



UCAS Grades Policy for Apply 2025

This policy is written with the pupils' best interests at heart. Early applications to universities almost always result in early offers to pupils. This then provides space for pupils to concentrate on their A-levels/IB in a healthy and productive way.

The School is required to provide UCAS grades for pupils applying to universities, other Higher Education providers and school-leaver programmes (such as through UCAS, international universities, degree apprenticeships, etc.).

1. UCAS grades are always made in a spirit of cautious optimism, on the understanding that pupils might achieve these grades if they work with absolute determination and consistency for the duration of the Upper Sixth.
2. UCAS grades are therefore based on the premise that pupils will make the expected improvements in their work in the Upper Sixth and will maintain or increase current levels of effort.
3. UCAS grades are not a guarantee of grade outcomes, not least as learning in the Upper Sixth is typically more demanding than Lower Sixth learning.
4. UCAS grades must, however, be an honest and evidence-based professional judgement based on performance and attainment. We want to offer our pupils the best opportunities, but we must be careful not to artificially elevate the grades, as this can lead to both reputational damage (which would affect other applicants from the School) as well as pupils receiving offers from universities which they are very unlikely to meet.
5. The professional judgement of academic staff will be used to determine a positive, fair and realistic UCAS grade, which will combine data from assessments and learning across the Lower Sixth course.
6. The most recent and realistic indicator of performance and attainment is the Lower Sixth end-of-year examinations, as these assess learning in a format that most closely replicates the terminal examinations.
7. If examinations are taken remotely, the format of this assessment will be determined by each department based on the assessment objectives of the qualification and used holistically with other evidence to determine UCAS grades.
8. It should be noted that some universities may ask for transcripts of internal assessments and marks to consider as part of the admissions process.
9. It is unrealistic for pupils and their families to expect the School to give a UCAS grade at A Level which is more than one grade above what a pupil achieves in internal examinations. At IB, the Director of IB will apply IBO criteria.
10. Pupils will receive their UCAS grades on Monday 24 June 2024.
11. If a pupil has a genuine belief that their UCAS grade is incorrect, they must approach the relevant Head of Department before the end of the Summer Term to receive advice on any learning to complete over the summer holiday to justify their teachers considering reviewing their UCAS grade. A pro-forma agreement to complete the work will be signed by both parties and parents to indicate full understanding of the

commitment needed in each subject to justify consideration of reviewing a grade. This work will be based around new topics from the specifications for the Upper Sixth.

12. There is no guarantee that this in itself will justify the School in reviewing any UCAS grade, however the more evidence of this type a pupil has to support a request, the stronger such a request will be.
13. This evidence will be considered alongside performance throughout the Lower Sixth, including internal assessments.
14. No subject will be offering pupils a chance to 'resit' any end of Lower Sixth assessments in the hope that a UCAS grade might be raised.
15. Any such summer learning should be submitted to the relevant Head of Department on Friday 6 September 2024 for review.
16. Pupils will be notified by Monday 16 September 2024 the outcome of this review and, if appropriate, a revised UCAS grade.
17. If, after careful consideration, a pupil feels that this policy has not been applied correctly they may appeal their UCAS grade by writing directly to the Deputy Head (Academic) by Friday 20 September 2024. They must outline clearly how the policy has not been applied correctly. Appeals will be considered by a Senior Teacher to investigate and come to a decision, which will be communicated to the pupil by Monday 23 September 2024.
18. Appeals will only be considered in this format and should not be addressed to a Head of Department or subject teacher.

LTR

January 2024