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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

18 January 2023

Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer

Year 9 CATs Tests

As you know, your child is about to start the process of selecting their KS4 Options subjects, and we look forward to seeing you at our Options Information Evening on Thursday 26 January. To help you and your child make informed choices, lots of information about the different subjects that are on offer will be provided on the evening. We are also conscious that an important consideration for you will be your child's interests, their future plans and their likely grades in different subjects. We hope that their academic reports, which were issued before Christmas, along with the Consultation Evening (which is on Wednesday 22 February – further details about booking for this will be shared in due course) will help with this.

One useful source of information on the report is your child's benchmark grades. Benchmark grades are an indication of the most likely grade that your child should be able to achieve in each subject based on other students from similar schools with similar prior attainment. They are not target grades, but rather are a useful indication of whether your child is on track given their starting point.

In most years, benchmark grades are generated using a child's KS2 SATs score. As your child was unable to sit the KS2 SATs (due to the lockdown that occurred when they were in year 6) we, like many other schools nationally, have used the CAT4 assessment to generate these benchmark grades. Your child completed their CAT4 test when they were in Year 7. As this is some time ago, we are keen to update these to ensure the information that they provide is as accurate as possible. To this end, your child will be sitting an age appropriate CAT4 assessment on either Thursday 26 or Friday 27 January. CAT4 assessments are carefully designed to be a measure of potential and, therefore, no preparation is required. CAT4 assessments take around 1 hour 45 minutes and will be completed in the assembly hall.

This timing has been chosen so that we can share the results of the CAT4 assessment with you and your child whilst you are discussing their possible options subjects. We hope that this will enable you to have fully informed discussions. That said, this is only one of many possible sources of information that you may wish to draw on.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on ept@cardinalheenan.com or, alternatively, we can speak in person at the Options Evening.

Best wishes

Lizzie Stockton-Pitt

Senior Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Education)

