



# Allerton Grange School Sixth Form



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 Allerton Grange School  
 @Allerton\_Grange

## Road Safety Awareness

Be a considerate driver  
Do not park on restricted areas on Talbot Avenue or Lidgett Lane  
Be respectful of our local residents  
Please use the turning circle paying attention to the speed limit  
Obey speeding restrictions; they are there to protect our children  
Look after the environment and switch off your engine, when stationary,  
**for cleaner air!**

Our Ref: GTu/SFi/BMa

4 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Yesterday a letter was sent out to all parents and students in Year 13 regarding assessments that will take place later in March.

As a school we had intended to communicate changes around Formal Standardised Assessments centrally, and with details about why these changes had taken place. Staff were asked not to discuss this with students until we had communicated this to all students and parents to avoid any miscommunications.

Unfortunately, some students in Year 13 were made aware of these changes through conversations during their live lessons yesterday morning. This resulted in confusion and increased anxiety around these assessments, as other students were not made aware. As soon as we became aware of the situation we responded swiftly, issuing a central communication to prevent any further misinformation and to clarify the dates and the purpose of these assessments.

However, we recognise that because of how quickly we sent that letter out, there were questions left unanswered. Therefore, in response to questions raised by students and parents upon receipt of that letter, we wish to provide the clarity that we had intended to be sent out originally.

The changes to the dates of the Year 13 Formal Standardised Assessments have taken place due to recent announcements from OfQual. The date by which teachers need to submit Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) is significantly earlier than had previously been suggested by the government, which has had a knock-on effect on everything else that we had originally planned in.

This set of assessments, as stated in the letter, are intended to indicate the level of student's current performance. We need to establish a benchmark for how students are doing in all of their subjects. This will allow staff the opportunity to identify areas where more support is needed, in order to help students to perform to the best of their ability before we have to submit the final CAGs. Had we continued with the original plan for students to complete Formal Standardised Assessments after Easter, this would have allowed students less time to respond to feedback and evidence the level of their best performance before we submitted the CAGs.

Therefore, we made the decision to bring these assessments forward so that students would all have an extended block of time with their teachers to prepare for further assessments throughout the remainder of the year; to give students support in attaining the best possible outcomes before those grades are submitted.



SCHOOL MEMBER



With regards to the content of assessments, please be aware that not all exam boards have released this information which is why some subject areas have been able to disclose what will be omitted from the assessments and some subject areas have continued to include all topics. However, teachers will share this information with students when it becomes available.

In terms of the CAGs which will be issued by staff at the end of the year, it is inappropriate at this stage for students or parents to be contacting teaching staff to seek assurances about the grades that they might submit. This is because they may differ from the final grade awarded to students due to internal/external quality assurance as outlined in the guidance from OfQual, and therefore could be misleading. Further information about how CAGs will be awarded will be released to you as soon as it is provided to schools.

The key information contained in this letter is summarised below:

- The March assessments are a benchmark for how students are doing in their subjects.
- These assessments will allow students the opportunity to identify areas where more work is needed, in order to help them to perform to the best of their ability before their CAGs are submitted.
- Further assessments will take place throughout the rest of this year to help evidence what students are truly capable of, and to inform their final CAGs.
- Some subject areas are still awaiting guidance from exam boards about what will be omitted from the assessments but they will share this information with students when it becomes available.
- Teaching staff will not be at liberty to discuss final CAGs. They will, however, continue to provide information regarding the students' current performance to inform steps forward.


Mrs Braim, the curriculum leader for the sixth form, has emailed all Year 13 students with information on further support and resources to help students who are feeling anxious in these uncertain times, so please encourage your son or daughter to contact her if they wish to take advantage of this.

[elizabethbraim@allertongrange.com](mailto:elizabethbraim@allertongrange.com)

I am extremely sorry for the confusion and anxiety that has resulted from this. Please be assured that every decision that we have taken has had the best interests of the students at their core. Please also understand that those staff who discussed these changes with students before we had communicated them centrally, were also acting with the best intentions. We will, however, be taking steps to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully



Mrs G Turner-Lindley  
Assistant Headteacher  
Director of KS4 and KS5



Mr Steve Fidler  
Assistant Headteacher  
Exams and Assessments