

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Re: Year 6 Banding and CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests) – week commencing 16th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the week commencing 16th October, children in Year 6 will complete their CATs. This will take place in class, from 9am on three consecutive days. The assessment will be completed on a laptop. It is not possible to prepare for these assessments and the results are not shared with us directly – they are used as part of the secondary admissions process. It is important that children are in school and arrive by 8.55. Please notify us of any unavoidable absences following the usual process.

Please see below for more information included in the Hackney Secondary Admissions booklet (page 4) which you can refer to here: <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/sites/default/files/document/secondary-admission-leaflet.pdf>

BANDING AND COGNITIVE ABILITY TESTS (CAT)

“Most Hackney secondary schools use a process of banding to ensure they admit a wide range of children of different abilities. Every child who applies must sit a cognitive ability test (CAT) and the results are used to group applications into different ability bands. If your child attends a Hackney primary school (in Year 6) they will take the CAT at their school during September/October 2023. The school will arrange the testing as part of the normal school day.

If your child attends a school outside Hackney and you apply for a school that uses banding your child will be invited to sit the CAT at a Hackney secondary school on Saturday 18 November or Saturday 25 November 2023. We will contact you via email in November 2022 to tell you the date and venue for your child’s test. The session will last about three hours.

More information about CAT is available online at education.hackney.gov.uk/cat

There are no alternative test dates and it is your responsibility to make sure your child is available to take the test on your allocated date. Failure to take the test may result in your application being placed at the bottom of the list behind all applicants who have taken the test for that school.”

As always, we ensure that children feel confident completing the assessments and we reassure them that doing their best is all we expect. Please join us in these messages so children feel positive about the experience.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Maudie Wyatt (Deputy Headteacher) and Amy Mpofu (Year 6 class teacher)

