

NSH/CCH

10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **YEAR 7 COGNITIVE ABILITY TESTS (CATS)**

Although it is very early days, we hope that your child has settled in well to Jesmond Park Academy and that their transition from Primary School has been as smooth as possible in our new 'normal' circumstances.

For lessons your child has been placed in a combination of mixed ability teaching groups (in subjects such as English, History, Geography, PE and Technology) and broadly banded by ability teaching groups in subjects such as Maths, Science, Computing and MFL (modern foreign language).

We intend to review the broadly banded by ability teaching groups over the next half term using internal assessment data and data from our CAT tests.

We are undertaking the CAT tests over the next week (week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September) and your child will be informed on which day the tests are taking place. There will be catch up sessions in place for any absent students.

The CAT tests comprise of a series of eight short tests across three separate lessons focussing upon word, number and general cognition (understanding) skills. The tests are completed on a computer. Please reassure your child that the CAT tests are nothing to worry about and there is nothing that they need to prepare for. Obviously, we would expect that your child takes these tests seriously and adopts a sensible and calm approach to these tests. We will give full instructions to all of our Year 7 students prior to the tests and their class teacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and an invigilating member of staff will be present to ensure that all goes well and that the tests are carried out in a calm and sensible manner.

**Continued overleaf**

**Steve Campbell Principal**

**Hugh Robinson CEO**

Jesmond Park West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7DP

T +44 (0)191 281 8486 F +44 (0)191 281 0381

E [admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk) W [www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk)

As we have said above, once we have received the results of the CAT tests we will use these, alongside internal assessment data, to regroup the broadly banded by ability teaching groups of Maths, Science, Computing and MFL. It is unlikely that we will change the mixed ability teaching groups (English, History, Geography, PE and Technology). The MFL (modern foreign language) that your child has been allocated to study will not change.

We anticipate that this will be completed over the next few weeks and we will write to you again with any new timetable changes your child may have.

Yours faithfully



Mr Nigel Holmes  
Director of Student Progress



Elspeth Dowling  
Head of Key Stage 3



Steve McLaughlin  
Head of Year 7

## EXAMPLE CAT TEST TIMETABLE

<b>Name:</b> A Student	<b>Reg:</b> 7.1
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You will see below your timetable for your CAT tests. They start on Monday 13 September. There will be catch up tests in place if you are absent.

You will be sitting three separate tests in total across three separate lessons. On the day and period for each test, you should go straight to the IT room listed below. Do not go to your normal lesson on that day. It is very important that you go straight there and that you are not late. Your class teacher and other members of Jesmond Park Academy staff will be there to meet you.

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**CAT TEST 1:** Monday: Period 1 in IT10

**CAT TEST 2:** Tuesday: Period 6 in IT9

**CAT TEST 3:** Thursday: Period 1 in IT9

(The above dates are examples – please see your child’s timetable for their days/times)

Remember, on the days and periods above, you must go straight to the IT room and not your normal classroom.

Keep this timetable safe in your planner so that you know when to go.

