



# Presentation College

## Carlow

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2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your decision to enrol your son or daughter with us for **First Year** next **August**. I can assure you that everything possible will be done to facilitate your child's happy transition from primary to secondary school.

**The Board of Management decided that all incoming First Year students from August 2022, and subsequent years, must have iPads to assist and facilitate them in their educational journey in Presentation College.** This decision was greatly welcomed by all the teaching staff and all current First Year students use their iPads in class. The benefits of technology in education have been highlighted in recent times and the phased implementation of iPads **for all future students** will level the playing field for all students from a technology in education perspective, and bridge the "digital divide". The school has a very successful and productive relationship with Wriggle, at [www.wriggle.ie](http://www.wriggle.ie), and further details and requirements will be provided to parents in due course.

**The assessment tests for incoming First Year students take place over two days. Failure to attend both days will result in the withdrawal of the offer of a place in First Year.**

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is an assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how students learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).

**The Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT 4) will take place, online on school computers, in the school on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March and Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Students should bring a drink, snack, pen and pencil with them. No preparation for the tests is needed.**

Students will be required to attend on just one of those days for one session, as indicated below:

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March; 2:00pm – 4:30pm**

Students by surname: **Abbey to Egan**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March; 9:30am – 12:00pm**

Students by surname: **Farcas to Meade**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March; 1:30pm – 4:00pm.**

Students by surname: **Mihaila to Young**

**A jacket-fitting and ordering session** for students will also take place on **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**, after each of the CAT4 sessions, for the **school jacket** which is a compulsory item of the school uniform. The jacket-fitting session will take a little time and your cooperation and patience will be most welcome. Please note that students may not wear any other jacket or fleece to school. The cost of the jacket is **€60**. (A minimum of €30 must be paid when ordering.)

The Assessment Exams in Irish, English and Maths will take place in the school on the following Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Please ensure that your child has pens and pencils with him/her and answer books will be supplied by the school.

Shortly after the Assessment Exams I will be in contact with you again to arrange individual meetings with parents. The purpose of this meeting will be to gain further information from you in relation to your son or daughter, and to explain to you the high standards of work and behaviour that are expected of all our students in our school.

If you have any queries in relation to the assessment of incoming students or about our school in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Murray  
Principal