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September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

### **S1 MidYIS – Baseline Assessment**

Between **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October**, all our S1 pupils at Aboyne Academy will undertake an online baseline assessment, held in their Business Education lessons.

This assessment tool, called MidYIS (Middle Years Information System) has been designed and created by the CEM Centre (Centre for Evaluating and Monitoring) at Durham University to support learning. This well-established assessment tool is used by most Aberdeenshire and Scottish secondary schools to help inform learning and set targets throughout a child's education and leading into the Senior Phase.

The assessment tool is designed to measure, as far as possible, a child's ability and aptitude for learning. I must stress that this is **not a test** and **no preparation is required**. It is designed to provide information to aid and support learning. This information is used alongside other evidence such as: class tests, classwork, homework and the teacher's professional judgement when setting potential academic targets for the Senior Phase.

The S1 MidYIS assessment is comprised of four sections:

- Vocabulary (word fluency and understanding)
- Mathematics (logical thinking, manipulating numbers and numerical concepts)
- Non-verbal (ability to recognise shapes, match patterns, apply spatial awareness and visual intuition)
- Skills (proof-reading, perceptual speed and accuracy).

All sections contribute to an overall measure of ability that, with hard work, regular attendance and a positive attitude towards his/her studies, can help predict your child's future attainment. Information gained from the assessment is used to identify your child's strengths and areas for improvement. It also helps staff target support for gifted and more able pupils across certain areas of the curriculum and consider further support mechanisms for those with additional support needs.

On our school website, under the "Information" tab there is a link to Baseline Testing information. There you will see a brief Guide for Parents/Carers. If you require any further information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Foy**  
**Depute Head Teacher**