



**Nunthorpe**  
Academy

19 March 2021

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

This is just a short letter to inform you that all Year 7 students will be completing the CAT4 Tests during lesson time on **Wednesday 24 March 2021**. CAT 4 is commonly used test to identify students understanding. More information about the tests and how we use them can be found below:

**What is CAT4 and how do we use it?**

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

While many other tests focus on a student's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each student, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed. At Nunthorpe Academy it will enable us to firstly set accurate individualised targets to target support towards every student to help them reach their full potential after the disruptions this academic year due to COVID 19.

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 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a student is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

All aspects of the CAT4 tests will be discussed with Year 7 students prior to taking the tests. It is important to note that due to the nature of the tests there is no requirement to revise.

**To complete the tests, students will need to bring a HB pencil, a pencil sharpener and an eraser, all other materials will be provided by school.**

Please reassure your child that there is no need to be anxious or concerned about these assessments, this is to enable us to support appropriately. These will not be used to amend any classes or establish any setting within the academy.

Yours Sincerely

Julie Thomas  
**Year 7 Progress Leader**

Nunthorpe Academy  
Guisborough Road  
Nunthorpe  
Middlesbrough  
TS7 0LA

Phone: 01642 310561

Web: [www.nunthorpe.co.uk](http://www.nunthorpe.co.uk)

Head of School: Kathryn Kell NPQH  
NMAT Executive Principal: Lee Brown NPQH

Company No. 08188507 VAT Registration 142671814

