



THE CONSORTIUM  
ACADEMY TRUST

22 January 2026  
Year 9 CAT Tests



THE  
HESSLE  
ACADEMY

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Dear parent / carer

As part of the Year 9 Options process, it is vital that we have an accurate assessment of your child's current academic progress. This is achieved through regular assessments in class and in consultation with teachers. This allows us to provide all students with the most appropriate subject choices.

In addition, we also undertake CAT testing at the start of Year 7 to give a baseline of your child's academic ability alongside their KS2 assessments from primary school. To provide us with up-to-date information on your child's academic potential, we will be asking all students in Year 9 to sit a CAT test on **Friday 30 January 2026**.

They will also enable us to set your child challenging and appropriate targets for their GCSEs once they begin to study them.

The Cognitive Abilities Test reveals hidden potential by assessing the main types of reasoning ability known to make a difference to learning and achievement, providing us with a rounded profile of each student. CAT Tests are used nationally and undertaken by over 25,000 children each year. They do not assess any taught content so there is no need for your child to prepare for them, other than to stay healthy and get a good night's sleep beforehand! These tests will be conducted under examination conditions in the main Sports Hall.

Further information is available for parents here ([Information for parents - GL Assessment \(gl-assessment.co.uk\)](http://Information for parents - GL Assessment (gl-assessment.co.uk)))

If you have any questions relating to these tests, please contact the assessment team on [assessment@hessleacademy.com](mailto:assessment@hessleacademy.com)

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Price  
Deputy Head – Curriculum