



8th October 2020

Year 7 Baseline Assessment Tests

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to keep you updated on a key assessment point for our Year 7 students. Due to the current pandemic, many schools feel they do not have sufficient information to accurately judge student ability. Such data is essential in planning a challenging curriculum for all students.

At St Edward's we are committed to helping all students achieve academic excellence and are keen for Year 7 students to get off to a positive start. We have therefore organised for them to sit Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs).

These tests are growing in popularity and it is estimated that 78% of Year 7 students nationally will sit CAT tests this year. As well as helping to establish a clear baseline, they can also pinpoint the most able students and those in need of additional support. Furthermore, they can help with more accurate monitoring of progress, enhance target setting systems and give feedback on students' preferred learning style. Students will complete these assessments in tutor groups on the day indicated below.

Thursday 15 th October	7 DBu
Friday 16 th October	7 ZH
Monday 19 th October	7 AHB
Tuesday 20 th October	7 TC
Wednesday 21 st October	7 LK
Thursday 22 nd October	7 KT

Students will be in lessons Period 1 and then off timetable for the remainder of the day. Tests will be completed on computers and students will need headphones to listen to instructions. We would ask that students bring in their own headphones on their days indicated above, so they can use them in their tests. No preparation is necessary for the CATs and there is no need for students to become anxious about them. The outcomes of the tests will be shared with you later in the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Chris Barnett
Deputy Headteacher