

12 September 2025

Dear parent/carer

Year 7 students will be completing CATs assessments (Cognitive Abilities Test) this term, which Year 7 students do every year.

I would like to start by stressing that this is an assessment of ability and not attainment, so no pre-learning or preparation is necessary. Your child should not feel worried about taking these tests as prior knowledge is not required to complete them.

The purpose of these assessments is to assist teachers to understand individual learning styles. The results will be used together with our internal assessment practices, to inform teachers about the strengths and developmental needs of each student.

The students will undertake the three assessments using computers, all of which will be completed with their tutor group.

The assessments will test:

- Verbal reasoning – thinking with words
- Quantitative reasoning – thinking with number
- Non-Verbal reasoning – thinking with shapes
- Spatial reasoning – thinking with shapes and space

There are sample questions before each section begins to ensure students understand what they need to do and so they can familiarise themselves with the layout of the screen. There is no extra time available for these tests.

The testing will take place initially on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 September, with sessions later in the term for students who were absent.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Rich Wiseman
Director of Progress and Attainment