



# The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mrs Alison Sherman

Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer

May 2020

You may be aware that last week Ofqual concluded their consultation on if/how GCSE grades will be awarded this summer to students entered in Year 10. Ofqual have rightly come to the conclusion that students entered in Year 10 shouldn't be disadvantaged by the pandemic and so the qualifications which would be concluded in Year 10 **will be awarded**. For students at the academy this relates to their English Literature GCSE. To avoid any confusion, you may see it written in the press that these qualifications will not count towards school performance tables, which is true, but more importantly they will count for the student and to future college and employers.

The GCSE English Literature grading will follow the same system to how Year 11 grades are being calculated. Teachers must provide exam boards with 'teacher assessments', a grade they feel the student would have achieved. The guidance details that teachers must make their judgments using

- classwork
- bookwork
- any non-examined assessment – whether or not complete
- the results of any assignments or mock exams
- any other records of student performance over the course of study.

The exam boards will then award grades using this information as a guide, students will not automatically get the grade teachers have issued as the exam boards will use a range of information on national performance before issuing the grades.

We understand that this may cause uncertainty for students in Year 10 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"*.

We understand that this process may not feel fair to some students and they may not get the grade they feel they deserve. The academy will support any student who would like to resit English Literature in Year 11. This would involve students committing to additional interventions that the academy will provide.

The consultation for vocational qualifications such as BTECs is yet to be concluded and so we wait for further information on those qualifications where an exam element was due to be sat in Year 10.

The English faculty will now be setting work on English Language, the GCSE they will sit at the end of Year 11. We ask for your support in ensuring students access the home learning tasks set in all of their subjects to make sure they are in the best possible position when embarking on Year 11.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact school and a member of the leadership team will contact you.

Yours faithfully

*P Willerton*

Mr P Willerton  
Senior Vice Principal

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