

NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH
SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST



**SIXTH FORM ASSESSMENT &
GRADE PREDICTION POLICY**

Policy written by:	Head of Sixth Form
Policy written/reviewed:	March 2025
Next review due:	July 2026
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 heavily weighted in the UCAS grade prediction given as this will be the closest experience and indication so far of what the A level examinations will likely be. Ongoing attainment that is produced under similar conditions and covering a substantial section of the course will also have a role in the overall decision. Teachers will then use these results and their professional judgment so that UCAS grade reflects a holistic picture. Staff are encouraged to be "realistically optimistic" and therefore a student can only be predicted a maximum of up to one grade higher than they have achieved in any assessment being used by the faculty to inform UCAS grades. These grades will be moderated by the Head of Faculty in order to ensure parity between classes. 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 discussion 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.

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

All students will have an opportunity to improve their UCAS grades in the formal assessments which take place at the start of the Year 13 autumn term. This will provide additional evidence, which may result in a change to the UCAS prediction made by the subject teacher. If this occurs, the student will be informed of this outcome. Following this, the UCAS process will be underway with students being allocated a meeting date and time to finalise their application. As a result, there will be no changes to UCAS grades after these assessments.

There will be a mock examination week during the 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 and Right of Appeal

Students who are unhappy with a predicted grade should appeal first to their subject teacher. This conversation must have occurred before October half term. If a grade is changed 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 appeal to the Head of Sixth Form. The deadline for this is the first school day back after the October half term break. The Head of Sixth Form will then consider the student's;

- a) recent assessment results
- b) past performance throughout Year 12 of work completed under assessment conditions
- c) institutions the student is applying to
- d) course(s) the student 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.

The Head of Sixth Form will inform the student of the outcome after this process. If the student wishes to pursue this further, they must appeal in writing to the Headteacher within 5 school days of being informed of the Head of Sixth Form's decision. The Headteacher's decision is final.