



22nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Here at St Thomas More Catholic School we believe in providing each and every student with the opportunity to realise their full potential and achieve at the highest level. To gain a better understanding of the learning needs of our students, we are going to be administering a series of short cognitive ability assessments, with all students in Year 7 & 8 over the Autumn Term. We will then use the results from the assessment to improve the support we provide your child in their learning, and to determine whether further intervention is needed following the unprecedented impact of the national lockdowns and associated disruption to education.

Each test is standardised against national benchmarks using GL Assessment (www.gl-assessment.co.uk). The tests will provide key information to support your child's progress in preparation for the academic year, which includes;

- Future curriculum planning
- Adjustments to learning, teaching, assessment and planning
- Indicate potential performance
- To show where your child is at now and identify any additional support
- Identify any barriers or gaps in knowledge
- Whole-school assessment approach to support each individual learner
- Test current knowledge and skills appropriate to age-related expectations and year group.

Your child will not be required to revise or study for the skills-based tests and any outcomes from the tests will be reported home to each parent/guardian to identify your child's key strengths and areas requiring greater focus.

We would like to stress that this is an assessment of ability and not attainment, so no pre-learning or preparation is necessary. Your child should not feel worried about taking any of these assessments as prior knowledge is not required to complete it. The results will be used together with our internal assessment practices, to inform teachers about the strengths and development areas of each student.

Once the assessment has been carried out I will be in touch again to discuss the results and next steps.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Olsen
Associate Assistant Head Teacher

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