



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mrs Alison Sherman

Friday 17 April 2020

RE: Year 11 Students - Online Learning

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that on Friday 3 April, schools received information from the Department for Education and Ofqual as to how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded this summer.

The statement outlines that teachers must provide exam boards with 'teacher assessments' for all students in Year 11 and Year 13. The guidance details that teachers must make their judgments using

- classwork
- bookwork
- any participation in performances in practical subjects such as music, drama or PE
- any non-examined assessment – whether or not complete
- the results of any assignments or mock exams
- previous examination results – for example, for any re-sitting students or those with relevant AS qualifications
- any other records of student performance over the course of study.

We understand that this is a very difficult and uncertain time for students in Year 11 and 13 and the announcement of this process may have created anxiety for some of our students and parents. I want to assure you that the leadership team will be working closely with teachers to provide exam boards with the most accurate assessments as possible for your son/daughter to ensure that no student is disadvantaged in the future. However, we must also emphasise that *"schools have been told that they must not share their centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued."*

As a parent you can continue to support your son/daughter through this challenging time by encouraging them to continue to engage with learning throughout this process. Although your son/daughter may feel there is little point at this stage to continue with learning, it is vital for them in taking the next steps in their education for the following reasons.

Replacement Exams

The government have indicated that there may be the opportunity for students to sit replacement examinations later in the year if they are unhappy with the grade they are awarded this summer. For those students who wish to sit replacement exams, it is crucial that they continue with their usual programme of study so they are well prepared. I must also stress, at this stage we do not know which replacement exams will be offered to students. Having said that, all Year 11 teachers will continue to

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provide learning opportunities for all subjects via the online platform SMHW, and all students who submit responses will be given feedback.

Re-Sit Exams in Maths & English

Despite the unusual circumstances we are faced with this year, as far as we know, the government policy with regards to GCSE Maths and English will remain. That is, any student who does not achieve a Grade 4 or above in Maths and/or English must retake the exam in an attempt to improve their grade. Whilst we are not able to share our teacher assessments for any subject with parents, if you feel that this is something that is likely to apply to your son/daughter, I would urge you to encourage them to continue with their studies for Maths and/or English.

Sixth Form Subject Sample

We would always provide students in Year 11 with the opportunity to sample different sixth form subjects they are interested in taking post 16. Although we have been unable to do this, we are looking at providing alternative ways to give students a taste of their subject choices. This week, your son/daughter will find that they will have optional sixth form preparation tasks that will appear on their SMHW calendar for the subjects they have indicated they are interested in studying. I strongly recommend that your son/daughter takes this opportunity and also uses SMHW to ask teachers any questions they may have about sixth form courses.

Next Steps

Finally, to ensure that your son/daughter is prepared to take their next steps, whatever they may be, it is crucial to keep learning. It is well documented that long periods of absence from education can lead to difficulties once students return to school. To allow for a smooth transition once your son/daughter begins the next phase of their education, please encourage them to access and engage with the online learning opportunities provided on SMHW by their teachers.

We appreciate that this is a challenging and uncertain time for many parents with in Year 11. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the academy and a member of the leadership team will contact you.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Grace
Vice Principal - Teaching Learning & Assessment

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