



Caldy Road
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 2HE

Telephone: 0151 625 6993

Fax: 0151 625 0332

E-mail: Schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Callaway BA Hons QTS

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Dear Parents,

As you may know, September 2016 saw wholesale changes to the entrance examination for the Wirral Grammar schools. In 2013, many of the LEA's in England with Grammar schools moved from the GL Assessment papers (known originally as NFER) to the CEM style assessment. Wirral had used GL Assessment papers for many years and followed a very specific format. Whilst GL-Assessment had four core subjects (English, mathematics, verbal and non-verbal reasoning) broken down into sub-topics for their 11 plus assessment, only the verbal reasoning element was used in the Wirral assessments. Contained within those elements were word recognition, word decoding, spelling skills, mathematical skills, code breaking and logical problems. The CEM assessment covers a range of elements, many of which are similar to the GL assessment papers. They are:

- Word Recognition
- Word Decoding
- Comprehension
- Spelling
- General Mathematics
- Mental Arithmetic
- Picture Vocabulary
- Non-verbal Ability

You may have already noticed, through your child's homework, that we have begun our preparations but we intend to talk in more detail about how we will prepare the children for these examinations in a parents meeting to be held in the Grosvenor Hall on Wednesday 12th October at 6pm. We will also be detailing the current assessment arrangements for both Upton Hall FCJ and St Anselm's College. All parents are invited to this evening but it is not suitable for children.

If, in the meantime, you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Callaway

Headteacher

Mr M Ashton

Deputy Headteacher