

14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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**Principal: Lorraine Taylor**

Dear Parents/ Carer

### **Year 8 and 9 Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT)**

We are really proud of all of our pupils, they have shown tenacity and ambition in their learning this year. In what has been the first year without covid restrictions since the start of the global pandemic in March 2020, pupils have settled well into the familiar routines of school life.

Unfortunately as a result of the Covid pandemic some pupils missed out on the opportunity to sit their Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATS. These examinations are important in helping us ensure we are able to support pupils to achieve their full potential, and to guide them on appropriate pathways through their educations.

We have decided that for this year only pupils in Year 8 and 9 will sit Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) to help us develop a more rounded profile of the pupils abilities. CAT's assessments are the UK's most widely used reasoning assessment. They measure the Verbal, non- verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning of pupils, and are a reliable indicator of future performance

Pupils will sit the CAT assessments over 3 days in July (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), each assessment will take 1 hour. We would like to stress that pupils should not be worried about completing these assessments and do not need to do any additional work to prepare for them.

Assessments will take place in the sports hall, and under normal exam conditions, for many pupils this will be their first experience of sitting a formal external exam, it is understandable that this may concern some pupils. However, this is an important learning experience for them as they move toward starting GCSE courses

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself ( suzi.shepherd@midlandat.co.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms Suzi Shepherd  
Vice Principal