

18th September 2020

RE: GL Assessment

Dear Parent/Carer,

All students in year 7 were due to be sitting progress assessments over the next few weeks which are produced by a company called GL Assessment. The assessments are known as CAT 4, Progress Tests and the New Group Reading Test. The assessments would have taken place in our IT rooms but due to our COVID regulations KS 3 students are unable to use these rooms.

We hope to have the laptops in place after half term and the CAT 4 assessments will be completed at that point.

As the assessments are online, they can be sat by your child at home. The company have provided clear guidelines on how to conduct the assessments at home.

We will provide all the details as well as the username and passwords in a separate letter that will be emailed to you on **Friday 18th September**.

If for any reason it is not possible to do the assessment, then we will arrange for your child to do them in school.

Please note that there is no need for students to revise for the GL assessments.

You may be interested to know what the tests are used for and the focus of the assessments.

Progress Tests

Students will have 3 assessments: one each in English, maths and science. The purpose is to benchmark your child's attainment in comparison to students nationally. Approximately half a million students take these tests each year. The assessments are designed to measure your child's knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- English: focuses on grammar, reading, punctuation and spelling, and on reading comprehension, using age-appropriate fiction and information texts.
- Maths: assesses key aspect of maths appropriate to the age of the pupil including mental maths.
- Science: measures two dimensions of science learning, understanding of science content, and working scientifically (application of skills). **Please note this will be completed in the summer term only.**

Once completed the school will be provided with an individualised student report which gives a snapshot of each child's strengths and areas for development. As the assessments are online, we are provided with almost instant results.

Secondary: 01604 669200 **Primary:** 01604 669210 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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The Wooldale Centre for Learning, Wootton Fields, Northampton NN4 6TP

Your child will take a similar test again in July 2021 and this will then provide us with information on the progress that your child has made when compared to other children of the same age nationally.

The GL assessments build a picture of each student's strengths and areas for development, which will help us all to work together next year to ensure your child is given the support necessary to achieve their potential.

Please note that there is no need for students to revise for the GL assessments.

CAT 4

What is CAT4?

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help the school understand how each student learns and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

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).

How are CAT4 results used?

CAT4 provides teachers with information that can form the basis for discussions about how best a student can learn and reach his or her potential in school. Used with other information (such as results from Key Stage 2 SATs, for example), these data can support teaching and learning for all children.

Can students practice for CAT4?

We strongly advise against any kind of practice ahead of a CAT4 test as this will alter the reliability of test scores. The point of CAT4 is that it is not a test of learnt knowledge and it needs to be as unaffected as possible by any external factors, such as practice.

CAT4 is a timed assessment and is administered under formal conditions. However, each section of the assessment includes introductory information with practice examples, and these will familiarise the children with the style and format of the questions. These sections are not timed and may be repeated.

New Group Reading Test (NGRT)

NGRT is a 30-minute adaptive online assessment of reading and comprehension which provides teachers with vital information about every pupil's abilities compared against the national average. As the assessment covers both decoding and comprehension skills (including phonics, where necessary), it reveals exactly where support is needed. And, as it adapts to the student's reading ability, it means that students with lower reading skills find the assessment accessible and non-threatening.

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We are very conscious that this is a number of assessments at the start of your child's time at CCS but we believe that this investment in time will provide us with information that will allow us to quickly identify any potential barriers to learning and will mean that we are in a very strong position to support your child.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A cambio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alessandra Cambio

Progress Leader Year 7

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