



10th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 7 Baseline testing

In the week beginning 16th September your child will undertake some testing to help us gain a picture of their learning.

Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT) are used in many schools across the UK to provide information to teachers, students and parents that, with other information such as results from Key Stage 2 tests, form the basis for discussion about how best an individual can learn and reach their potential in school.

Undertaking a CAT test does not require any prior knowledge and you cannot 'learn' how to answer the questions in these tests. It is therefore a good test because everyone starts at the same place.

Some tasks involved thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-verbal Reasoning), some with words (Verbal Reasoning) or numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and, finally, some questions are answered by thinking about shape and space together and imagining a shape being changed and moving (Spatial Ability).

The abilities tested in CATs, such as spatial ability, may be difficult to demonstrate in the classroom so it is important that teachers know the level of a student's ability in such areas.

We use these tests to contribute to setting targets (for example grades at GCSE) and they help us to monitor the progress your child is making.

These results will help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for an individual and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Unlike an English or maths test, CATs are not a test of what the student has learned. It tests how an individual can think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning and achievement.

The tests allow for different strengths or weaknesses in a student's learning to be identified, which teachers can take into account during lessons.

The tests will be conducted in formal test conditions with no talking allowed. No additional equipment is needed for the tests as they are administered on-line within a designated computer room.

Following the test results, a report will be sent home to Parents and Carers explaining the performance of your child. On the reverse of this letter is a copy of the testing timetable.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P. Carter

Leadership Director (Assessment, Reporting and Performance)

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

Year 7 Baseline testing timetable - September 2024

Session 1								
CAT 4 - Part 1 Figure Classification - 30 min + settling + instructions								
CAT 4 - Part 2 Verbal Classification - 41 min + settling + instructions								
7x/Tec1	7x/Tec2	7x/Tec3	7y/Tec1	7y/Tec2	7y/Tec3	7z/Tec1	7z/Tec2	7z/Tec3
Date: 19/9 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 19/9 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 19/9 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 16/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 16/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 16/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 18/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 18/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 18/9 Period: 3 & 4
Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien	Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien	Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien
Room: D3	Room: E5	Room: J1	Room: E5	Room: D3	Room: J1	Room: E5	Room: D3	Room: J1
Session 2								
Group Reading Test - Approximately 30 min + settling + instructions								
Group Spelling Test - Approximately 30 min + settling + instructions								
7x/Tec1	7x/Tec2	7x/Tec3	7y/Tec1	7y/Tec2	7y/Tec3	7z/Tec1	7z/Tec2	7z/Tec3
Date: 26/9 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 26/9 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 26/9 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 23/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 23/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 23/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 25/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 25/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 25/9 Period: 3 & 4
Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien	Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien	Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien
Room: D3	Room: E5	Room: J1	Room: E5	Room: D3	Room: J1	Room: E5	Room: D3	Room: J1
Session 3								
CAT 4 - Part 3 Number - 41 min + settling + instructions								
7x/Tec1	7x/Tec2	7x/Tec3	7y/Tec1	7y/Tec2	7y/Tec3	7z/Tec1	7z/Tec2	7z/Tec3
Date: 3/10 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 3/10 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 3/10 Period: 1 & 2	Date: 30/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 30/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 30/9 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 2/10 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 2/10 Period: 3 & 4	Date: 2/10 Period: 3 & 4
Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien	Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien	Teacher: Miss Baggaley	Teacher: Mr Yearsley	Teacher: Mrs O'Brien
Room: D3	Room: E5	Room: J1	Room: E5	Room: D3	Room: J1	Room: E5	Room: D3	Room: J1