



Tomlinscote School

6th May 2022

Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers,

Following the cancellations of our original plans in July and November last year, we are writing to let you know of our intention to undertake some Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT4 Tests) with all our Year 8 students on **Thursday 12th May**.

These tests are widely used by schools across the country and assess developed abilities that are known to make a difference with learning. They provide a unique profile for each student across the following four areas:

1. **Verbal Reasoning** – the ability to express ideas and reason through words
2. **Non-verbal Reasoning** – problem-solving using pictures and diagrams
3. **Spatial Reasoning** – the capacity to think and draw conclusions in three dimensions
4. **Quantitative Reasoning** – the ability to use numerical skills to solve problems

With the absence of national KS2 data, these tests will provide the school with valuable baselining information about each student's abilities against national benchmarks.

Students cannot revise for these tests. No preparation is necessary, and it is important that your child does not become concerned as no pre-learning or content knowledge is needed to complete the tests. The idea is to acquire an overview of which areas of learning a student excels in, and which areas they need further support with. Therefore, it will make no difference if a student has been off school recently.

The tests will occur during the school day and **students will use their iPads** to answer the questions. Consequently, we would be grateful if you could please **ensure that your child's iPad is fully charged overnight**, ready for the tests on Thursday. Students should also ensure that they have a reading book in their bag.

The results will be used internally by the school as part of its monitoring of student progress throughout the next three years. In addition, we will email you a parental report in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Principal

Mr A Daniel
Assistant Principal