



1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

This is just a short letter to inform you that all year 7 pupils will be completing the CAT4 Tests during lesson time over the next 3 weeks. CAT 4 is commonly used across all schools in Neath and Port Talbot and Wales. 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 child's attainment in core subjects, 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. At YBB it will enable us to firstly set accurate individualised targets and secondly it will enable us to target support towards every child to help them reach their full potential. The data collected will be used with other information (such as primary school data, national numeracy and literacy tests), to support teaching and learning for all children and to ensure that pupils have been correctly placed upon entry to the school.

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 child 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 pupils prior to taking the tests. It is important to note that they cannot revise for these tests.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Richard Rees

Headteacher