

PS020/22-23MWH/EWE

26th September 2022

Dear parents and carers,

In two weeks' time **we will be testing all year 7 students using standardised Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)**. These tests are **nothing for your child to be worried or alarmed about and nothing that your child can revise or prepare for**. It is suggested that you think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct and valuable information may be missed.

All year 7 students will sit three tests in total over two days (two on Monday 10th October and one on Tuesday 11th) in order to **help us to better understand how your child learns**, what their **academic potential** might be and **whether they might need more support or challenge**.

Attached to this letter is a timetable of when each class will sit their tests and some key questions and answers to provide further detail about the tests and what will happen on the day. You will need to look at your child's normal timetable to see which classes they are in and when they will therefore go to the testing room instead.

Kind regards,

Matthew Whatford, Deputy Headteacher

Key questions and answers

Why are year 7 students doing this test now?

Most schools do these tests at the start of year 7. They are especially helpful to us at this stage in their academic career so that we can **triangulate with their SATs data**, providing a broader and more rounded understanding of your child's profile as a learner.

How do the tests work?

The tests themselves are all computer-based and 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).

When will my child sit their tests during the school day?

Attached is a full schedule of when students will sit their tests - **they will not attend their normal lessons, but instead be met at the room listed in their scheduled slot, with their teacher staying with them for the test.** Students **will also get an individual timetable sent through to them**, which shows just their testing sessions.

What do students do when they are not sitting their test?

Students will **attend their normal timetable when they are not sitting the tests.**

How will the needs of different learners be taken into account?

All students will sit the same test and there is no extra time allocated to students who might otherwise qualify in other tests. The process is standardised in every school who uses CATS and therefore diagnostically extremely powerful and reliable.

How can I best prepare my child for these tests?

The most important thing now is for you to prepare your child to understand that **they need not worry about this process** and that they should just **do the best that they can do on the day.** Please **make your child's tutor aware of any worries** so that we can address these in school and help them to feel ready for this process.

What will parents and carers get from these tests?

The results from CATs are **not necessarily all that useful for parents.** We will still share them along with some information about what you might interpret from them, but **they will be used primarily by teachers and leaders in the school to target any further support or stretch for students.** They will also provide us with a useful set of information that we can triangulate with the SATs data that has come through for your child.

Further information can be found here:

<https://support.gl-assessment.co.uk/knowledge-base/assessments/cat4-support/general-information/information-for-parents/>

CATs for Year 7 2022

A band		Mon 10/10/2022 - LESSON 1		Mon 10/10/2022 - LESSON 3		Tues 11/10/2022 - LESSON 1	
		Class and teacher	Test room	Class and teacher	Test room	Class and teacher	Test room
		7a/En1 with CFE	D9	7a/Dc4 with MRB	D9	7a/EN1 with CFE	D9
		7a/En2 with AME	L3	7a/Mu2 with DGO	L3	7a/EN2 with AME	L3
		7a/En3 with KSY	L8	7a/Tf3 with AFO	L8	7a/EN3 with KSY	L8
		7a/En4 with PWI	L30	7a/Ar1 with SPO	L30	7a/EN4 with PWI	L30
		7a/En5 - En6 with RCA & KSP	D30	7a/Mu5 with HCR	D30	7a/EN5 - EN6 with RCA & CMI	D30
				7a/Ar6 with LMI	L1		
B band		Mon 10/10/2022 - LESSON 2		Mon 10/10/2022 - LESSON 4		Tues 11/10/2022 - LESSON 2	
		Class and teacher	Test room	Class and teacher	Test room	Class and teacher	Test room
		7b/Ar1 with CBE	D9	7b/CP2 with FMC	D9	7b/HY2 with MSP	D9
		7b/Ar6 with RBS	L3	7b/GY5 with HHU	L3	7b/PV1 with CDE	L3
		7b/MU2 with DGO	L8	7b/HY1 with DMI	L8	7b/PV5 with LPE	L8
		7b/TE5with MIKE	L30	7b/SP2 with MMA	L30	7b/PV3 with SRO	L30
		7b/Tf4 with KST	D30	7b/PV3 with SRO	D30	7b/SP2 with MMA	D30
		7b/Tf3 with AFO	L1				