



08 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 7 baseline assessment

In school we wish to 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 we will be administering both the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) and the New Group Reading Test (NGRT) to all students in Year 7.

### CAT4

Testing with CAT4 is part of our school's regular assessment regime and all students in Year 7 will be tested. No preparation can be done for the CAT4 test and so it is important that the students do not become anxious as they all have an equal chance to demonstrate their reasoning ability.

CAT4 is made up of a series of short tests which include thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability). CAT4 is based on many years of research and development and is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects. **Your child will undertake the CAT4 tests the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

### The New Group Reading Test (NGRT)

Developing literacy and reading ability is fundamental to a pupil's ability to access the curriculum in secondary school. New Group Reading Test (NGRT) is a formative assessment that is used to assess a student's level reading. Formative means that it does not count towards any final grade or result but is used to find out your child's current ability level as compared to the national average and allow for identification of students who may benefit from interventions or from being stretched further.

**There is no preparation required ahead of the NGRT. However, it is important to continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure on a regular basis at home.** The digital NGRT test presents questions based on previous answers, to respond to each child's reading ability, so that more able pupils can be stretched, without making the process intimidating for those who might struggle with higher demand questions. **NGRT provides information to teachers about sentence completion and comprehension skills allowing us to identify where any difficulties lie. Your child will undertake the NGRT test during English lessons before the end of September.**

After the assessments are all completed we will be in touch again with results and our plans, if any are required, for further follow up. Should you have any questions regarding the assessments, or arising from conversations with your child about these, please contact their Form Tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Spencer  
Deputy Headteacher

Miss Bradley  
Head of Year7