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8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

Each year, we offer a service for Year 5 children this year to support preparation and choices around secondary schools.

The Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) is a form of assessment that tests pupils' ability to reason via the medium of language as well as context-free visual information. There are two types of test: verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning.

The Verbal Reasoning test measures a pupil's ability to engage with the language, in order to identify their wider reasoning ability and potential. Verbal Reasoning highlights pupils' skills in verbal-thinking, above and beyond their formal literacy abilities and the assessment covers various types of questions, testing vocabulary, logical reasoning, numbers and words in sentences.

Non-Verbal Reasoning involves no reading, so can provide insight into the abilities of pupils who think more easily in images than words. The designs used within the tests involve very little mathematical knowledge, so that only reasoning skills are assessed.

These tests are **NOT COMPULSORY** and your child does not have to take part – it is for you as a Parent/Carer to decide. The cost of the assessment is £11, which covers the test and the comprehensive report. **If you would like your child to take part, please pay and give your consent via School Comms, under the payment Y5 CATs Tests. The payment will be available to pay until Friday 15th September 2023.**

The Maple team will administer these assessments during the month of September and will subsequently send your child's scores home, in a sealed envelope.

You will then have an opportunity to meet with Mr Dickens and I, to discuss your child's standardised scores, scores related to age, as well as your secondary school preferences.

Yours faithfully

Mr Johnson
Head of School