

# Sixth Form UCAS Predicted Grades Policy



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## Introduction

UCAS predicted grades are an important part of the application process for higher education, apprenticeships and employment. William Hulme's Grammar School will provide UCAS predicted grades for all students in Year 13 to support these applications, so that universities and employers are best able to assess students' potential and suitability for their chosen courses or job roles.

### 1. How are UCAS predicted grades decided?

William Hulme's Grammar School adopts a consistent and evidence-based approach to UCAS predicted grades, which ensures that predictions are both aspirational and achievable and a true reflection of each student's ability and potential.

Subject teachers, Subject Leads and Heads of Faculty determine the predicted grades for their students, as they know them best, and are able to draw upon a wealth of experience and professional judgement in making UCAS predictions.

UCAS predicted grades will be based upon the student's performance during Year 12 and teachers will consider some or all of the following factors when making their decisions:

- Assessment results throughout the school year
- End of Year 12 exam results
- Performance on homework assignments and tests
- Student's attitude and commitment to learning
- Practical evidence or other non-examined elements

The end of Year 12 exams in the summer term of Year 12 will be the key basis of the UCAS predicted grades, given that this will be the closest experience to the final exams. The other factors listed above will also be considered in the overall decision, as well as any specific individual circumstances.

Subject teachers will predict grades that they feel are a true and honest reflection of the student's performance in Year 12, their ability and potential. With that in mind, a student cannot be given UCAS predicted grades that are not supported by evidence of their performance in Year 12 and a student will not be predicted a grade where there is little or no evidence of their performance at that level.

For example, a student who consistently achieves C grades in assessed work during Year 12 may be given a UCAS predicted grade of C, or indeed a B if they have an excellent attitude and commitment to learning and assessments results show improvement towards them achieving a B grade. It is unlikely, however, that such a student would be predicted an A grade, as the evidence would not support such a prediction. Therefore, whilst predicted grades can be optimistic, assuming high levels of commitment to learning, to support students in their applications, decisions will be rooted in the evidence of a student's performance during Year 12.

With this in mind, teachers, subject leads and Heads of Faculty will not base predicted grades on a student's wishes, what the student needs to get into a particular course, or on a student's promises that they 'will work harder next year'. While this affirmation is certainly admirable, it is the case that Year 13 students work harder than they did in Year 12 anyway, simply to maintain their grades due to the increased difficulty of final year content.

At William Hulme’s Grammar School, we therefore expect that students set high standards for themselves from the start of Year 12 and address the feedback they receive from their teachers during the year to facilitate academic progress. A solid Year 12 performance will not only lead to predictions that leave the student with as wide a number of options as possible but will provide the best platform for overall success.

## **2. Over-inflated predictions**

It is understandable that students and parents may desire teachers to overpredict UCAS predicted grades in order that a student may access a particular university course. However, we have a professional and moral obligation to ensure that all students have realistic expectations with regards to their abilities, whilst still remaining motivational and aspirational.

There are a number of potential consequences of over-predicting A-Level grades, such as:

- Students find themselves without a university place when they receive their results, as they achieved what teachers originally predicted, but not the higher grades that were requested.
- Future William Hulme’s Grammar School students are affected, as the school’s reputation for accurate predictions is diminished.
- Teachers are asked to go against their professional judgement and honest opinion, which is not moral, nor fair to other students who are given an accurate prediction that may be lower than they would like.

## **3. Internal subject/faculty checking of UCAS predicted grades**

After the completion of the Year 12 End of Year exam period, subject teachers will review their student’s performance during Year 12, based upon the criteria outlined in point 1, and decide each student’s UCAS predicted grade based on the evidence they have available.

All teachers of Year 12 classes within a subject will then meet with the relevant Subject Lead/Head of Faculty to discuss the UCAS predicted grades they will give. During the meeting, the Subject Lead/Head of Faculty will also review the assessment information for each student to ensure that an evidence-based approach to UCAS predicted grades has been followed within their subject/faculty.

Once this internal moderation process has been completed, subject teachers will then complete the UCAS Subject Reference for the students in their class(es) on Unifrog.

## **4. When are UCAS predicted grades finalised?**

Teachers provide UCAS predicted grades along with comments for students’ UCAS and employment references in the July of Year 12. UCAS Subject References are completed on Unifrog and are used to write the UCAS School Reference for each student in the Autumn Term of Year 13.

Students will be informed of their UCAS Predicted Grades in July, so that they can make an informed decision about suitable university courses and employment options.

## **5. Retake opportunity**

Where students have not achieved the prediction that they hoped for, they may apply to take an additional assessment in one or two subjects. These additional assessments will be scheduled within the first week of Year 13 and will thus involve a significant commitment over the summer. Where there is a significant improvement in the attainment of a student against Year 12 data, a review of the UCAS predicted grade can be made and the student will be informed of this outcome by the Director of HE.

## 6. Year 13 Quality of Assessed Work

Teachers might take into consideration the quality of assessed work produced in Year 13 up until Assessment Manager 1 which usually falls in mid-October. Any student who has demonstrated an excellent attitude and commitment to learning and whose assessment results show improvement, might see a modest improvement in their predicted grade. We would not expect the improvement at this stage to be more than one grade and any improvement in the predicted grade will still take into account the grade achieved in the end of year 12 exam or the retake exam. This is the final opportunity for a predicted grade to change.

## 7. Requesting a change to a UCAS predicted grade

On the rare occasion that a student still feels that a particular UCAS predicted grade is not a fair or true reflection of their ability after Assessment Manager 1 in Year 13, they can request that their grade is reviewed by the Head of Sixth Form. To do this, the student must submit a 'Request to Change a UCAS Predicted Grade Form' (available from Miss Valvona) to the Head of Sixth Form within one week of receiving their AM1 Progress Report. Any appeals that miss this deadline, will not be considered.

The Head of Sixth Form will then consult with both the subject teacher(s) and Subject Lead/Head of Faculty and decide whether the grade can be increased based upon the student's academic performance in that subject.

**Please note that the final decision on UCAS Predicted Grades, after a request to change a predicted grade has been received, rests with the Head of Sixth Form.**

## Policy Information and Review

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Designated Lead Person/s</b>             | Miss J F Smith, Director of Higher Education |
| <b>Reviewed</b>                             | Annually                                     |
| <b>Date of last review and by whom</b>      | September 2023 / Miss J F Smith              |
| <b>Link Governor (if applicable)</b>        |  |
| <b>Ratification by Local Governing Body</b> |  |
| <b>Next Review Date</b>                     | September 2024                               |

# Sixth Form

## Request to Change a UCAS Predicted Grade Form



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**PAGE 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT**

|             |  |             |  |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Name</b> |  | <b>Form</b> |  |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|

| Subject(s) you are requesting a change in UCAS predicted grade(s) | UCAS predicted grade as currently stands | Grade I would like to be predicted |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
|   |  |                                    |
|   |  |                                    |
|   |  |                                    |

**Please outline below why you think the UCAS predicted grade is not a fair reflection of your ability and academic performance to date**

**PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO MISS J F SMITH: [joanne.smith@whgs-academy.org](mailto:joanne.smith@whgs-academy.org)**  
**PAGE 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM**

**Discussion with subject teacher and Subject Lead/Head of Faculty outlined below, including the data used to determine the UCAS predicted grade**

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|  |
|--|

**Outcome of the Request to change a UCAS Predicted Grade**

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Comment by Head of Sixth Form | Signature |
|                               | Date      |

**If applicable: UCAS predicted grade altered on Subject Reference by Director of HE?**

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Date of alteration:<br><br>Signature: |
|---------------------------------------|