



Sir Frederic Osborn School

Achieving Success Together

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Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

In school, we wish to assess 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 the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) to all students in Year 7 in the week commencing 4th September 2017.

The students will sit three externally set and marked online tests and they are designed to indicate student ability as outlined below:

Verbal Test: This test assesses reasoning using words which require some reading ability by the student. Scores will usually reflect a student's ability to use words as a medium of thought.

Quantitative Test: This test assesses reasoning with numerical symbols. The quantitative questions reduce the influence of specific mathematical knowledge on performance as far as possible. It will give an indication of the student's ability to think with numbers.

Non-Verbal Test: This test is divided into two sections that look at aspects of non-verbal thinking. Scores will reveal how well students can think when dealing with shape and space. This test also gives a strong indication of a student's spatial ability.

The Cognitive Ability Tests are used throughout the county and have been used nationally for many years. Each test will last for about 40 minutes. The test results are only one of several sources of information the school uses to help assess and monitor the progress that your child should be making at Sir Frederic Osborn School.

No preparation is necessary; it is important that your child does not become anxious as no pre-learning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests.

Your child will be advised of the timing of their tests.

Yours sincerely,

S. Vaughan

Miss Shelley Vaughan
Director of Learning - Year 7

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