

2nd September 2021

Our Ref: KRO/305.LCO

Dear Parent/Carer

CAT4 Testing

I am writing to inform you that we will be administering CAT4 tests to all of our Yr7 students from tomorrow. CAT4 tests will be used to guide us in ensuring students are put in the most appropriate groups and subject sets. The tests will also give us a lot of information about learning strengths and areas that could be developed which will also mean that we are able to support our students' learning in the most appropriate ways.

The tests are produced by GL Assessment, and their website states,

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

The results from these tests will give us a much better understanding of the strengths of our students in ways that KS2 SATS tests could never have done. The tests will give us information on:

- Non-verbal reasoning
- Verbal reasoning
- Quantitative reasoning
- Spatial ability

The use of this information will extend significantly beyond just setting students targets and arranging them into set classes. It will allow us to measure progress, guide intervention and support more effectively and to have a true understanding of the potential of each of our students.

There is nothing for students to do in terms of preparation for these tests. They will be conducted online in school over 3 sessions at different times. The longest test is 41 minutes long.

Students will need to wear headphones during these tests and we strongly recommend that students bring their own into school. If they do not have their own headphones, we will be able to lend them some.

I have included a link to the GL website where you can find further information: [CAT 4 information for parents](#)

There is a huge amount of data generated by the testing which is kept in-school and is not shared with parents or students. We do not routinely send this information home, however, during 'tripod' conversations the broad analysis would be shared.

Please contact me should you have any further queries.

Kind regards

K Rourke-Beasley

Mr K Rourke-Beasley

Deputy Headteacher