

Head of Academy: Mrs. L Petrie

CEO: Dr. B Mabey

Our Ref: L-CAT4/ARa/JSt/10112020

10 November 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

This is just a short letter to inform you that all year 7 pupils will be completing the Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT4) during lesson time from Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th of November. The CAT4 is commonly used across all schools and more information about the tests and how we use them can be found below:

What is a CAT4 and how do we use it? The CAT4 is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how pupils learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

While many other 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. At Washwood Heath Academy it will enable us to firstly set accurate individualised targets and secondly it will enable us to target support towards every child to help them reach their full potential. The data collected will be used to support teaching and learning for all children.

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).

CAT4 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

The test does not examine retention or application of knowledge; rather focusses on how pupils think and respond to various forms of reasoning, therefore it is important to note, that pupils cannot revise for this test. Although pupils have missed several months of education during the first lockdown and many may not have returned to school in June 2020, the CAT4 assessment will help us to identify how to support your child in terms of catching up and making progress. All aspects of the Cognitive Ability Tests will be discussed with Year 7 prior to taking the assessment.

Please feel free to get in touch should you have any further queries about this assessment.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Petrie
Head of Academy

