



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: CAT4 Testing Programme

In order to support our students as they progress through the college, we will be administering the Cognitive Ability Test (CAT4) to all students in year 7 and year 8 between Monday 4 October 2021 and Friday 15 October 2021.

The CAT4 is made up of a series of short online tests, which assess a student's reasoning abilities that support educational development and academic attainment including non-verbal, mathematical and spatial reasoning. There are four separate tests, which will be sat in three separate sessions in class; these sessions are broken up into short, manageable segments of roughly 8-10 minutes, and examples are provided at the beginning of each section. Each session will take place in a computer room and full instructions will be provided by members of staff and through audio guidance through the CAT4 software. As students will need to listen to audio through the computer, it is important that students bring their headphones into school every day for the next two weeks.

The purpose of the testing series is to provide a range of data about your child's reasoning skills that will help your child's teacher to plan appropriately depending on their personal strengths and areas of development.

No preparation is necessary for CAT4, so it is important that students understand that they cannot revise for the testing series, and there is no prior knowledge or learning necessary. Equally, the test is appropriate for students with SEND needs as they are designed to provide data that will support their progress in the future.

If you have any questions about the testing series, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Jon Barton
Vice Principal

