

Five Islands Academy
Carn Gwaval
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
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Equity, Excellence, Evolution

The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy, serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Tresco. It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.

Wednesday 17th September 2025

CATS Tests this Thursday

Dear Parents and Carers

On Thursday morning during their first two lessons your child will be sitting the Cognitive Abilities Tests, CATs. These are online tests which will be completed on the students' iPads. CATs are designed to assess a pupil's ability in three different areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers); and non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space).

The tests are designed to be taken without any revision or preparation so they can assess a child's potential in their ability to reason. CATs are not testing children's knowledge and understanding as a maths or English exam might, so they can't 'learn' how to answer the questions or revise for these. Therefore the students should not be worried about these.

The scores are used to calculate predicted levels and can also be used to predict the outcome of GCSEs. If there is a wide variation between the scores in different aspects of the test, this may flag up a child who is experiencing difficulties in one area and can lead to a diagnosis, such as dyslexia. Extra support can then be put in place to help the child at school.

Please can you ensure that your child arrives at school on Thursday with a fully charged iPad and headphones (if they have their own set). If you have any further questions regarding these tests please be in touch by emailing emilybanfield@fiveislands.org

Yours faithfully

Mrs Emily Banfield
Senior Assistant Head: Achievement & Standards

All aboard! Navigating together

www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk