



04 February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4)

Across Maiden Erlegh Trust, we assess all our students to see what their needs are and how we can best help them learn and achieve. As part of this process, on Monday 7 February, we will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) to all students in Year 8. These will take place over the course of Monday morning (periods 1 and 2). Students will be given the specific details of which room they are sitting the assessments in via their tutor. Any student who is absent from school on this day will be asked to complete the assessment upon their return to school.

CAT4 is made up of a series of short tests which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. No preparation is necessary; it is important that your child does not become anxious as no pre-learning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests. Students may wish to bring a pair of headphones with them to use during the assessment – many find them an aid to assist with focus. There will be limited pairs of headphones available for students to borrow. Headphones are not essential in order to complete the assessment.

CAT4 has many uses and can help your child and his/her teachers to plan appropriately and set targets for KS4. In the absence of Key Stage 2 national testing when your son/daughter was in Year 6 it is particularly helpful to have this additional insight into your child's abilities. We will also be using this information to help support the Student Own Target Setting and refine the Benchmarks noted on their report. As such we are delaying the issue of the Y8 Spring Report until we have the CATS results returned to us – we are hopeful this will be this side of Half Term.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Ms Bliss, Deputy Headteacher.

Yours faithfully

Mr Graham Attridge
Trust Lead for Assessment and Reporting