

### **Setting EAPs for the 2021 Year 7 cohort**

We would normally use KS2 SATs scores as a basis for setting EAPs for our students. The cancellation of these for our current Year 7 cohort meant that we had to look to alternatives for baseline assessment. We used a range of measures to help calculate students' EAPs at the start of Year 7 and have summarised these below.

During their first couple of weeks, students sat 'CATs tests' (Cognitive Abilities Tests). These are a series of well-established, short tests which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. No preparation at all is necessary and the outcomes can be used by schools to inform target setting and progress monitoring.

We have used the outcomes from these assessments to arrive at a Key Stage 2 score to give us a starting point in setting each student an EAP in each of their subjects (this is the score that you will see on the left hand side of the tracking document shown on page 2 of the report letter). The programme allows us to distinguish between maths and English scores, as would be the case with official Key Stage 2 SATs assessments.

As we were aware well in advance of the summer that Key Stage 2 SATs would not go ahead, we were able to make plans and gather predicted SATs scores for the majority of our students from their primary schools to further inform the process. These scores were cross-referenced with the CATs scores and, where there were significant differences, adjustments made. The two scores were very similar in the majority of cases.

Moving forwards, we intend to make much greater use of our own data as we go along to review things. For example, where setting has or will take place, we will use evidence from in-school assessments as the key barometer to identify how best to support students' needs and ensure that every one of them receives the right degree of challenge.

We are led to believe by the Government that there will be some form of national testing for this cohort to enable them, and schools, to track progress against national benchmarks. We will of course keep you updated on this, however, in the meantime, rest assured that we are using a range of measures to ensure that students are appropriately challenged and supported in all of their lessons.

Your child's EAPs can be seen for each subject on the reporting document. These have been calculated using the process above, however, please note that these are only intended to be an indication of the minimum expectation for an individual student. They are not there to set a limit or a cap and we want to encourage each and every one of our students to aim above and beyond this in all of their subjects. We realise that behind every set of data is a child and each child will be different. This is why our systems rely on our own knowledge of the children being taken into account in addition to the numerical data.

If you have any further questions regarding this process, please contact the Year 7 Office in the first instance.