

# **Thomas Telford School**



## **UCAS Predicted Grades Policy**

**March 2021**

## **1.0 Introduction**

UCAS predicted grades are a key part of the application process for higher education, school leaver schemes, apprenticeships and employment. The School will provide UCAS predicted grades for all 6.2 students to support these applications, so that Universities and employers are best able to assess students' potential and suitability for their chosen courses or job roles.

## **2.0 How are predicted grades decided?**

The School adopts an optimistic, consistent and evidence-based approach to UCAS grades, which ensures that predictions are both aspirational and achievable. Subject teachers and Departments determine the predicted grades for their students, as they know them best, and are able to draw upon a wealth of experience and professional judgment in making UCAS predictions.

Grades will be based on the student's performance during their first year of A level or BTEC study and teachers will consider some or all of the following factors when making their decision:

- Mock examination results
- Grades awarded in progress tests
- Performance in homework assignments
- Student's attitude and commitment to learning
- Coursework, portfolio, practical evidence or other non-examined elements
- GCSE results

Teachers will predict grades that they feel are a true and honest reflection of the student's ability and potential. Predicted grades will be optimistic, assuming high levels of commitment, hard work and a certain degree of improvement in the second year. However, it is important to emphasise that students may not always achieve their UCAS grade in the face of more challenging second year content. The module report system provides regular and reliable feedback to students and parents about a student's progress.

Departments will not base predicted grades on what students require to apply for a particular course, university or job. The potential consequence of over-predicting grades is that students may receive an offer(s) that they are unlikely to meet, leading to disappointment on results day and/or students might gain admission to a course on which they cannot succeed.

## **3.0 When are predicted grades finalised?**

Teachers provide predicted grades along with comments for students' UCAS and employment references at the end of 6.1 year, in July. Grades are reviewed again in September of 6.2 to take account of any outstanding assessments, admissions tests, work, research or work experience completed over the summer period. Students are informed about and have the opportunity to discuss their predicted grades with both teaching Staff and the Careers Team, who will help students make informed choices about suitable university courses and employment options.

All UCAS grades are finalised by 1<sup>st</sup> October. Revisions to predicted grades will only be made after this date in exceptional circumstances.

Once the UCAS application has been submitted, there is no opportunity to revise the predicted grades if a student improves or declines in performance during the course of the 6.2 year. However, if a student meets and exceeds the conditions of their conditional firm offer on Results Day, they may use the UCAS Adjustment service to find an alternative course or university. The Careers Team will provide support to any students who wish to avail of this service.

#### **4.0 UCAS References**

Predicted grades form part of the UCAS reference and the School will ensure the two are mutually supportive. All students have the opportunity to see and read through their UCAS reference at the point their UCAS application is submitted. However, amendments or changes to the reference will only be made to correct inaccuracies or to provide any other contextual information which has been agreed with the student.

#### **5.0 Appeals**

On the rare occasion that a student feels that a particular predicted grade is not a fair or true reflection of their ability or what they may achieve at the end of 6.2, they can request that their grade is reviewed by the Head of Sixth Form. The student must outline in writing the reason why they think the predicted grade is not a fair assessment of what they may achieve. The Head of Sixth Form will then consult with subject teachers and make a decision about whether the grade can be increased.

Please note that the final decision on predicted grades rests with the Head of Sixth Form.