

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Changes to assessment in KS3

This year we are working more closely with the other schools in our Trust on assessment. One of the reasons for this is to help gather accurate information on how students are performing in their assessments and to help teachers understand how certain groups of students can be supported in the classroom.

Common Assessments

This academic year will see the core subjects sharing the same assessments across the 5 schools in Ambitions Academies Trust. Curriculum Leaders in English, Maths and Science across these schools have been working on the sequence of the topics taught to create a common assessment which pupils can sit at two points in the year.

Key Stage 3

Students in Key Stage 3 will have two common assessment windows on the calendar this year. The results of these assessments will be reported to parents and carers. Other formative assessments will take place regularly in class throughout the year, but these will not be reported home to parents and carers. Year 7 will also complete their Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) during their first assessment week.

The first assessment points are listed below:

Year	Assessment Week 1	Subject	Report
7	6 th Nov – 10 th Nov 2023	Core Subjects CAT Assessments	29 th November 2023
8	15 th – 19 th Jan 2024	All subjects except English	7 th February 2024
9	8 th – 12 th Jan 2024	All subjects except English	31 st January 2024

Note: In English, students study a curriculum called Ark Mastery which follows a different assessment structure. Therefore, students in Year 8 and Year 9 will complete their English assessment the week beginning 4th December 2023. The results of this test will still be reported at the same time as the other subjects; for example, Year 8 English assessment scores will be reported in the report sent out on February 7th, 2024.

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The second round of assessment points at Key Stage 3 will be in the summer term. We hope to be able to run the English assessments at the same time as the other subjects by this point in the academic year. If this is not possible, due to the demands of the Ark Curriculum, we will contact you as soon as possible.

Year	Assessment Week 2	Subject	Report
7	22 nd April – 26 th April 2024	All subjects	15 th May 2024
8	24 th June – 6 th July 2024	All subjects	17 th July 2024
9	24 th June – 6 th July 2024	All subjects	17 th July 2024

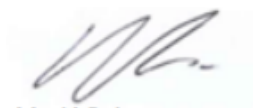
Key Stage 4:

Students studying for their GCSEs will also have two assessment points in the year that are reported home to parents and carers. These are referred to as Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Students receive lots of support before they sit these assessments in Year 10 and Year 11. The Trust also invites parents and carers to regular information evenings to support students to be successful in these important assessments.

Year	PPE 1	Report	PPE 2	Report
10	22 nd Jan – 2 nd Feb 2024	28 th Feb 2024	17 th June – 28 th June 2024	12 th July 2024
11	13 th -30 th Nov 2023	14 th Dec 2023	19 th Feb – 8 th March 2024	26 th March 2024

We hope that by publishing the dates of our common assessment weeks we can improve the assessment experience for all students, helping them to prepare for GCSEs and other qualifications in their future. We believe that good routines around assessment will enable our students to become lifelong learners, taking on further educational challenges and qualifications beyond school. Thank you for your support with these changes to our assessment calendar.

Yours faithfully



Karen Price
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