



Letter No: 10/2020

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Dear Parent/Carer of new Year 7,

Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) & English (PTE) Assessments

Next week your child will be sitting assessments to help us better understand how they learn, as well as looking at their underlying English/Literacy skills. These assessments are GL Assessments', CAT4 and Progress Tests for English.

The **Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4)** is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help teachers understand how children learn and what their academic potential might be. While many tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

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).

Progress Test in **English (PTE)** is a standardised assessment of students' technical English skills (spelling, grammar and punctuation), reading comprehension. The test is designed to support teachers in benchmarking students' English knowledge.

The A-half will do their assessments on Thursday and the B-half on Friday. For the record, previous data has shown us that there is no advantage or disadvantage to taking the assessments at different times in the week.

There is also no need for students to do any revision, but students will need to be well rested on the day, have a good breakfast and to bring a reading book and a set of headphones, with a 3.5mm jack plug. The basic headphones that you often get free with a mobile phone, should work just fine.

We spoke to the whole year group this morning in registration and took them through all this information, so they are fully prepared. I'm confident that they will enjoy the challenge and that the experience will make next week more varied and exciting.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Bloomfield
Director of Learning: Learning Support

Kelly Bulbeck
Literacy Co-ordinator

