



03 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Start of term arrangements**

At Stamford Welland Academy we value the importance of good communication with our families. We would like to invite you to come into school for our Y7 Meet the Tutor evening on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, for an appointment with your child's Y7 tutor. Details of how to book appointments through our app, My Child At School (MCAS), will be sent in the coming days. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or House team.

**My Child At School (MCAS):**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our student and parental information and communication system; My Child At School (MCAS). It is a parental communication tool in the form of an iOS and Android App, with support from a website for those unable to access the apps. The facility allows your child's attendance, assessment, exams, timetable, class list, behaviour, reports and announcements to be accessed at any time.

How do I sign up?

We enable anyone with parental responsibility for a child at our school to sign up to our MCAS system. You will need to sign up with the e-mail address that we hold for you. Please enter our school postcode (PE9 1HE), pick our school from the list and follow the instructions on screen.

We highly recommend you watch the short parent introduction video on the trust website which takes you step by step through the process [www.meridiantrust.co.uk/mcas](http://www.meridiantrust.co.uk/mcas).

The system will invite you to create a password for MCAS. Please note you will need to have a minimum of 8 characters, including an UPPERCASE, lowercase, a number and a special char (such as: !@£\$%&+-). For the first few days you may only see your child's class timetable until we enable additional features.

You can use a web browser via ([www.mychildatschool.com](http://www.mychildatschool.com)) or you can download the MCAS parent app from the Apple and Android app stores.

Your child will be completing a series of assessments as part of our assessment process at the start of term to help inform target setting and interventions for their subjects.

### **CATS Assessments: Thursday 4th September**

These assessments measure your child's potential in subjects by assessing their main types of reasoning ability. These are a national assessment that provide the teachers with a report illustrating your child's ability in verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, spatial reasoning and quantitative reasoning. This report enables us to make informed decisions about the level of challenge required in their GCSE subjects to support their progress.

- Verbal Reasoning is the ability to express ideas and reason through words is essential to subjects with a high language content, and the most obvious skill picked up by traditional assessment.
- Non-verbal Reasoning is problem-solving using pictures and diagrams; skills which are important in a wide range of school subjects, including maths and science-based subjects.
- Spatial Reasoning is the capacity to think and draw conclusions in three dimensions, needed for many STEM subjects, but not easily measured by other datasets.
- Quantitative Reasoning is the ability to use numerical skills to solve problems, applicable well beyond mathematics.

### **Progress Tests: Week beginning 8th September**

These assessments measure your child's potential attainment in English, maths and science.

- The Progress Test in English (PTE) provides a clear, independent snapshot of English attainment. PTE assesses students' understanding and application of technical English skills: spelling, grammar and punctuation, as well as reading comprehension, using age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction texts.
- The Progress Test in Maths (PTM) provides a clear, independent snapshot of maths attainment. PTM measures knowledge in areas such as number, shape, data handling and algebra, as well as their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.
- The Progress Test in Science (PTS) provides a clear, independent snapshot of science attainment. PTS measures knowledge and understanding of science, as well as students' application of this knowledge. Their ability to work scientifically is also assessed.



**New Group Reading Test: Week beginning 15th September**

The New Group Reading Test (NGRT) is a digitally adaptive assessment that adjusts as each child responds, giving us an insight into their individual reading skills. NGRT also allows us to benchmark reading ability against the national average. Reports offer detailed insights into literacy skills and reading ability, helping us target interventions and plan effectively across the curriculum.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's tutor or House team.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Twigger  
Assistant Principal