



UCAS Predicted Grades Strategy

Predicted grades are required when a student applies to university through UCAS.

At Beauchamp College we follow the guidance provided by UCAS to decide the predicted grades. It is essential that the grades predicted are a true reflection of each student's ability and potential and so the teacher or teachers of the student decide on the predicted grade as they know the student best. The grades are based on evidence of the attainment and progress of the student thus far and will be informed by a number of factors, such as trial exam results, end of unit assessments and performance in assignments.

UCAS predicted grades play a crucial role for universities in their decision-making process. Universities will not usually make offers to students who are likely to fall below the normal minimum entrance grade requirements unless other parts of the application are exceptional.

We have a professional and moral responsibility to ensure that the student has realistic expectations regarding their abilities, whilst still remaining motivational and aspirational. We will ensure any prediction made is realistic and in the best interests of the student. Overly optimistic predictions can have a significantly negative impact on a student's progression.

The Sixth Form team will, as a matter of course, take responsibility to guide students through the UCAS process. Below sets out the predicted grade strategy at Beauchamp College.

Students are advised to pick no more than one or two aspirational choices, at least one that is realistic and requires lower grades than they are predicted (an 'insurance' choice), and the rest should be in line with their predictions.

UCAS Timeline:

1. When do students get their predicted grades?

Tutors release predicted grades towards the end of the summer term of Year 12, following the end of year trial exams. This ensures that all students, including early entry applicants (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary) have sufficient time to choose their courses appropriately.

2. How are predicted grades decided?

It is essential that we predict grades that we feel are a true reflection of each student's ability and potential. We adopt an honest and evidence-based approach to this process, whereby attainment and progress in Year 12 is the main indicator of future performance. The teachers of each subject decide the predicted grades for their students, as they know their own students best. They may consider some or all of the following factors when making their decision:

- Results of Year 12 assessments and trial exams
- Grades awarded in progress reports/ data snapshots
- General attitude to learning and commitment





- Performance in homework/ coursework assignments
- GCSE results
- The student's drive and passion for the subject
- Professional judgement and experience of making UCAS predictions

Scenario: A student who consistently achieves 'C' grades throughout Year 12 in assessments and homework assignments in a particular subject may be awarded a predicted grade of a 'C', or a 'B' if they have an excellent work ethic and attitude to learning. It is unlikely, however, that such a student would be predicted an 'A' grade, as the evidence would not support such a prediction.

Teachers will not base their predictions on a student's wishes, what the student needs to get into a particular course, or on students' promises that they will 'work harder next year'. Whilst this sentiment is certainly admirable, it is usually the case that Year 13 students need to work harder than they did in Year 12, simply to maintain their grades, due to the increased difficulty of final year content.

3. Why can't predictions just be made higher?

It is understandable that students and parents may want teachers to over-predict A Level grades, in order for a student to access a particular University course. However, we have a professional and moral responsibility to ensure that the student has realistic expectations with regards to their abilities, whilst remaining motivational and aspirational.

Scenario: A student is predicted BBB, they pressure teachers to predict AAA to meet the grade requirements of the course they want. In August they get the BBB the teacher originally predicted but end up with no place because they did not get the AAA needed for the course. They have to go through Clearing and end up on a course which is of a CCC or DDD level. This should illustrate how it is better to be happy with a good university than strive for one which is most likely unachievable and end up enrolling at a course at a less desirable institution. The potential consequences of over-predicting A-Level grades are as follows:

- 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. The student must go through the competitive Clearing process, often finally choosing a course that has lower entry requirements than what they actually achieved.
- Future Beauchamp students are affected, as the school's reputation for accurate predictions is diminished. University admission tutors build up a knowledge of the accuracy of a particular school's predictions. Therefore, if the school becomes known for over-predicting, then future applications are put at a disadvantage, as their predicted grades will be brought into question.
- Teachers are asked to go against their professional judgement and honest opinion, which is not moral, nor is it fair to other students who are given an accurate prediction that may be lower than they would like.

4. Can I appeal my predicted grade?





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If a student feels that a particular predicted grade is not a true reflection of their ability or what they may achieve at the end of Year 13, then they may ask for the grade to be increased by providing a letter of appeal to their Head of Year. This should outline the reasons why they think the predicted grade is not a fair assessment of what they may achieve. The Head of Year will then consult the subject teacher or teachers, following which a final decision will be made as to whether the grade should be increased.

5. What happens next?

Teachers input their predicted grades along with their comments for the student's UCAS reference around early July. This information is passed along to the UCAS Coordinator, who will then put the grades onto the student's UCAS application, along with their completed reference, once the student has submitted their form to the college for checking. In order to be able to check each student's application, we ask early applicants to submit their applications by 24th September and all other students by 24th October.

As always, form tutors, subject teachers and the Sixth Form team are on hand to support students onto their next steps. We will be providing students will guidance throughout the process, and we are always here to answer queries wherever necessary.

