



NRC/JAE

18 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that this communication reaches you all in good health. Time moves on so quickly and as we rapidly approach the first half term break; we felt the time was right to express how impressed we have been with the majority of the students in Year 7. It has been an incredibly positive transition and, due to the fact that a considerable number of the students attended the summer school, it has helped them settle in quickly. It was wonderful to see so many of this cohort helping teachers at our recent highly successful Open Evening.

When students enter secondary education, we have their Key Stage 2 test results. This provides valuable information that enables the teachers to plan their teaching. As a school, we deliberated if we should put some more testing in place when school started in September. We decided that it would be more beneficial to delay this in order to support the transition process and get students into school and the classroom to learn. Students have now been in school for over 6 weeks and a great deal of learning has taken place.

Now is the right time to put some extra testing in place in order to provide accurate information on each student. We will be using the National CAT4 Test. These tests are accessible for all students and provide a multiple-choice answer for each question. Students do not need to prepare or revise for these tests. All questions are read out to the students and then they have time to read the question and select their answer. Students are required to bring a sharp pencil and a rubber.

What is a CAT4 Cognitive Abilities Test?

It is designed to help schools understand students' abilities and how to develop them. It helps identify individual strengths and weaknesses. The CAT4 has four distinct parts: **Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning** and **Spatial Ability**. It is designed to measure cognitive reasoning skills while not requiring great reading comprehension and arithmetical skills.

Once the test has been completed, the answer papers are sent off for marking and analysis. The report that the school receives back on each child provides teachers with an excellent insight into how students learn best. It provides information that enables planning to be more accurate and ensures that each child is challenged at the appropriate level for their ability. The results are not something we share anywhere else unless as a parent you especially request them.

Students will take these tests on Wednesday 19 October 2022, Periods 3&4.

I will administer the test, supported by Mrs Kingston, and there will be teaching staff to support the students if they require any help. We will ensure that every child knows exactly what to do and we will attempt to limit any anxiety by maintaining a supportive environment. This information has been shared with the students in registration.


Please remember that you can email subject teachers directly if you have any questions about learning. All the email addresses are on the school website. Your child's tutor is usually the first point of contact and I know that many of you have been in contact to keep the channel of communication open. All students have been provided with email addresses and log-in details so that they can access Microsoft Office 365. They are all supported in

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the computing lessons at school to ensure that they can log in. All students should also be accessing ClassCharts for their homework information. If you need any help or guidance with technology or log in details, please contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support. Please be assured that we will do everything within our powers to provide a high-quality education and a supportive environment for your child.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Cousins
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs K Kingston
Head of Year 7




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