



# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

6 September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope you are well and enjoyed the summer break.

I am writing to you regarding a survey and some baseline assessments that we have planned for our year 7 students.

The survey is called PASS, Pupil Attitudes to Self and School and it will help us to understand student's mindset towards school, and if they are confident, ready and motivated to learn. PASS helps to identify barriers to learning in order to ensure student wellbeing and positive outcomes at a whole school, class, and individual level.

The baseline assessments we use are a nationally recognised and widely used device to help us see where students are in their learning and cognitive development. We will be using the CAT4 and Progress Tests.

A student's CAT4 results provide a detailed and objective analysis of their reasoning abilities. When teachers have an awareness of both the strengths of an individual and the abilities demanded by a particular task, learning will be most successful. The CAT4 assessment will provide us with a Standard Age Score (SAS), this is the most important piece of information derived from CAT4. The SAS is based on students raw score which has been adjusted for age and placed on a scale that makes a comparison with a nationally representative sample of the same age across the UK. The outcome of the CAT4 assessment will help us when benchmarking and tracking progress.

During the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September your child will be sitting a CAT4 assessment - this will take the form of an online assessment.

There is no need for you or your child to become anxious about this – it is not a test, there is no revision needed or suggested as the skills assessed by CAT4 are independent of a taught curriculum.



It is very important to stress that the outcome of the CAT4 process will have no bearing on your child's opportunities at Plymouth High, we will not stream or set from the results, it is merely a tool that we use to help guide us in our teaching.

The assessment covers four areas: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Nonverbal Reasoning and Spatial Ability.

The assessments will take place using an online platform and students will require headphones/headset/ear buds in order to access the assessment, we would ask that students provide their own. The headphones need a connection that is compatible with a computer, such as the image below.



Thank you for your support in this matter.

Once the assessments have been completed, the results will be shared with your child's teachers and there will also be a summary report sent home, we will endeavour to process this before the half term break.

Please can I reiterate that there is no preparation needed for this assessment and your child need not get anxious about the thought of these assessments. They are an in-school tool only.

Your child will also sit core subject assessments in English, Mathematics and Science, these will measure attainment and will be used at the start of the academic year for baselining and to enable core subject staff to identify any gaps in your child's knowledge. These assessments will take place in the week commencing the 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please can I reiterate once again, that there is no preparation needed for these assessments and your child need not get anxious about the thought of these assessments. They are an in-school tool only.

Timetable of events

7A	Date
PASS	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept
CAT assessment	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Progress test Mathematics	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Progress test English	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Progress test Science	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself ([Donna.Roughton@phsg.tsat.uk](mailto:Donna.Roughton@phsg.tsat.uk)), your child's tutor or Miss Joynes as Head of Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Roughton', followed by a horizontal line.

**Donna Roughton**  
**Deputy Headteacher**