

Key Stage 3 Baseline Assessments

What will these tests assess and when will they take place?

Assessments will be taken by all students in year 7, 8 and 9. They are built on the best academic research and will be set and marked externally. Any students who are absent during this period will still have an opportunity to sit the test.

Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT4)

These tests will take place wc. 20 September 2021. Students will sit three staggered assessments during lessons on one day.

CAT4 is an assessment of developed abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement – namely verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning – and provides us with an accurate analysis of potential student achievement. Standardised on 25,000 students and verified every year based on analysis of a quarter of a million students, CAT4 provides us with valuable baselining data with national benchmarks. It also gives reliable indicators for national tests and examinations, including retrospective Key Stage 2 indicators, 9-1 GCSE and A level indicators.

NGRT Reading tests

These assessments will take place wc. 20 September 2021 and students will sit the test during their English lessons.

Developing literacy and reading ability is fundamental to a pupil's ability to access the curriculum in secondary school. The New Group Reading Test (NGRT) is a standardised assessment that reliably measures reading skills against the national average to help us get to the root of any problems precisely and quickly. NGRT provides information about sentence completion and comprehension skills allowing us to identify where difficulties lie. This assessment will allow us to regular monitor reading progress and measuring the impact of intervention.

Progress tests in English, Maths and Science

English progress tests will take place wc. 27 Sept; Maths and Science assessments will take place wc 4 October. All progress tests will take place during subject lessons.

The Progress Test Series (PT Series) helps accurately measure how your school and our students are performing in English, Maths and Science against the national average – and measure both in-year, and year on year progress. Standardised on over 100,000 children, these tests assess knowledge, understanding and application of the core curriculum subjects, helping us to understand current levels of attainment and identify any gaps in learning at both an individual and cohort level. These test will be used at the start of the year for baselining and at the end of the year to measure and track progress. Detailed reports analyse key dimensions of learning for each subject and provide a question-by-question breakdown to help identify those students who require more challenging targets and those who may need extra support.

PASS

These tests will be conducted wc 27th September during their IT lesson.

Social and emotional wellbeing are essential for effective learning, yet there will always be pupils who lack confidence in their learning and who don't always feel connected with school and their teachers. PASS takes the guesswork out of understanding why this might be, focusing on three broad areas – how a pupil feels about themselves, their engagement with the curriculum, and their feelings about school. Traffic light reporting is easy to read and act on, and a ready-made collection of follow-up activities gives us the tools to put support in place immediately and sensitively, helping us build even more positive teacher/pupil relations in the process.