

NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST



SIXTH FORM ASSESSMENT & GRADE PREDICTION POLICY

Policy written by:	Head of Sixth Form
Policy written/reviewed:	May 2023
Next review due:	Academic Year 2024/5
Statutory Governor Approval:	N/A

Target grades

The End of KS5 Target Grades are set in the first term on year 12 and these are based on strength of GCSE performance and provide an indication of what grade a student should aim to achieve at the end of Year 13. These should not create a ceiling to achievement, and it is also to be reminded that target grades are not used in any way as a basis for UCAS predictions at the end of Year 12. These are an initial guide for students and teachers, and over time an indication of a student's likely attainment will become clear and apparent from their performance in assessments and lessons.

Year 12 Assessments

Formative assessment will be ongoing in all subjects but in January of Year 12 all subjects will carry out a more formal assessment, which will take place during normal lesson time so that a simultaneous measure across all subjects can be taken. This will enable subject staff, form tutors and the Head of Year to provide appropriate advice about how any necessary improvements might be made at an early stage and for intervention strategies to be put into place.

The formal examinations in the summer term of Year 12 will be the key basis of the grade prediction given as this will be the closest experience and indication so far of what the A level examinations experience will likely be. Ongoing attainment will have a smaller role in the overall decision and a student can only be predicted a maximum of up to one grade higher than their examination grade for UCAS. This will ensure consistency across the different subjects and faculties.

After the summer formal examinations, students will be made aware of their proposed predictions via their report and one to one discussions with respective teaching staff. These predictions are given specifically at this point so that they guide the student's planning of places and courses to apply for. If they are applying to university they should use the UCAS offer tool to help them judge where to apply. We will always recommend at least two places that are roughly consistent with predictions, one that is below and no more than two aspirational applications. In the past this has served students well and resulted in a reasonable number of offers. It is important to remember that the entry requirements for many courses and universities are a minimum and not a guarantee of a place, and it is therefore essential that UCAS grades reflect what each student is likely to achieve in their A level examinations, whilst still remaining optimistic.

Retake opportunity

Where students have not achieved the prediction that they hoped for they may apply to take an additional resit in one or two subjects. Any student that is Early Entry for university and below their target grade will have the opportunity to retake up to two examination papers on the INSET day at the start of September, and will thus involve significant commitment over the summer. Where there is a significant improvement in the grade from the summer examination a review of the UCAS prediction can be made and the student will be informed of this outcome. Thereafter the UCAS process will be under way and the grades cannot be changed for Early Entry students. The UCAS grade for all other students will be reviewed following on from Year 13 Assessment Week in the middle of September, where again a change may be made if this is evidenced during their formal assessments. The grade achieved in this assessment week and the INSET resit does not guarantee an uplift in the UCAS prediction, as the initial performance in the Year 12 formal assessments and performance through the academic year will also act as a key indicator.

It will be a clear advantage for the student to set high standards from the start of Year 12 and address immediately any feedback that is given by subject staff to facilitate 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.

Year 13 assessments

There will be a mock examination week during January of Year 13 which will provide students with an update of how well they are performing in relation to their predicted grade and once again advice will be provided to maximise the likelihood of the student achieving the predictions and attaining the placement or course that they want.

Requesting a change to a predicted grade

Students who are unhappy with a predicted grade should first speak to their subject teacher(s). If a grade is enhanced as a result of this conversation, conditions may be set to ensure that the student is able to maintain this enhanced grade throughout the remainder of Year 13.

If no change is made and the student wishes to pursue the matter further, the student must discuss this with the Head of Sixth Form. The Head of Sixth Form will then take into account the student's

- a) recent assessment results
- b) past performance throughout Year 12
- c) institutions the students is applying to
- d) course(s) the students is/are applying to

as well as the historical student performance / national trend in the subject concerned. The Head of Sixth Form may then decide to discuss the matter with teachers on the student's behalf before reaching a final decision.

Right of Appeal

After completing this process, any grade appeal must be addressed in writing to the Headteacher, whose decision is final.