



# RUTLISH SCHOOL

Watery Lane, Merton, SW20 9AD

Phone: 020 8542 1212

Fax: 020 8544 0580

Student Absence: 020 8540 3134

E-mail: [administration@rutlish.merton.sch.uk](mailto:administration@rutlish.merton.sch.uk)

Website: <http://www.rutlish.merton.sch.uk>

**Headteacher: Ms L. Howarth**

18 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well.

As you may be aware Ofqual has launched its consultation on how grades should be awarded this summer. The link to the consultation can be found below. **It is important to recognize that the approach proposed is completely different to what was put in place last year.**

## Ofqual Link

[How 2021 could look for students and learners – we want your views - The Ofqual blog](#)

The most relevant points are outlined below:

- Students should fully engage with education for the remainder of the academic year and assessments will take place in May and early June.
- Students will be awarded a teacher assessed grade which is based on evidence produced by the student. Last year teachers were asked to predict what the students would have achieved if the exams had taken place.
- Ofqual is considering whether work produced prior to these assessments should be included in the assessment grade.
- Exam boards will provide a variety of short assessments that students will complete. The assessments will be marked by teachers using exam board mark schemes.
- The assessments utilized by schools would reflect the topics that have actually been taught to account for the disruption caused by the pandemic.
- The exam boards will put a monitoring system in place to ensure marking is consistent across the country.
- Schools have the flexibility to create their own assessments.
- Where non examination assessment/coursework is part of a course teachers should consider the quality of the work produced when finalizing their teacher assessment.
- Systems will be put in place to ensure that students forced to isolate can still complete the assessments.
- Similar to last year, schools will be expected to implement a quality assurance process and all grades need to be signed off by the Headteacher.
- Grades will be submitted to the exam boards in mid June.
- Students will not be informed of their grades prior to submission.
- Exam boards will review the grading and carry out checks across the schools. Grades would only be changed if it was found they were not legitimate e.g. the quality assurance process had not been followed by the school correctly etc.
- Grades will be issued in July and an appeal process would be available to students



The consultation is due to end on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and I suspect it will take at least two weeks before the proposals are finalized.

## Yr 11 Parents Evening

During our parent consultation evenings, we normally provide a data sheet to help you understand your son's progress and attainment. In normal years the *working now at grades* and *predictions* are exceptionally accurate. Due to the pandemic and the late change to the assessment system this data needs to be used with caution.

During the mock exams approximately 1100 exams were missed due to students isolating. We had put a system in place where students would be given the opportunity to catch up in the first week back after the Christmas break, however this needed to be cancelled. Therefore, teachers in a number of instances are estimating grades without the full data surrounding your son's performance available to them.

The changes in the assessment system will also impact on the reliability of the data. Teachers would have predicted grades based on the assumption that normal assessment conditions were in place and students would continue to develop over the next 6 months. Without knowing the detail of the assessment process that the exam boards will put in place or the impact the pandemic will continue to have on education, the grade awarded should be used as an estimate rather than a solid prediction.

Therefore, the conversations that take place on parents evening should be focused on how your son can continue to develop so that he maximizes his chances of success in the summer and allow him to continue his education post 16. Rather than solely based on grade progression.

Once we know more details of the outcome of the consultation we intend to hold an additional Parents Information evening.

Mr Gormally  
Deputy Headteacher

