



Joseph Leckie
Academy

October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

CAT4 Student Testing in Years 7 and 8

As you are aware, all students have missed large periods of school-based education in the past two academic years throughout the COVID pandemic. Due to this, we want to ensure that we have the best possible information on your child's progress data, in reference to their abilities across the curriculum range. This information is used to predict progress and attainment outcomes for each year of your child's academic study, including setting GCSE predictions for the end of Year 11. In turn, these predictions help us to target your child's required academic interventions, assess the level of support they will require and guide us in ensuring that your child achieves the best possible teaching for their ability level.

This year, we are planning to use GL CAT4 tests to determine progress data for both Years 7 and 8. We have chosen CAT4 tests because we believe that these tests are the most comprehensive and give the most breadth of data for all subjects across the curriculum spectrum. CAT4 tests are taken by an average of 750,000 students across the country each year and many schools build their targeting systems around the results of these tests.

The tests will be taken by your child in their first three ICT lessons after half term. These tests are all done on computer and will assess your child's verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning. Each test takes 45 minutes. None of the tests require any revision or preparation and are not based on knowledge or understanding of any particular subject area. Your child therefore need not feel worried or anxious about the tests. I will also be talking through what the tests will look like in an assembly with each year group at the end of this half term to ensure that they know what to expect. The results of the tests will only be used by the Academy internally to inform our data and progress tracking, although if you would like to access your child's test result, this can be made available to you by request.

If you require any additional information about the CAT4 tests, you can read about them on the GL Assessment website, at <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/assessments/cat4/> or please feel free to contact me at the Academy.

Many thanks in anticipation for your support.

Kind Regards,

Mr J Greaves
Assistant Principal

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands W85 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk