



25 April 2016



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HEAD TEACHER

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Dear Parent/Carer:

S2 SOSCA Assessments

East Lothian Council has, for many years, asked all S2 pupils to take part in a cognitive abilities assessment organised by Durham University's Faculty of Education. These assessments (formerly known as MidYIS, now called SOSCA) are carried out in many schools in Scotland and assess particular skills such as numeracy, literacy and science skills. The information resulting from these assessments is used in two main ways.

Firstly they give a prediction of the grade an S2 pupil might be capable of attaining in all subjects at the end of S4. This can be used to help determine subject choices for S3 and S4. However, the main use is to help track and monitor a pupil's progress through S3 and S4. Guidance teachers and subject teachers use the information to work with pupils to ensure they are working to their full potential.

This year all S2 will sit the assessments over the next couple of weeks. There are three assessments: reading, maths and science. They take place online, and each one lasts 45-50 minutes. These assessments are not stressful – no pupil should be in any way worried about it, and there is no revision required by any pupil. There is no pass/fail.

The test is marked by Durham University and the results will be sent to us later in the year.

The results of the assessment are confidential. We do not send the results home but parents and pupils are able to ask for their own scores/predictions if they wish to know them. Further information on this will be sent to you when the results are received at school.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Depute Head Teacher Mr Jones if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Rodger
Head Teacher