



Traditional **Values**

Contemporary **Aspirations**

Creative **Curiosity**

28th September 2021

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Dear Parent or Carer

I am writing to inform you that all year 7 pupils will be completing the CAT4 Tests during lesson time over the next 4 weeks.

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 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 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 pupil and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

At Malet Lambert 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 results from Key Stage 2, national numeracy and literacy tests), to support teaching and learning for all pupils. 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 pupils 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 and will take place online as part of their Curriculum in teaching groups. It is important to note that they cannot revise for these tests.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Logan
Deputy Headteacher