



ST. MARY'S *Catholic High School, Dubai*

PREDICTED GRADES POLICY FOR A-LEVEL STUDENTS

2020-21



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CONTEXT:

St. Mary's Catholic High School prepares students for a variety of post- A-Level destinations, including further study in Higher Education (Universities in the UAE, UK, US, Canada, Eastern Europe and other parts of the world). For some of these destinations, the school is required to provide predictions of the grades that a student is expected to attain at GCE Advanced Level. It is extremely important to ensure that predictions are both realistic and accurate when compared with a student's attainment.



TIMING:

Applications to Universities through systems such as UCAS (i.e. the vast majority of such applications) are accompanied by predicted *grades*. *The grades are submitted along with the applications by the stated deadlines. The earliest deadline for submission of Predicted grades is October 15th.*

PREDICTED GRADES AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

Universities usually advertise the typical offer grades for their courses on their web pages. These grades are also visible on the UCAS Search area. Students must understand that grades, however, are only one element in the selection process. Universities weigh a number of factors, and there is no single formula for this. Universities consider predicted grades, historical performance in standardized public examinations, the pupil's Personal Statement, the school's Reference and, in some areas such as Medicine, relevant work experience. In addition, some universities require one or more of the following: an additional Personal Statement, samples of written work, a pre-interview written assessment, an interview (sometimes including written assessment). Whilst each element is important, the results of examination performance and pre-interview tests provide particularly valuable objective data.



PREDICTING GRADES:

Although predicted grades are estimates, it is important to make predictions which closely match eventual A Level outcomes. The school's policy is not to issue predicted grades based on what students would like to achieve or on the basis of their promise to work harder to obtain it. Put simply, a student will not achieve an unrealistic predicted grade. Neither is the



school's policy to inflate predicted grades: this would have the impact of leading to a poorer correlation between predictions and outcomes, thus undermining the credibility of the process and would weaken the integrity of our estimates with many universities.

The school's approach is based on the principle that we wish students to achieve excellent A -Level grades and progress successfully to their chosen university.

In coming to an honest and realistic judgement on a student's predicted grades, the school will consider:

- Data drawn from his/her performance at standardized First Term and Final Examinations and/or Mock Examinations
- Data drawn from his/ her attainment from a range of assessments across Year 12 and Year 13 depending upon when the predicted grade has been requested.
- Data drawn from Year 12 IAS examination results for IAL subjects

Therefore all Predicted Grades will be system generated in future.

PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE SCHOOL'S APPROACH TO PREDICTING GRADES:

- 1) We have the students' best interests at heart. We wish to support their applications so that they make a successful transition to higher education.
- 2) Predicted grades are **data -driven** and have a strong evidence base. It has been widely noted that students who perform consistently well across a range of assessments and examinations are most likely to have the strongest correlation between their predicted grades and their eventual A-Level outcomes.
- 3) We do not base predictions on what a pupil would like to achieve in order to get into a particular university or course. Nor do we predict on the basis of a pupil's promise to work harder in order to achieve it. This does the pupil no service, as offers based on unrealistic grades are not likely to be met.

- 4) Predicted grades will not be affected by student, parental, guardian, or carer pressure.
- 5) Predicted grades will not be influenced by university or college entry requirements or behaviours. Predicted grades will be set in isolation of an applicant's university or college choice(s)

In summary, the school's process is **holistic**, considering a range of assessment parameters; **evidence-based**, pointing to tangible data over a period of time; **realistic**, representing what this evidence tells us about the student.

PROCESS:

- Students will have to formally request predicted grades by securing a formal application letter from the Principal's secretary which will have to be signed by the student's parents.
- Predicted grades will only be issued if there is a minimum of one standardized Term Examination that has been completed at the time of requesting for predicted grades. For example if a request is made in the month of December when a child is in Year 12, the predicted grades will only be issued by the school after the First Term Examination Results in January.
- Predicted grades issued between February and May of Year 12 will clearly state that these are Predicted Grades based only on the AS course content covered until that point in time and does not inform eventual A-Level outcomes.
- Attainment data across all available assessments and examinations at the time of the request for predicted grades will be taken into account. For Example if predicted grades are requested in the month of September in Year 13, then the attainment average of year 12 will be used to derive predicted grades.
- For Predicting A* grades before the first term examinations in Year 13, subject leaders and senior leader will review each case separately because the course content covered and tested until then does not reflect Year 13 course coverage. It is therefore advisable to request for predicted grades after the first term examinations of Year 13.
- If students want to request updated predicted grades they may do so. The letter will clearly state that these are updated predicted grades based on additional assessment / examination data with dates mentioned.
- The school's decision with regard to predicted grades is Final since it is both data-driven and evidence based.

Policy written/reviewed: September 2020

Next review due: September 2021

Persons in charge: Principal, Vice Principal & Pearson Edexcel Examination Officer