



Thomas Fairchild Community School
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Executive Headteacher: Ms Nicole Reid
Headteacher: Mr Matthew Trahair

Monday 16th September 2024,

Dear Year 6 Families,

Re: CATs Testing

This half term, your child will sit a series of short **CATs** (Cognitive Abilities Tests) which are used by Hackney secondary schools to band the year 7 cohort into ability groups. The aim of the tests is to ensure that each school admits a wide range of children of different abilities.

These tests assess how well children can independently think about tasks and solve problems using a range of different questions. The reasoning questions are: non-verbal (shapes and patterns), verbal (words) and quantitative (numbers). There are also questions that test children's spatial ability.

The CATs test will be completed by the pupils on an iPad and the tests will start on the week beginning **Monday 7th October 2023**.

Re: Secondary School Applications

As you will be aware, you will be applying for a secondary school place for your child for September 2025. **The closing date for applications is Thursday 31st October 2024**. It is essential that you apply on time and that you make realistic preferences when choosing the school that you would like your child to attend.

The application process begins with visits to **school open events**. Hackney secondary school open day information can be found [here](#). For information about Islington schools and events, click [here](#).

Please note that your nearest or preferred school may not be in your home borough. When choosing schools, you should consider the distance from your home as this is a key factor when secondary schools are allocated. You will be asked to list up to six schools. You should list the schools in order of preference.

Hackney Education have produced a booklet to support you with the application process. This booklet can be found [here](#).

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call the office to arrange a time to talk to Ms Farley or a Senior Leader to discuss your secondary school queries.

Kind regards,



Sophie Medhurst
Associate Deputy Headteacher