



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

PREDICTED GRADES POLICY FOR A-LEVEL

2026-2027



PREDICTED GRADES POLICY FOR A-LEVEL STUDENTS

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.*

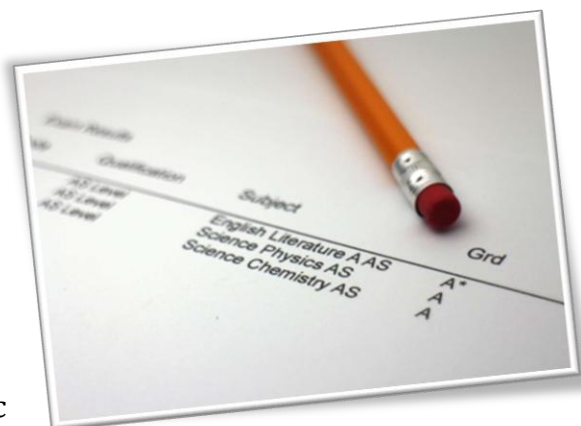
PREDICTED GRADES AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

Universities and colleges publish the typical entry requirements for their courses on their websites and through UCAS. Students should understand that predicted grades are an important part of the application process but are only one of several factors considered when assessing an application. Universities may also consider achieved qualifications, academic performance, the UCAS Personal Statement, which now consists of responses to three structured questions rather than one free-text statement, the school's academic reference and, depending on the course, admissions tests, interviews, portfolios, written work or relevant work experience.



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 First Term, Mid-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 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.
- 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 2026

Next review due: June 2027

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