September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Cognitive ability tests

I hope students are enjoying their lessons from the full range of subjects taught in school. As you would expect, one of the key priorities for teachers is to determine students' strengths and weaknesses and to identify any gaps in learning, after the long school closure. To assist with this, the school will use cognitive ability tests (CAT tests) which are specifically designed to provide robust information about students' strengths and areas for development.

The CAT tests are provided by GL assessment and are expected to be used by most schools in the country. We intend to use the CAT4D version devised for year 7 students who have just moved to secondary school.

The test is entirely computer based and students will need to use headphones for elements of the test. In the current climate, we **strongly recommend students bring their own headphones**. For any students who forget, headphones will be available to use and these will have been cleaned with alcohol-based sanitizer.

The date of the test will vary depending on the year half students are in:
- 22 September for students in teaching groups A, E H, R, S and T
- 23 September for students in teaching groups B, C, L, S and U

It will take place over periods 1-3 and their form tutor will make them aware of where to go to. There will be breaks during this time for students to go to the toilet and have something to eat. They will go to lessons as normal from period 4.

There is nothing students can do to prepare for the CATs, they just need to arrive at school and make sure they follow instructions on the day.

This information will be used, together with assessments completed in school, to help produce subject targets. If you would like to read further about CAT4 tests then please visit their website: https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/support/cat4-product-support/cat4-information-for-parents

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Slingsby
Assistant Head