

3rd September 2019



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Dear Parent/Carer

S1 Cognitive Ability Testing – 5th and 11th September

I am writing to provide you with information about a series of 3 tests that your son/daughter will be taking shortly. In order to gain more information about pupils' reasoning and manipulation skills in relation to language, numbers, and symbols, all S1 pupils will be involved in 'CAT', which stands for Cognitive Abilities Testing. This comprises 3 tests covering 4 areas as indicated below with each test being completed on-line by pupils and lasting 50 minutes.

- Verbal Reasoning - Tests abilities to think with words
- Quantative Reasoning – Tests abilities to think with numbers
- Non-Verbal Reasoning – Tests abilities to think with shapes and space
- Spatial Awareness

These tests are completed online and will take place within our school based computer suites.

The results of these tests will feed into our school tracking mechanisms which staff and management use to help determine whether pupils are achieving their potential. This will also provide additional information to teachers about the differing learning strengths of each of their pupils so that they can adapt their teaching where appropriate. It is not our intention to share the results of the tests with pupils or parents as we view this as an information gathering exercise rather than an assessment. However, any parent who wishes information about the tests may contact me at the school once the tests have been completed.

These tests will be completed on the morning of Thursday 5th September and Wednesday 11th September 2019 and pupils have been asked to bring with them a set of personal headphones if they have some, although for those who do not headphones will be provided.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish further information about this series of tests.

Yours faithfully

Mr T. Woodcock
Depute Headteacher

