

Our ref: LDY/SFO/CAT4 TESTING

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer



Barr Beacon School  
[www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk)

**Cognitive Abilities (CAT 4) Testing of Year 7 Pupils**

I am writing to inform you that between Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 all Year 7 pupils will be undertaking Cognitive Abilities Testing. This will consist of three online tests, each lasting no more than 40 minutes. These tests will be spread out across November to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible to your child's curriculum.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help pupils and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how pupils think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

While many tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of your child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a pupil and whether additional support or challenge is needed. This information is particularly useful to us following the cancellation of Key Stage 2 SATs last year.

Tasks involve 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 Tests are 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.

If you have any further queries about the Cognitive Abilities Testing (CAT4) please contact Mr Foster (Assistant Headteacher).

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott  
Headteacher



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