

6 May 2022

Message from Freman College

Dear Parent / Carer

We are really looking forward to welcoming your son/daughter to Freman in September.

We are keen to make sure that we have a really good sense of who they are both personally and academically before they join us, to make sure we support them as effectively as possible. We will be in close touch with Edwinstree in the coming weeks to find out as much as possible about your son/daughter.

Because we have students joining us from several schools, a challenge we face is that the schools all use their own different assessment systems. This can be tricky for us and it is made more challenging this year as the year group didn't take SATs, so we don't have any consistent set of information for the whole intake. Many of the students in other schools arrive with CATs data. CATs are a set of straight forward activities that students complete which give the school information on their reading, writing and maths ability. This is especially helpful this year, given the disruptive impact that Covid has had on many students' education.

With this in mind, all Year 8 Edwinstree students will complete the CATs activities when they normally come up to Freman for their German lessons. It will take a bit longer than their usual lesson, so they will come up the lesson before and we will provide a snack and a drink midway through. There is no special preparation required at all and no need for students to be concerned about this. Students usually find the activities quite good fun!

Doing this will mean that we have consistent information on the ability of all the students in the year group. This will be extremely helpful as it will enable us to ensure that teachers have got a really thorough understanding of what they can expect from them and what they need. It will help us identify their likely learning needs - whether they may need extra support or extra challenge, for example. This will complement the information we receive from students' teachers. The better our understanding of students as they join us, the more effectively we can look after them, which is really important to us.

Kind regards

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