

FIVEMILETOWN COLLEGE

"Learning at the heart of the community"



Year 8

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

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FIVEMILETOWN COLLEGE



ACADEMIC STREAMING

This year marks a superb intake into our Year 8 cohort. We have 81 pupils, meaning we exceeded our capacity and thankfully were granted permission to take in all 1st preference pupils. As outlined by our Principal Mrs Allen, our usual entry process of an induction evening, a one-one-meeting with a member of SLT, PE/Games kit fitting and online CAT testing are not viable given the current restrictions. To replace the aforementioned, a dedicated Year 8 part of our school website – www.fivemiletowncollege.org is being set up regarding induction. Information gathering will be posted out rather than sourced via a meeting, the kit order will be delayed with November/December the target point in the academic year and data from all Principals of our feeder primary schools has been requested with respect to the cohort of pupils that we are receiving. In addition to the latter point, as outlined again by Mrs Allen on our Open Night....we aim to stretch and challenge our pupils. Those gifted and talented will be differentiated for, to ensure that they, like all others maximise their potential. In doing so, we will be creating a 'grammar stream' in Year 8. Utilising CAT4 testing (more information to follow), we will identify a group for this stream with all other pupils being divided into two further streams of mixed ability. This structure gives all pupils an opportunity based upon objective data to maximise their potential. Albeit the academic year we approach will be different in many ways, we do at regular intervals reflect upon pupil placing within each stream and where applicable propose possible variations to such placings. I once again vocalise our core values of commitment, excellence and respect. Every pupil must fully commit to their studies inside and outside of school, they should always aim to improve and at all times must show respect. Irrespective of stream, these are the targets that all pupils are set on a daily basis. By focusing upon such, each pupil will maximise their potential and personify our school vision.

Yours,

Mr S Clarke



FIVEMILETOWN COLLEGE



CAT – COGNITIVE ABILITY TEST

What is CAT4?

The Cognitive Abilities Test Fourth Edition (CAT4) is a suite of tests which assesses a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. CAT4 is the fourth edition of the test and comprises the following sections or batteries which assess different aspects of ability:

- Verbal Reasoning Battery – thinking with words
- Quantitative (or Numerical) Reasoning Battery – thinking with numbers
- Non-verbal Reasoning Battery – thinking with shapes
- Spatial Ability Battery – thinking with shape and space

Verbal Reasoning Battery – thinking with words

Verbal Classification

Three words are presented which are similar in some way or ways. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify a fourth word with similar properties.

The answer is snow because rain, fog and sunshine are all types of weather and snow is also a type of weather.

	rain	fog	sunshine	
winter	snow	weather	dark	night

Verbal Analogies

A pair of connected words is presented alongside a single word. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must select a word to complete the second pair in the same way.

The answer is window, because a carpet goes on a floor and a curtain hangs at a window.

carpet → floor : curtain →				
window	shade	hang	drapes	cloth

Quantitative (or Numerical) Reasoning Battery – thinking with numbers

Number Analogies

Two pairs of related numbers are presented. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must select a number to complete a third pair.

The answer is 8. Here 1 add 1 makes 2, but that doesn't work for the second pair because 5 add 1 is 6, not 10. Instead, you have to multiply by 2 to get the second part of each pair, so 4 times 2 is 8.

[1 → 2] [5 → 10] [4 → ?]



Number Series

A sequence of numbers created by a transformation rule is presented. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify the rule and continue the sequence.

The answer is 15. There are two number patterns in this series. The first, third and fifth numbers go down by 1 at a time – 18, 17 then 16. The numbers in between them go up by two at a time – 5, 7 then 9. This means the next number must be 16 minus 1, giving 15.

18 5 17 7 16 9 →



Non-verbal Reasoning Battery – thinking with shapes

Figure Classification

Three designs are presented which are similar in some way or ways. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify a fourth design with similar properties.

The answer is E because it is the only answer choice that is a striped semi-circle, like the first three figures.

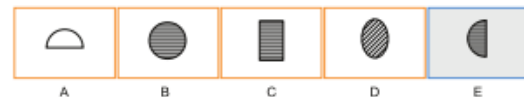
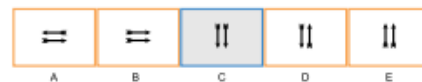


Figure Matrices

Designs are presented in a grid with one empty square and, from a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify the missing design.

The answer is C because in the top pair 'one arrow up' goes to 'two arrows up', so in the second pair 'one arrow down' must go to 'two arrows down'.



Spatial Ability Battery – thinking with shape and space

Figure Analysis

A series of diagrams shows a square being folded repeatedly, and then punched through with holes. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify how the paper will appear when unfolded.

The answer is D. The hole is punched through both layers of paper, so as it is unfolded the holes will be a mirror image of each other, with the crease being the mirror line.

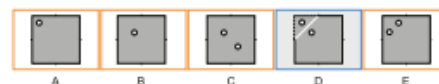


Figure Recognition

Several complex designs are presented along with a single target shape. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify the target shape within one of the complex designs.

The answer is E. It isn't A because that shows the target flipped over. It isn't B or C because they have shapes that are the wrong size.



Why use CAT4?

CAT4 is a comprehensive and objective test of students' developed abilities – those that, in part, determine attainment and can be built upon and developed to improve outcomes. For example, verbal reasoning can be developed by supporting students' reading, comprehension and vocabulary. CAT4 provides important information about your group of students because it is an objective measure of ability. Data from other sources such as the Fischer Family Trust, teacher assessment and key indicators such as attendance may be used alongside CAT4 data to ensure that information about students' ability, attainment and any external factors affecting achievement that may impact on progress are part of the decision-making process at many levels.

When considered alongside other data, this information can make a significant contribution to:

- provide indicators of attainment for KS3, GCSE, AS/A level and IB which are a starting point for target setting for the group
- comparing the performance of groups of students in order to identify needs and target resources more effectively
- identifying students or groups of students who may be at risk of underachievement
- monitoring trends or changes in the ability profile of your school's intake over time
- informing target setting for national tests and examinations
- providing a benchmark against which to assess 'value added' by your school

Summary

We at Fivemiletown College will always aim to provide the very best for each and every one of our pupils. We believe in our 'triangle of trust' – School, Parent and Pupil. Therefore, with the excellent information provided on the CAT4 testing, you now as a parent have an opportunity to prepare your child. The timeframe ahead and the implementation of our actions will be controlled by the powers above. But we must now focus on the children that we have in our care and give them the best possible academic future at Fivemiletown College.



FIVEMILETOWN COLLEGE



PUPIL CURRICULUM JOURNEY

YEAR 8/9/10

16 Subjects (Art, Drama, English, French, Games, Geography, History, HE, IT, Music, Maths, LLW, PE, RE, Science, Technology)



Progressive Career focus throughout leading to a Subject Trawl process in February. Important decisions made regarding GCSE subject choices, with advice and guidance central.



YEAR 11/12

Three pathways – **Red** (Academic 8-10 GCSEs), **White** (Academic/Vocational 8-10 GCSEs) and **Black** (Vocational 7 GCSEs including equivalents)



Progressive Career focus throughout leading to a Subject Trawl process in March. Important decisions made regarding GCE subject choices, with advice and guidance central.



YEAR 13/14

Curriculum to match the abilities and aspirations of all pupils. Range of A Levels, BTECs and other Vocational Qualifications including collaboration with local schools and SWC. 3-4 A Level qualifications achieved.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our GCSE results have been increasing for the past 4 years, culminating in the 2019 cohort setting a new record here in Fivemiletown College. Below includes both the NI non-selective school data and also the Free School Meals Band in which our school falls. Our exceptional results show the high standards achieved here in Fivemiletown College. Such results exceed those in many local schools.

	Candidates Achieving	FMT 2017	FMT 2018	FMT 2019	NI Average Non-selective schools	Differential – FMT V Similar Schools	NI Average FSME Band 1
Whole School							
	5A* - C	87.3%	87.0%	94.1%	74.4%	+19.7%	79.6%
	5A* - C including English and Maths	61.8%	67.1%	74.5%	49.9%	+24.6%	63.1%
Male	5A* - C	81.3%	84.2%	92.6%	69.3%	+23.3%	74.5%
	5A* - C including English and Maths	50.0%	60.5%	63.0%	45.3%	+19.7%	57.2%
Female	5A* - C	95.7%	89.6%	95.8%	79.6%	+16.2%	84.9%
	5A* - C including English and Maths	78.3%	75.8%	87.5%	54.5%	+33.0%	69.3%
FSM	5A* - C	75.0%	76.47%	75%	66.1%	+8.9%	N/A
	5A* - C including English and Maths	43.8%	52.9%	37.5%	38.5%	-1.0%	N/A



Most recent results...incredible!

PUPIL PLANNER

School Calendar 2019 - 20											
Please note these dates are subject to change, check social media for updates											
A	Thurs	22/08/2019	GCSE Results Day (All Staff)								
U	Fri	23/08/2019	TPL Day 1								
G	Sat	24/08/2019									
U	Sun	25/08/2019									
S	Mon	26/08/2019	Bank Holiday								
T	Tues	27/08/2019	TPL 2								
	Wed	28/08/2019	Year 13 Induction								
	Thurs	29/08/2019	Year 14 Induction (Full Staff Meeting pm)								
	Fri	30/08/2019	Year 8 Induction & Transition Information session for parents								
	Sat	31/08/2019									
S	Sun	01/09/2019									
E	Mon	02/09/2019	Full School Resumes								
P	Tues	03/09/2019	Yr 8 PTE/PTM Testing								
T	Wed	04/09/2019									
E	Thurs	05/09/2019	Queen's University Open Day, Yr 9 PTS testing								
M	Fri	06/09/2019	University of Ulster Open Day								
B	Sat	07/09/2019									
E	Sun	08/09/2019									
R	Mon	09/09/2019									
	Tues	10/09/2019									
	Wed	11/09/2019	Yr 8 PTS testing								
	Thurs	12/09/2019									
	Fri	13/09/2019	Speech Day								
	Sat	14/09/2019									
	Sun	15/09/2019									
	Mon	16/09/2019									
	Tues	17/09/2019									
	Wed	18/09/2019	University Roadshow								
	Thurs	19/09/2019									
	Fri	20/09/2019									
	Sat	21/09/2019									
	Sun	22/09/2019									
	Mon	23/09/2019									
	Tues	24/09/2019									
	Wed	25/09/2019									
	Thurs	26/09/2019	Work experience talk Yr 11								
	Fri	27/09/2019	IEPs to be completed								
	Sat	28/09/2019									
	Sun	29/09/2019									
	Mon	30/09/2019									
	Tues	01/10/2019									
	Wed	02/10/2019	Yr 11 and Yr 13 Study Skills								
	Thurs	03/10/2019	Yr 8 Study Skills								
	Fri	04/10/2019									
	Sat	05/10/2019									
	Sun	06/10/2019									
	Mon	07/10/2019									
	Tues	08/10/2019									
	Wed	09/10/2019									
	Thurs	10/10/2019									
	Fri	11/10/2019									
	Sat	12/10/2019									
	Sun	13/10/2019									
	Mon	14/10/2019									
	Tues	15/10/2019									
	Wed	16/10/2019	KS4 Tracking 1 deadline								
	Thurs	17/10/2019									
	Fri	18/10/2019	KS3 Tracking 1 deadline								
	Sat	19/10/2019									
	Sun	20/10/2019									
	Mon	21/10/2019	Yr 9 and 10 PASS testing								
	Tues	22/10/2019									
	Wed	23/10/2019									
	Thurs	24/10/2019									
	Fri	25/10/2019	TPL Day 3, A&AS training 9.30 - 11.30am, KS5 Short Report deadline								
	Sat	26/10/2019									
	Sun	27/10/2019									
	Mon	28/10/2019	Half Term								
	Tues	29/10/2019	Half Term								
	Wed	30/10/2019	Half Term								
	Thurs	31/10/2019	Half Term								
	Fri	01/11/2019	Half Term								
	Sat	02/11/2019									
	Sun	03/11/2019									
	Mon	04/11/2019									
	Tues	05/11/2019									
	Wed	06/11/2019									
	Thurs	07/11/2019									
	Fri	08/11/2019									
	Sat	09/11/2019									
	Sun	10/11/2019									
	Mon	11/11/2019									
	Tues	12/11/2019									
	Wed	13/11/2019									
	Thurs	14/11/2019	Yr 8 Parent Meeting								
	Fri	15/11/2019									
	Sat	16/11/2019									
	Sun	17/11/2019									
	Mon	18/11/2019									
	Tues	19/11/2019									
	Wed	20/11/2019									
	Thurs	21/11/2019									
	Fri	22/11/2019									
	Sat	23/11/2019									
	Sun	24/11/2019									
	Mon	25/11/2019	KS3/4 Christmas Test Week								
	Tues	26/11/2019									
	Wed	27/11/2019	Year 13/14 Parent Meeting								
	Thurs	28/11/2019									
	Fri	29/11/2019									
	Sat	30/11/2019									
	Sun	01/12/2019									
	Mon	02/12/2019	Yr 12 Mock Week								
	Tues	03/12/2019									
	Wed	04/12/2019									
	Thurs	05/12/2019									
	Fri	06/12/2019									
	Sat	07/12/2019									
	Sun	08/12/2019									
	Mon	09/12/2019									
	Tues	10/12/2019									
	Wed	11/12/2019	KS4 Tracking 2 deadline								
	Thurs	12/12/2019									
	Fri	13/12/2019	KS3 tracking 2 deadline, Yr 10 CAT testing, Yr 8 PASS testing								
	Sat	14/12/2019									
	Sun	15/12/2019									
	Mon	16/12/2019									
	Tues	17/12/2019									
	Wed	18/12/2019									
	Thurs	19/12/2019									
	Fri	20/12/2019	TPL Day 4								
	Sat	21/12/2019									
	Sun	22/12/2019									

Essential to success at Fivemiletown College is planning. To enable you to do so from a home perspective, the Pupil Planner of your child has the '**School Calendar**' at the front (shown above). This details all key events e.g. Tracking Tests, Parents Meetings, Significant events and Holidays. Other essential information included within the Pupil Planner is a section dedicated to '**Tracking**'. This entails 4 tracking points throughout the academic year, where your child will sit an exam in all subjects across the curriculum. The tables below are on the first pink page in each planner. All subjects should be added along with relevant target grades.

MAG = Minimum Achievement Grade (Least we expect the pupil to achieve). **AAG = Aspirational Achievement Grade** (Target we want the pupil to aspire to). The target that appears on your child's report matches the MAG and at Year 8 this is set from the CAT test completed prior to entry. After tracking point 2, targets are reviewed according to progress and may be altered accordingly. Having completed tracking 1 and 2, this will happen in January when we resume

TRACKING

Key Stage 3 Example (Years 8-10)

	Target Attainment Grade (TAG)				Target Review				
Subject	MAG	AAG	Tr 1	Tr 2	MAG	AAG	Tr 3	Exam Target	Tr 4
English	50	60	60	61	60	70	69	70	69
Maths	60	70	66	68	65	75	71	75	72
Geography	55	65	56	57	55	65	59	60	59
Music	52	62	54	55	55	65	58	60	58
etc									



Christmas Exam



Summer Exam

English explained – Tr1 and Tr2 performance both meets the Aspirational Achievement Grade of the pupil...60. Therefore, it makes sense to raise the target grades from 50 to 60 to 60 to 70. Thereafter, the pupil remains consistent performing around the 70 mark...a full 20% higher than their first MAG of a 50.

We always want our pupils to aspire to be better...hence our core value – ‘Excellence’