



Thursday, 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we welcome Year 7 pupils to Ellis Guilford this week, I am writing to inform you of some important assessment arrangements that will take place over the next two weeks.

As is the case each year, it is important we have a baseline for all new pupils to the school, to not only accurately understand each pupils' starting point but also to ensure we address any gaps in learning as soon as possible. To help us do this, we are going to run some assessments with all pupils in year 7. These assessments will run during the first two weeks, and will include the following:

Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) – CATs are the UK's most widely used test of reasoning abilities for children aged 6-17+ years. It is an assessment of abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement, which includes verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning and provides a guide to future potential pupil achievement.

Progress assessments in Maths, English & Science – The progress assessments will provide us with a clear, accurate baseline in these subjects and will help us understand key gaps in your child's learning. Data from these assessments will help us to adapt the curriculum in these subjects where necessary, to fill in any gaps in learning.

New Group Reading Test (NGRT) – Reading ability is fundamental to a pupil's ability to access the curriculum at secondary school. Therefore, having a reliable measure of reading ability will be critical in planning catch up as pupils return to school. The NGRT is a nationally recognised assessment of reading comprehension. It will allow us to identify pupils that are not currently meeting the expected standard and for early intervention to be put in place.



Pupil Attitude to Self and School (PASS) – PASS is designed to uncover emotional or attitudinal needs (such as low self-regard or attitudes to attendance) that may hinder achievement at school.

Although pupils should take these assessments seriously, there is absolutely nothing to worry about and no preparation can or should be taken for them. We simply ask that pupils try their best when doing them and answer questions as honestly as possible. All the assessments are digital and will be completed on computers in school.

When pupils have completed these assessments, we will use the information to help us to put your child into the most appropriate pathway to ensure they make excellent progress. In KS3 at Ellis Guilford we have 3 pathways: Elevate, Ambition and Accelerate. All pathways are designed to meet the needs of your child. In each pathway pupils will be challenged to maximise their academic potential.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at: enquiries@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr Fugill'.

Mr Fugill
Vice Principal