

SCVD/mwt

28 September 2009

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Cognitive Ability Tests – Year 7**

As you may be aware, initial screening of Year 7 pupils is very helpful in enabling us to provide an appropriate curriculum and teaching group for your son. The tests which we use determine pupils' present and potential abilities and the information gathered from them is used in conjunction with primary school reports and our observations of their work.

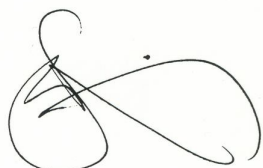
Schools now have a range of data available to them to support individual Year 7 pupils with their learning: NCT results at KS2, primary school reports, in-class assessments and CATs, or Cognitive Ability Tests. Whilst KS2 tests tell us about your son's knowledge and understanding in specific subjects at a specific time, CATs tell us about his potential by assessing his quantitative, verbal and non-verbal skills across the range.

We will be running Cognitive Ability Tests for all Year 7 boys on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The results will help us to assess pupils' present and potential abilities and provide a valuable addition to the information gathered from our own observations and examinations and the results will also be used to inform teaching content and learning styles so that we can personalise our approach for each pupil. We also use this information as part of our systems for identifying the right learning group for your son.

During this term your son will also be given standard tests in reading and spelling. You will, in due course, be informed of the result of your son's screening. We must emphasise that your son should not be worried by the tests as they are carried out to support his learning. The CAT tests will be taken online in the Business and Enterprise Centre.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Walker at the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S C V Denning', written in a cursive style.

Ms S C V Denning  
Headteacher