



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

End of year Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) will take place in normal, timetabled lesson time between Monday 10th and Friday 21st June 2019. Individual class teachers will inform students of the exact date and lesson for each exam nearer the time.

This is the third and final assessment of the year. It gives students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt in each subject over the year. To help students become accustomed to the more formal arrangements for exams when they reach Key Stage 4, this final CAT will require students to do the following:

- Have all equipment in a clear, see-through pencil case or plastic bag.
- Ensure any water bottles are see-through and have any labels removed.
- Enter and leave classrooms in silence.
- Follow all instructions given by their teacher.

Subject teachers will guide your child through the process. Lesson time will be used to tell students what they can expect in each CAT and how long it will be. In the run up to the CAT, home learning will be focused on specific revision activities. All resources will be available for students on Showbie. Students will know what topics and skills will be tested in each assessment and will be advised how best to prepare.

To help you to support your child at home we have attached a short guide which outlines the key guidance that students are given in school.

If you have any further questions please contact the relevant Year Manager.

Good luck to all.

Kwone Moat

Mrs Moat
Associate Headteacher

PREPARING FOR ASSESSMENTS

Strengthen your memory:

To help keep information in, practise getting information out.



Start by using a blank page to add everything you can think of that is relevant to a topic you have chosen from your Showbie Final CAT folder. For example, key words, their meaning and labelled diagrams.



Organise your information in whichever way is best for you. It could be as lists, a mind map connecting key words or a spider diagram with the topic in the middle.



When you have added everything you can to your information sheet, look up the topic in your exercise book or in a Showbie folder. Add anything that you've missed, ideally in a different colour.

Now you are ready to conduct Steps 2 and 3 shown overleaf.



Effective Preparation in 3 Steps

- Step 1:** Start with your information page, produced from memory and then developed by looking at your exercise book/Showbie.
- Step 2:** Make some question and answer flashcards on paper (questions on the front, answers on the back) or using Quizlet.
- Step 3:** **Test yourself** or get a friend or family member to test you! Try quizzes already made on KS3 Bitesize, Quizlet or Mathletics for example.

You could use a **MNEMONIC to remember facts**. This is a word or phrase made from a set of letters, based on a list. Here's an example from Science. For the Characteristics of Life, the Mnemonic would be

M is Movement

R is Respiration

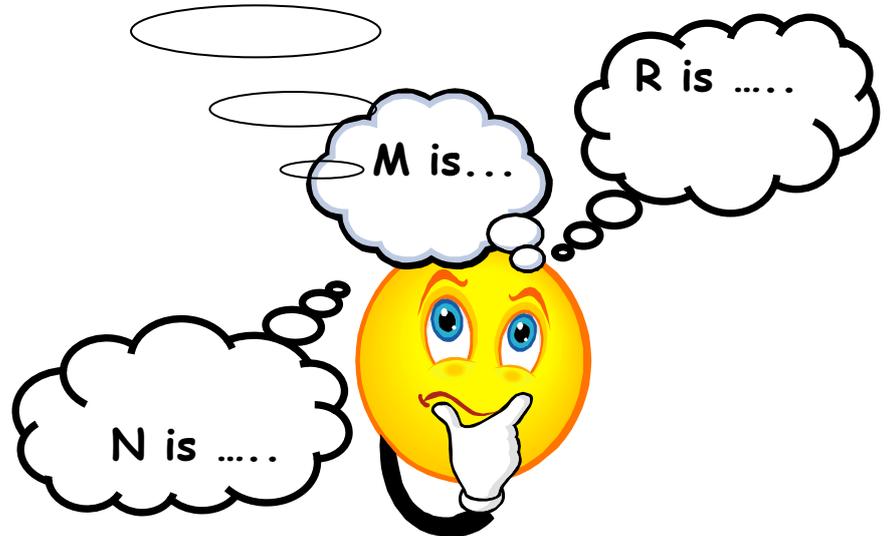
S is Sensitivity

G is Growth and Repair

R is Reproduction

E is Excretion

N is Nutrition



Or, you could work on a number of points related to a topic. For example, try to remember how many measuring instruments there are in Science experiments and what they are used to measure. Or list of how many causes there were for an event in History. Remember to use your memory first!

Stay Calm and.....

Test Yourself!