



# Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.



*Coláiste Bríde*  
*Guidance Counselling Service*

15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## **DAT Testing to Assist with Senior Cycle Subject Choice and Career Direction**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the coming weeks, your daughter/ward will have the opportunity to participate in **Differential Aptitude Testing (DATs)**, as part of the school's Guidance Programme. DATs are designed for use in educational and vocational guidance and are used by guidance counsellors and all persons concerned with assessing the intellectual characteristics and educational or vocational aptitudes of adolescents.

DAT results can be used to produce a profile showing a pupil's **strengths** and **weaknesses**. This information can in turn assist students when making **subject choices** for the **Senior Cycle**. DAT results can also help to **identify career areas** that may be of interest to your daughter in the future.

The DATs have been scheduled for **all Third Year students** to take place as follows:

Day and Date	Time	Venue
Monday 28th November 2022	08:45-15:45	Sports Hall

If your daughter/ward requires any accommodations to participate effectively in the DATs, please notify the Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible. Furthermore, if for any reason you would prefer your daughter/ward not to participate in testing please inform the school.

To prepare parents/guardians and pupils for the DATs I am providing you and your daughter with:

- 1) **DAT Questions and Answers Sheet**
- 2) **Sample DAT Questions and Solutions.**

I encourage both you and your daughter/ward read this information **before** DAT testing commences.

Most questions should be answered and addressed in the accompanying material. However, if you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

*Aisling McDonald*

**Aisling McDonald**  
(Guidance Counsellor)

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**DATs – Questions and Answers**

Parents/Guardians should **read this information in conjunction with their daughter/ward** to aid their understanding of what the DATs are and to assist them in preparing to partake in testing.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
• <b>What does DATs stand for?</b>	DATs stands for <b>Differential Aptitude Tests</b> .
• <b>What is an Aptitude?</b>	<b>An ability in a certain area.</b>
• <b>What type of people use DATs?</b>	Guidance Counsellors and people who are concerned with assessing the intellectual characteristics and education or vocational aptitudes of adolescents.
• <b>Why should I participate in the DATs?</b>	DATs help to show your <b>strengths <u>and</u> weaknesses</b> in certain areas. This knowledge can assist you when making <b><u>subject choices for the Senior Cycle</u></b> and may also help to identify <b><u>career areas</u></b> that may be of interest to you in the <b>future</b> .
• <b>Can I fail the DATs?</b>	No! It is impossible to fail the DATs. Therefore, <b>nobody should be worried/ anxious about participating in them.</b>
• <b>Can I prepare/study for the DATs?</b>	No! You arrive on the day and simply do your best.
• <b>How much do the DATs cost?</b>	Nothing! The school will pay for all material required for the DATs (DAT books, answer sheets, corrections, etc.)
• <b>When are the DATs being held?</b>	The DATs have been scheduled to take place in the <b>Sports Hall</b> from <b>08:45-15:45</b> on <b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b> , for <b>all Third Year students</b> .
• <b>What if I am absent for the DATs?</b>	If you are absent on the day you will miss out on participating in the DATs as well as the educational and career assistance that the results may provide. Missing the

	DATs is <b>not the end of the world</b> as there are <b>many other ways in which you are encouraged to be guided in relation to making good decisions about Senior Cycle subject choice and your future career!</b>
• <b>How many tests are in the DATs?</b>	The DATs are made up of <b>8 different tests</b> .
• <b>What are the names of the 8 tests and what does each test measure?</b>	<b>1)Verbal Reasoning</b> (measures how well you can understand ideas expressed in words), <b>2)Numerical Reasoning</b> (measures how well you can understand ideas expressed in numbers), <b>3)Abstract Reasoning</b> (measures how well you can understand ideas that are not expressed in words or numbers), <b>4)Perceptual Speed and Accuracy</b> (measures how fast and how well you can do thepaperwork that is so important in all offices, scientific laboratories, stores, warehouses and wherever records are made, filed or checked), <b>5)Mechanical Reasoning</b> (measures how easily you can grasp the common principles of physics as you see then in everyday life), <b>6)Space Relations</b> (measures how well you can think in three dimensions), <b>7)Spelling</b> (measures how well you can recognise correct and incorrect spellings of common English words), <b>8)Language Usage</b> (measures how well you can use the English language)
• <b>What do I need to bring with me on the day?</b>	<b>Each student should bring a HB PENCIL (as long as the lead in the pencil is dark it's suitable), a pencil sharpener and an eraser. You must have your own equipment. No sharing allowed. Calculators are not permitted.</b>
• <b>Do I get back the results of my DATs? When?</b>	Yes. Every student will be given feedback in relation to how they perform in the DATs. The results and their meaning will be explained by the guidance counsellor. <b>DAT results will be returned around the same time that students are asked to make their Senior Cycle subject choices.</b>
• <b>Will we do any sample questions before we begin the DATs?</b>	Yes. On the day students will be given clear instructions by the guidance counsellor. Everyone will be given an opportunity to complete a number of <b>sample questions</b> (similar to those provided) before they begin each of the DAT tests.
• <b>Who do I contact if I have any further questions about the DATs?</b>	Students and parents/guardians can contact <b>Ms. Mc Donald</b> in/ at the school on <b>053-9234245</b> with any further queries.



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**FOUR SAMPLE DAT QUESTIONS AND SOLUTIONS**

**Sample 1) VERBAL REASONING**

**Instructions:**

This is a test to see how well you can reason with words. Each sentence has two words missing – the first word and the last word. Each answer choice has a pair of words that is related to the words in the sentence in some way. The first word of the pair should fit at the beginning of the sentence so that the first two words in the sentence are related to each other in a certain way. The second word of the pair should fit at the end of the sentence so that the second two words in the sentence are related to each other in the same way as the first two words. Choose the pair of words that you feel *best* completes the sentence.

Look at **EXAMPLE A**.

<b>EXAMPLE A</b>	
..... is to bark as cat is to .....	
A	miaow – kitten
B	dog – miaow
C	dog – scratch
D	seal – kitten
E	tree – scratch

In order to choose the correct answer for **Example A**, look carefully at each pair of words. Only one pair of words will complete the sentence so that the first two words are related to each other in the same way as the last two words.

**Solution:**

Answer **A** is wrong because *miaow* and *bark* are not related in the same way as *cat* is related to *kitten*.  
Answer **C** is wrong because although a *dog* barks and a cat *scratches*, the actions are not the same type.

Answer *D* is wrong because although a *seal* barks, *cat* and *kitten* are not related in the same way.  
Answer *E* is wrong because *tree* and *bark* are not related in the same way as *cat* is related to *scratch*.  
The answer is *B* because *dog* and *bark* are related in the same way as *cat* and *miaow*.

**Sample 2) NUMERICAL REASONING**

**Instructions:**

This is a test to see how well you can reason with numbers. Read each problem carefully. If necessary, work out your answer on rough paper. You may not use a calculator. Look at the possible answers listed and decide which answer is *best*.

Look at **EXAMPLE B**.

EXAMPLE B				
What number continues this number sequence?				
2	4	6	8	?
A	9			
B	10			
C	11			
D	12			
E	None of these			

**Solution:**

In *Example B*, the correct answer is *10* because when you count by 2s, *10* follows *8* in the counting sequence.



Sample 3) **SPELLING**

**Instructions:**

Read each group of four words. Decide which word is *not* spelled correctly.

Look at *EXAMPLE C*.

EXAMPLE C	
A	cycle
B	gurl
C	arrow
D	wrote

**Solution:**

In *EXAMPLE C*, the word *gurl* is not spelled correctly. *Gurl* should be spelled *girl*.

Sample 4) **LANGUAGE USAGE**

**Instructions:**

This test consists of sentences that are divided into four parts. In many of the sentences, one of the four parts contains an error in either punctuation, capitalisation, or grammar. You are to decide which one of the four parts, if any, contains the error.

Look at *EXAMPLE D*.

EXAMPLE D				
Jason and Carl / will be mowing / the lawn / this Weekend.				
A	B	C	D	
E No Error				

**Solution:**

In *Example D*, the error is in part D. The word *weekend* should not have a capital letter.