

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Year 7 have made a fantastic start at Watling Academy and we are pleased with how they have settled in and are becoming a part of our school community. At Watling, we believe it is vital to identify the needs and abilities of each student so we can understand and maximise their potential. Students will be completing a set of baseline assessments in the coming weeks to help us to identify their strengths and areas for development.

#### **Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT4)**

Students in Year 7 will be completing a set of assessments through the Cognitive Ability Test (CAT4). These will take place in the weeks beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. The CAT4 is made up of a series of short assessments which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key developmental areas and will be completed on computers. All students complete the same assessments, and there are no additional access arrangements permitted. These assessments measure current ability levels and further identify any areas that may require support or further assessment. These assessments will also support us to set targets that are both individualised and aspirational as students move through Years 7 to 11.

#### **Star Reading Tests**

Students in Year 7 will take a Star Reading Test at the start of each term to measure reading ability and progress and to ensure they are best supported and challenged in their learning across the school. Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a child's reading level. It uses computer adaptive technology, meaning that questions continually adjust to each student's responses and gives a precise picture of each student's reading skills and areas for development. The Star Reading Test will take between 20 -30 minutes to complete.

These reading assessments will help us to gather information on the reading abilities of all our students to enable teaching staff to plan appropriate learning opportunities across the curriculum to support our students in developing their core reading skills.



This test will assess the following reading skills:

- Literal comprehension
- Understanding of vocabulary
- Comprehension requiring inference, prediction, and opinions
- Comprehension requiring text analysis

We believe that reading is of paramount importance for students, not just to enable students in improving their reading skills and understanding of curriculum content, but also to promote personal wellbeing. We encourage all students to read regularly, and as parents/carers we value your support to do this. More details will be sent home in the coming weeks regarding reading and how parents can support with this.

No preparation is necessary for these assessments. We would actively encourage you to discuss this with your child and emphasise that they should not worry about them, however they should try their best in all the tasks. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email addresses below.

Kind Regards

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