, informing teaching and comparing students to the national benchmark. It will also allow us to identify the specific areas that the students need support with as they move through KS3.

Thank you for your support with making sure that these assessments are successful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Ms Sosin
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