

10 September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 CAT Digital tests

I am writing to inform you that all students in Year 7 will be undertaking Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) during the two weeks commencing 23 September 2015. The purpose of these tests is to enable us to gather vital information about students' abilities in specific areas of the curriculum.

The test results have three main uses:

- To enable us to identify students' cognitive strengths and weaknesses in order to support teaching and learning.
- To enable us to identify specific needs and to target support effectively.
- To help us create appropriate challenges and expectations over next two years

The CATs are digital tests undertaken by students online. Students will sit a series of tests focussing on four key areas: verbal ability, spatial ability, quantitative ability, and non-verbal ability.

Students will take the tests in computer rooms and in most cases at the start of the day in place of their Registration period and first lesson; some will take their tests later in the day. A slip is enclosed indicating when your son/daughter will be taking the tests. They will have also received the same slip from their tutor.

In order to create the appropriate environment for the tests to take place students will be organised into groups of 11, 12 or 13, and each group will be invigilated by our team of external invigilators – all of whom have supervised these tests before. Students must adhere to examination conditions for these tests as highlighted in the booklet enclosed (copies of which are on the academy website).

These tests must be viewed as having great significance for the students. It is vital that the students are aware of their importance and for the need to try their very best. If they do not then it diminishes the reliability of the test results and reduces their effectiveness, so we would greatly appreciate your support in highlighting their significance.

If you have any queries regarding these tests please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Lamb
Data Manager

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