



Allerton Grange School

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Our Ref: CDn/BMa

22 September 2020

Dear Parent

CAT tests for Year 7

This is to make you aware that, over the course of three mornings next week (Tuesday 29 September to Thursday 1 October), Year 7 students will be completing 'CAT4' tests.

The Cognitive Abilities Test Fourth Edition (CAT4) is a suite of tests developed to support schools in understanding students' abilities and likely academic potential. Results from CAT4 can be used: to inform individual and group teaching; for target setting; and for monitoring the performance of groups of students.

It assesses the ability to reason with and manipulate different types of material. The test consists of four 'batteries' that assess the main types of mental processing that play a substantial role in human thought. Together, these four batteries provide a comprehensive understanding of the core abilities related to learning by assessing a student's capabilities when dealing with each type of processing. The CAT4 batteries assess: reasoning with words; reasoning with numbers; reasoning with shapes and designs; thinking with and mentally manipulating precise shapes. Each test will last 40-45 minutes.

This is the first time, in many years, that the school has conducted CAT assessments. However, this year, in the absence of any assessment data from the Year 6 SATs tests, we need to establish an alternative set of 'benchmark data' for our Year 7 cohort.

Please rest assured that this does not count, in any way, towards any external exams. It is simply a way for the school to have a better idea about the capabilities of our new students. Your child should not be concerned about them, nor should they try to 'revise'. We will be explaining to them, on Monday, the purpose behind the assessments, and providing reassurance that they have nothing to worry about.

As parents, you can help by ensuring your child has a good night's sleep and breakfast, and that he/she is well hydrated. Also, please check that your child has a sharpened HB pencil ready. (We have a few spares available should any student not have one.)

If you have any questions, or you would like any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Donlon
Assistant Headteacher/Director of Key Stage 3



SCHOOL MEMBER

