

TW/GRS

31st October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child will be completing their CAT4 test in school, during the week of Monday 7th November. They will complete these tests in their lessons, on a computer. Below is some information about the tests.

What is CAT4?

CAT4 stands for 'The Cognitive Abilities Test'. This test is designed to help your child and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how your child thinks in areas that can make a difference to their learning. The test results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for your child and the challenge they need.

Should my child revise or train for CAT4?

As this is not a test of knowledge, we strongly advise against any kind of practice ahead of a CAT4 test as this will affect the reliability of test scores. Think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct and valuable information may be missed.

What do the tests involve?

The tests have several tasks each. These involve:

- Thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning)
- Using words (Verbal Reasoning)
- Using numbers (Quantitative Reasoning)
- Mentally making and transforming (moving) visual images (Spatial Ability).

How does CAT4 compare to an exam?

CAT4 is a timed assessment and is administered under formal conditions. However, at the start of each section, there is an introduction, with example questions, which are not timed and can be repeated if necessary. This will ensure your child knows what to expect in each section.

Questions or concerns.

If you have any concerns or questions about the test, please contact me by phoning school, or you can send me an email.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Tracey White
Assistant Headteacher - KS3