November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 7s and Year 8s to sit Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4)

I would like to inform you of our plans to administer the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) to all students in Year 7 and 8. The plan is for students to complete these three tests over the next two weeks during Computing and some Maths lessons.

## Why are we using these tests for these students?

Our current Year 7 and Year 8 students did not complete their end of Year 6 SATs due to the impact of the pandemic. The results from these SATs would normally be used by us to create appropriate target grades for the end of Key Stage 3 and the end of Key Stage 4 (GCSE). Many secondary schools already use CAT4 in addition to the SATs data to help them refine their target setting for students, but this is the first time we have used the tests here. The tests will provide us with a consistent and fair set of data that will help us to come up with appropriate target grades for your children as they progress through school – so that we can make accurate judgements about their progress. The data will also be useful in helping us shape our curriculum design over the coming years, to ensure that it is well suited to their needs, and to potentially identify other needs that students may have.

## How do the tests work?

CAT4 is made up of three short tests which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. No preparation or revision is necessary; it is important that your child does not become anxious as no prelearning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests. We just encourage them to try their best. The students will be spoken to in an assembly to explain all of this.

## What do students need for the tests?

The only thing students need to bring to school from Monday onwards is a **pair of wired headphones that they can plug into our school computers** (new iPhone headphones will not work). For those who do not own headphones we will have a few spares at school to handout if needed.

I understand that anything which includes the word 'test' in a school context can cause worry for students and their parents, so please contact me to discuss further if you have any questions. The results from these tests are not passed on elsewhere – they are only used to inform our internal target setting and to help us shape the planning of learning as effectively as we can.

Yours faithfully,

Maveja

Mr M Gill Deputy Headteacher