

19 June 2024



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Cognitive Abilities (CAT 4) Testing of Year 9 Pupils

I am writing to inform you that on Tuesday 25th June all of the students in X band Year 9, and on Wednesday 26th June all of the students in Y band Year 9 will be undertaking Cognitive Abilities Testing.

This will consist of three online tests, each lasting no more than 45 minutes. 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.

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.

I would like to stress that this is an assessment of ability and not attainment, so no pre-learning or preparation is necessary. Your child should not feel worried about taking CAT4 as prior knowledge is not required to complete it. All students in Year 9 will have an assembly Monday morning during form time to describe what the CAT4 tests will be like.

If you have any further queries about the Cognitive Abilities Testing (CAT4) please contact Mrs Bryant (Assistant Headteacher) by emailing postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Chamberlain', written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher

Mrs Bryant
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