

28 September 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer

Y7 CAT Testing

At The Hamble School, we pride ourselves on our high expectations and ambitions for all our students. Part of that expectation and ambition is to ensure students are taught at the right level and to intervene and provide support where appropriate.

CAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) testing is designed to assess a student's ability in three areas: verbal, quantitative and non-verbal. The results may be used to see if a student is under achieving or whether there are specific learning difficulties. Results from CAT testing can help in intervention, monitoring progress and setting targets for future attainment.

Year 7 will begin their CAT testing on Wednesday 7 October 2026 and will complete them over a period of two weeks. We have chosen to use Computer Science lessons as these will have the least impact on your child's core timetable. These assessments will be done in class and in their normal classroom.

Please find enclosed a timetable indicating the dates and times the CAT tests will be run. There are three different sections to the CAT test and so it is imperative that students attend all the sessions so as not to miss a section.

The CAT tests are taken online and no revision or prior knowledge is necessary. Specialist equipment for these sessions is not required, however we would encourage all students to bring their own headphones and also a reading book to each session. Headphones must be able to be plugged into the computer audio jack. Air pods/Bluetooth headphones are not suitable and should not be brought in to school. There are limited spare headphones available. If you do not have access to your own, please advise the Exams Officer and we will arrange a loan of headphones.

If you have any questions about the CAT tests or the timetable, please email the Exams Officer Mrs Vincent: general@thehambleschool.co.uk.

www.thehambleschool.co.uk

T: 023 8045 2105 • general@thehambleschool.co.uk • [f](https://www.facebook.com/thehambleschool) [X](https://www.instagram.com/thehambleschool) [@thehambleschool](https://www.tiktok.com/@thehambleschool)

Satchell Lane, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4NE

Headteacher: Miss L Cambridge, BSc (Hons), MA Ed. NPQH



Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Vincent'.

Mrs S Vincent
Exams Officer

If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.