



RUTLISH SCHOOL

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Rutlish School Full Governing Body Annual Statement 2019/20

Based on performance tables following last year's summer public examination results, Rutlish School was ranked **as the top non-selective state-funded boys' school in England** based on progress made by the boys from Years 7-11 and their GCSE results. RR6 was also ranked among the top 20 non-selective state-funded boys' schools in England.

September 2019 started with a new Headteacher Ms Laura Howarth, and the ambitions of the Governing Body and School were to expand academic success across the whole School spectrum. We aimed to be 'Outstanding' across the arts, music, competitive sport, mental health and wellbeing, pastoral care, and extra-curricular activities.

The first term of the academic year progressed well and then into the Spring term, when coronavirus (Covid-19) struck. In terms of public examination subjects which were scheduled to be taken in summer 2020, nearly 100% of the curriculum across all subjects for both KS4 and KS5 had been taught by the time School was forced to close in the third week of March.

Since then, it has been a real rollercoaster. Schools across the country have been negotiating uncharted territory. Rutlish School has nearly 1,400 students across its seven-year groups to teach in a confined space. Being candid, we are not entirely sure how the last four months have gone for each of the year groups and for all the boys. It has certainly not been through a lack of effort or commitment by all parties, but initiating home learning and homework assignments for over 1,000 boys when nobody was prepared for this pandemic has not been an easy process.

The letter that I wrote on 22 June, 2020, on behalf of the Full Governing Body (FGB) was very much focused on September 2020. The FGB, working very closely with the Senior Leadership of the School and The Rutlish Foundation, has made it a priority that School should be prepared for all eventualities come September. In that letter, I asked for each boy to have his own IT platform via which to access home/ MCS Teams virtual learning. It is essential, if classroom teaching cannot be completed as normal for our students due to the virus, that all boys still receive the required teaching and learning to complete the curriculum in every subject.

The transfer of knowledge to the boys is an absolute priority for the FGB next academic year, whatever the circumstances. The Government has made finances available for catch-up learning. At the last FGB meeting of this academic year, Governors put consideration of finances aside and requested the Headteacher to ensure that there were sufficient classes going forward, including Saturday schooling, so that students do not lose out on knowledge transfer. It is one thing not to sit a final exam in the traditional manner; it is quite another, and not acceptable to the Governing Body, for our boys not to be taught the full curriculum.

Two-year groups come to mind - Years 10 and 12 - who from September have their final year of KS4 & KS5. The ambition is that they will be taught the full curriculum across all their subjects.



In terms of the rigour and scrutiny that accompanied the recently submitted grades for both KS4 and KS5 in lieu of examinations this summer, I can assure Parents and Carers that it was extensive and thorough. Our recent past results as noted above have been excellent and we hope that results this year will be ones that we again can be proud of.

Looking towards 2020/21, the School will celebrate 125 years from being first opened in 1895 on its original site in Rutlish Road under Headmaster Dr Draper. Our sixth-form RR6 will also celebrate its first decade since re-opening. The progress made over the last ten years in RR6 has been tremendous. I offer a great thank you to all who have worked so hard to achieve its success.

A huge thanks too to you all, Parents, and Carers, for the loyal and committed support that you continue to offer our staff and teachers. Thank you too to all who have generously donated to the School Fund at this time of exceptional need. Our budget will continue to be under unprecedented pressure for the foreseeable future so every contribution is greatly appreciated.

To all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the School and to our new Headteacher, Ms Laura Howarth, in her first year at this great and unique School: a huge appreciation for all their efforts. It has been a – literally - extraordinary academic year 2019/2020.

Lastly, to the 240 boys who will be putting on their new Rutlish School uniform for the first time and coming through our gates to start their secondary education in September, it will be our privilege to teach you and take responsibility for your education. Just as Rutlish School did for me 50 years ago in September.



Peter A Norrie
Chair of the Rutlish Full Governing Body

