

Dear Parent/Carer,

MidYIS Testing 2016

What is MidYIS?

Middle Years Information System Testing (MidYIS) is undertaken by all S1 pupils in their first term at Mackie Academy and in Aberdeenshire. Fifteen Scottish Local Authorities currently use MidYIS testing which is designed to measure ability and aptitude for learning rather than achievement. This is not an IQ test, rather it is designed to provide a measure of 'typical' performance which can be used to give an expected level of attainment in national examinations based on the national average results. The test has been developed by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at Durham University, the largest educational research unit in a UK university. The Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring works with schools, colleges, education authorities and government agencies to provide high-quality information through scientifically grounded research, using evidence rather than authority or opinion as a guide to educational practice.

MidYIS is an adaptive test based on a growing bank of questions. The adaptive nature of the test means that all pupils are challenged and receive a bespoke test suited to their ability. This means that the most able pupils don't waste time on items that are too easy for them and lower ability pupils are not discouraged when faced with questions they cannot answer. Adaptive testing is considered the most efficient method of ascertaining a measure of pupils' abilities. It offers pupils questions based on their answers to previous questions, and can therefore quickly focus in on each pupil's ability measure without requiring them to answer reams of unnecessary questions; questions that may be too easy or too hard.

What is tested?

- **Vocabulary:** The CEM's research has shown that development of vocabulary is not fundamentally affected by teaching and is a vital component for success in all subjects.
- **Maths:** pupils are presented with a variety of mathematical questions, ranging from basic arithmetic through to algebra.
- **Non-verbal:** a battery of tests looking at the ability to handle shapes in order to test visual and spatial skills.
- **Skills:** This section is a test of proof-reading and also perceptual speed and accuracy. Pupils have to identify grammatical errors in short passages, such as spelling mistakes, incorrect punctuation and capitalisation.

Standard Score

A pupil's raw MidYIS scores are standardised against the results of everyone in the country taking part in the project to allow scores to be compared with different year groups or pupils in different schools. You will receive information about your child's score and an explanation of what this means once the test has been completed.

Mackie Academy MidYIS testing 2016

MidYIS testing for our new S1 cohort will take place during the week beginning Monday 5th September and will take place during pupils' Computing lessons.

S1 Parents Information Evening

At the S1 Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 31st August from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, there will be a short presentation about MidYIS testing and how the data is used by schools to improve learning.

I hope that this has given you a clear overview of MidYIS testing and its purpose, and look forward to contacting you again soon with your child's results.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Thoires

Depute Head Teacher