



**Stantonbury School**  
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Dear Stantonbury families,

We are writing to inform you that all year 7 students will be taking part in a series of online Cognitive Abilities Tests during lessons, the week commencing Monday 3rd October. The tests are used by schools nationally, with over three quarters of a million students sitting them each year.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is an 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.

CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, 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. Once completed, your child's personal CAT4 report will be available on Go4Schools.

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).

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. Think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct and valuable information may be missed.

Students will complete the suite of tests online, in a computer room during their normal lessons. There are 4 tests to complete, spaced out so that students sit one assessment per day. Each test takes approximately 45 minutes to complete, including instructions and examples.

We ask that students bring with them a pair of wired headphones to complete the tests. If students do not have headphones, we will lend them a set to use for the tests.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Wilson".

Ben Wilson  
Associate Principal

