



# Christian Brothers Secondary School Mitchelstown

Meánscoil na mBráithre, Baile Mhistéala, Co. Chorcaí

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September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that we are meeting the boys' educational needs, all First Year students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) in the school next week. The CAT is a fully standardised and widely used test of reasoning abilities. It will help us identify pupils' strengths, weaknesses and learning preferences by providing accurate, reliable and objective assessment data. CAT measures the three main areas of reasoning - verbal, non-verbal and quantitative - as well as an element of spatial ability.

The CAT is not about recall of knowledge and the boys do not need to do any work at home to prepare for the test. They should not worry in any way about sitting the test. It is simply an opportunity for them to show their underlying ability. The test will not have any bearing on their placing in classes or their choice of levels for exam purposes.

1A1 class will sit the test on Thursday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> (8.50-11), 1A2 and 1A3 on Friday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> (8.50-11). The test will be administered by Ms. Sinead Ryan and Ms. Carmel Ryan, the school's Guidance Counsellors. They will be assisted by the boys' subject teachers and SNAs. Students will need a pencil and an eraser for filling in the answers in the test booklets. The test is given as a series of short tests, with the procedure explained and an example worked through in each case so that each boy will know what is involved.

During your son's time in CBS, we also carry out other standardised tests in reading, spelling, comprehension and maths. These assessments help us identify students who may benefit from extra support and who may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in the state exams. Similar to the CAT, there is no need to worry about these assessments and you cannot study for them. If you have any concerns regarding the standardised testing as outlined above please contact us at the school.

Please note also that the Guidance Counsellors are available by appointment should any of the boys wish to meet with them for assistance with planning and organisation of study and homework.

Should any parent have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate in contacting the school. The Year Head for First Years, Ms. O'Sullivan; class tutors Mr. Kennedy (1A1), Ms. Ollivier (1A2) or Ms. O'Sullivan (1A3); Deputy Principal Mr. Peter Acheson or I will assist with any such issues.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Mary Hannon,  
Principal