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Dear Year 6,

Next week will be an important step in your academic journey at Sacred Heart. For four mornings you will sit tests which will show off your academic ability in two subjects; Maths and English.

For these four mornings the school will run as dictated by you. You will come into school via the front entrance so that you can come in early, have breakfast and spend time with friends. The children in years' two to five will only take their morning break when you are ready to have yours. In the afternoons your teachers will change the timetable to make sure that you have time to relax after your focussed efforts in the morning. You will have new pencils and equipment laid out for you so that you don't even have to sharpen a pencil. Your teachers will take care of all your needs and support you.

The people who care for you at home will support you too, by making sure that you eat well and sleep well this weekend and throughout next week. (Yes...that does mean that you have to go to bed when they ask you to!) If you do sports, make sure you continue these activities as these will help you relax and stay healthy in body and mind.

I hope that by knowing how the school and your families will be working together to make next week special that you do feel special. You *are* special and this is an important time for you. Why? Because exams are important. There... I said it...there's no getting around the fact that these tests are among the many important tests that you will take in your life. Your academic achievements and progress are measured by them.

**But** let's get this in perspective:

**NO TEST CAN MEASURE WHO YOU ARE!** Did I say that loud enough? Think about it. At Sacred Heart every day, every week, every year, since you joined the school, your teachers have taught you about our school code of conduct "Care, Courtesy and Commitment" and they will continue to do so until the second you leave Sacred Heart. This code of conduct defines our school and is lived out by all who choose to be part of our community. This is what matters and is why our code of conduct does **not** say "Do well in tests." The person you are, and the adult you will become, cannot be measured or predicted by a test at any time in your school life. The things that matter in life will never be measured by a test in a school room (just ask those who love you).

I have confidence in your ability to show your academic ability in just two of the many subjects we study at Sacred Heart. The outcomes of these tests will enable your secondary school to decide how best to encourage your academic ability in these areas. But they do not define you as a person.

I have even greater confidence in your ability to become the people God made you to be. I know this because the way you live out "Care, Courtesy and Commitment" will show the world who you really are...not a test.

You are ready. Have courage, do your best...and keep it all in perspective.

With love from  
Mrs Jackson