

## Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org)

Website: [www.horsforthschool.org](http://www.horsforthschool.org)

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our ref: PCB/OWA/ZMC

September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Year 7 CAT Baseline Assessments

I hope that your son/daughter has had a positive start to their time at Horsforth School and that they are enjoying the wide range of subjects that they are now able to study. It has been fantastic to see our Year 7s engaging in practical work for Science and Technology, learning how to use our IT software packages and enjoying the specialist teaching and learning materials in our Art, Music and Drama rooms.

At Horsforth School we track students from entering school in Year 7, until they leave us in Year 11/13 to ensure that all students make progress. We have a series of support mechanisms and interventions in place for our students to help with this.

One of the main methods that we have previously used to develop our 'flight paths' for progress is the SATs results from Year 6 or relevant teacher assessments provided in the absence of formalised tests. These were used initially to give an indication of whether students were working at, below, or above the standard at Key Stage 2. We then follow our progress review cycle in school measuring students' achievements 4 times a year.

In light of the absence of SATs results for our current Year 7, along with the additional challenges this year has brought, we are choosing to also use another method to assess our Year 7 students in order to support further.

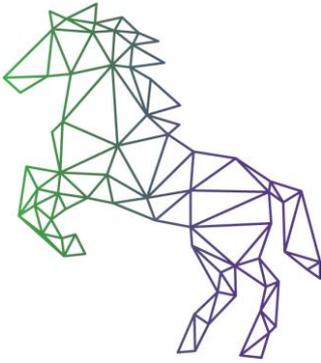
As part of this process, we will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) to all students in Year 7 **this week**. CAT4 is made up of a series of short tests completed online in the classroom **computers** which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. The students will sit these tests over **two** separate intervals. No preparation is necessary or in fact possible for these tests; it is important that your child does not become anxious as no pre-learning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests. The reports generated by the CAT4 assessment are designed for internal use, and therefore will not be reported home. We do, however, have a full data and reporting schedule which will see you receive four reports this year:

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Attitude to Learning Report

10 January 2022 – Academic and Attitude to learning Report

24 March 2022– Attitude to Learning Report

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*



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17 June 2022 – Full End of Year Report Report

There will also be an opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress in individual subjects at our Year 7 Consultation Evening on 22 June 2022.

CAT4 has many uses and can help your child and teachers to plan appropriately and set targets for different Key Stages and for GCSE and A-level.

Ultimately, this testing will help us see what their needs are and how we can best help them learn and achieve moving forwards. Your son/daughter was told about the tests during tutor time on Friday (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September) outlining which day they will have their tests on. The tests will take place during maths lessons in a computer room on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week.

Due to the nature of these tests we require students to wear headphones and we politely ask students to bring these with them on their test day. We have limited spares for those who do not have any.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact us or alternatively click on the following link to access FAQ's from GL-Assessments, the company providing the tests. <https://support.gl-assessment.co.uk/knowledge-base/assessments/cat4-support/information-for-parents/information-for-parents/>

Yours faithfully,

Horsforth School