



23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, due to the current climate, we have taken the opportunity to nurture and get to know our new Year 7s before setting them. Over the last month students have been assessed in a number of ways. This was explained in detail by Mr Coyle in a letter sent to you in September. This can be found on our school website.

- Cognitive Ability Tests or CAT tests (verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and spatial ability)
- English and maths baseline assessments
- Teacher Assessments from primary school

We are now in a position to set all our Year 7 students into 2 equal and parallel bands each one comprising of 4 sets with sets 7A1 and 7S1 being the highest set in each band. This will take place from Monday 2nd November which is the first day back in school. Students will receive their new timetables during form time on this day. This will be beneficial as the work set will be more appropriate for their ability. The decision to change sets is not taken lightly. It is made mainly based on CAT results but also considers Teacher Assessment from their primary school, English and maths baseline assessments and teacher feedback. The process and setting decisions have also been discussed with, and approved by, the Senior Leadership Team.

At Our Lady's Catholic College, regular and careful analysis of pupil achievement takes place and we always strive to ensure that all our pupils can achieve in the best possible learning environment. This means that whenever necessary we will adjust the set your child is in according to their current level of attainment. We will continue to carefully monitor progress throughout the year and notify you of any other changes. It is important to understand that the set your child is placed in is not the deciding factor on their final attainment. The value of a good attitude to learning, effort and engagement cannot be underestimated.

Please be assured that your child will remain in their current form regardless of the set they are allocated to. They will continue to see their form teacher and the rest of their form for one period every week until such time as we can re-start normal daily form time.

Should you have any queries regarding this, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Miss V. Brogan
Progress Leader Year 7