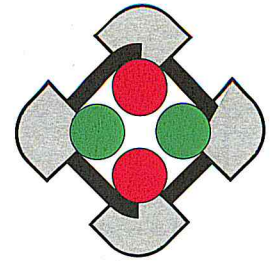


# St. Ciarán's Community School

Pobailscoil Chiaráin

Kells, Co. Meath

Tel: (046) 9241551 Fax: (046) 9241554



**Principal:** Cara Mc Loughlin **Deputy Principal:** Angela Flanagan.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Shortly, your son or daughter will be offered an opportunity to sit the C.A.T. 4. This is roughly a two hour duration online testing session, which will be conducted in class groups in the I.T. rooms. No additional equipment is required, other than students who wish to have the instructions read to them can bring a set of headphones that they can attach to their computer. There is no set way that a student can prepare for these, other than perhaps having a good night's sleep before the test.

The CAT 4 tests themselves provides a profile of strengths and weaknesses across four areas:

Verbal Reasoning – the ability to express ideas and reason through words is essential to subjects with a high language content, and the most obvious skill picked up by traditional assessment.

Non-verbal Reasoning – problem-solving using pictures and diagrams; skills which are important in a wide range of school subjects, including maths and science-based subjects.

Spatial Reasoning – the capacity to think and draw conclusions in three dimensions, needed for many STEM subjects.

Quantitative Reasoning – the ability to use numerical skills to solve problems, applicable well beyond mathematics.

The results are kept in a digital format on two separate computers and one backup device. All equipment is both encrypted and password protected. The data will be destroyed, when it no longer serves any value, six years after the initial testing date.

Staff with access to the data are the Principal and the members of the S.E.N. Department including the Guidance Counsellor.

The information gathered is used for assisting students in both subject and vocational choice as well as identifying whether a student may need additional academic supports and/or to identify students that may require additional testing. Individual data may also be used for students who are applying for Reasonable Accommodations for the Junior and Leaving Certificate.

Please sign and return this form at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours Faithfully,

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## Explicit Consent

I give my permission for my son or daughter to be tested using the CAT4 and for the information to be accessed, stored and utilized according to the above information.

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents / Guardians Signature: \_\_\_\_\_