



KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

King William's College Predicted Grades Policy

Last reviewed: 09/25

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UCAS notes that predicted grades are a key part of the application process for university, serving as an indicator of a pupil's potential. They are also useful for applications for apprenticeships, or employment. King William's College will provide UCAS predicted grades for all pupils in Year 13 to support these applications, so that universities and employers are best able to assess pupils' potential and suitability for their chosen courses or job roles.

1. How are UCAS predicted grades decided?

King William's College adopts a consistent and evidence-based approach to UCAS predicted grades, which ensures that predictions are both aspirational and achievable and a true reflection of each pupil's ability and potential. Subject teachers, Subject Leads and Heads of Faculty determine the predicted grades for their pupils, as they know them best, and are able to draw upon a wealth of experience and professional judgement in making UCAS predictions.

UCAS predicted grades will be based upon the pupil's performance during Year 12 and teachers will consider some or all of the following factors when making their decisions:

- Assessment results throughout the year
- Year 12 June examination results
- Performance on homework assignments and tests
- Pupil's attitude and commitment to learning
- Practical evidence or other non-examined elements
- The quality of an Internal Assessment (if completed during Year 12)

The Year 12 June examinations will be the key basis of the UCAS predicted grades, given that this will be the closest experience to the final examinations. Pupils may, following discussion with their teachers, be given the opportunity to resit some examinations at the beginning of the Autumn Term in Year 13, or complete additional tasks during the summer holiday to demonstrate an improvement in the standard of their work. This may lead to an improvement in their predicted grades. The other factors listed above will also be considered in the overall decision, as well as any specific individual circumstances.

Subject teachers will predict grades that they feel are a true and honest reflection of the pupil's performance in Year 12, their ability and potential. With that in mind, a pupil cannot be given UCAS predicted grades that are not supported by evidence of their performance in the course and a pupil will not be predicted a grade where there is little or no evidence of their performance at that Level.

For example, a pupil who consistently achieves Level 4 grades in assessed work during Year 12 may be given a UCAS predicted grade of a Level 4, or indeed a Level 5/6 if they have an excellent attitude and commitment to learning and assessments results show improvement towards them achieving a Level 5/6. It is unlikely, however, that such a pupil would be predicted a Level 7, as the evidence would not support such a prediction. Therefore, whilst predicted grades can be optimistic, assuming high levels of commitment to learning, to support pupils in their applications, decisions will be rooted in the data evidence of a pupil's performance.

With this in mind, teachers, Subject Leads and Heads of Faculty will not base predicted grades on a pupil's wishes, what the pupil needs to get into a particular course, or on a pupil's promises that they 'will work harder next year'. While this affirmation is certainly admirable, it is the case that Year 13 pupils work harder than they did in Year 12 anyway, simply to maintain their grades due to the increased difficulty of final year content.

At King William's College, we therefore expect that pupils set high standards for themselves from the start of Year 12 and address the feedback they receive from their teachers during the year to facilitate academic progress. A solid Year 12 performance will not only lead to predictions that leave the pupil with as wide a number of options as possible but will provide the best platform for overall success.

2. Over-inflated predictions

It is understandable that pupils and parents may desire teachers to overpredict UCAS predicted grades in order that a pupil may access a particular university course. However, we have a professional and moral obligation to ensure that all pupils have realistic expectations with regards to their abilities, whilst still remaining motivational and aspirational.

There are a number of potential consequences of over-predicting IB grades, such as:

- Pupils 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.
- Future King William's College pupils are affected, as the school's reputation for accurate predictions is diminished.
- Teachers are asked to go against their professional judgement and honest opinion, which is not moral, nor fair to other pupils who are given an accurate prediction that may be lower than they would like.

3. Internal subject/faculty checking of UCAS predicted grades

After the completion of the Year 12 June examination period, subject teachers will review their pupil's performance during Year 12, based upon the criteria outlined in point 1, and decide each pupil's UCAS predicted grade based on the evidence they have available. All teachers of Year 12 classes within a subject will then meet with the relevant Subject Lead/Head of Faculty to discuss the UCAS predicted grades they will give. During the meeting, the Subject Lead/Head of Faculty will also review the assessment information for each pupil to ensure that an evidence-based approach to UCAS predicted grades has been followed within their subject/faculty. Once this internal moderation process has been completed, subject teachers will then complete the UCAS Subject Reference for the pupils in their class(es) on ISAMS.

4. When are UCAS predicted grades finalised?

Teachers provide UCAS predicted grades along with comments for pupils' UCAS and employment references in the July of Year 12. UCAS Subject References are completed on ISAMS and are used to write the UCAS School Reference for each pupil by the start of the Autumn Term of Year 13. Pupils and parents will be informed of their UCAS Predicted Grades in July, so that they can make an informed decision about suitable university courses and employment options. Following evaluation of additional work completed over the summer holiday and/or performance in the September resits, grades are finalised by the subject teachers and shared with the pupils and parents.

5. Year 13 Quality of Assessed Work

In exceptional circumstances, teachers might take into consideration the quality of assessed work produced in Year 13 during the first term. Any pupil who has demonstrated an excellent attitude and commitment to learning and whose assessment results data show improvement, might see a modest improvement in their predicted grade. We would not expect the improvement at this stage to be more than one grade and any improvement in the predicted grade will still consider the grade achieved in the Year 12 June examination. This is the final opportunity for a UCAS predicted grade to change as the College aims to have all UCAS applications submitted by the end of the Autumn Term. It must be remembered that UCAS advises that applications are submitted as early as possible.

6. Requesting a change to a UCAS predicted grade

On the rare occasion that a pupil still feels that a particular UCAS predicted grade is not a fair or true reflection of their ability, they can request that their grade is reviewed by the Head of Sixth Form. To do this, the pupil must submit their request in writing (by email is fine) to the Head of Sixth Form by 4.20pm on the first Friday after the Autumn half term break. Any appeals that miss this deadline, will not be considered. The Head of Sixth Form will then consult with both the subject teacher(s) and Subject Lead/Head of Faculty and review the data that has been used to support the predicted grade. They will then decide whether the grade can be changed based upon the pupil's academic performance in that subject. Please note that the final decision on UCAS Predicted Grades, after a request to change a predicted grade has been received, rests with the Head of Sixth Form.

7. IB Predicated Grades

During the course of Year 13, teachers are expected to provide a predicated grade to the International Baccalaureate which may, or may not correspond with the UCAS prediction. This is dependent on the pupil's performance in Year 13. Although we do not publish the IB Predicted Grades before the examinations, they will appear on the pupil's final results sheet. In line with UCAS predicated grades, the IB predicated grades are based on the following data:

- Assessment results throughout the year
- Year 12 and 13 examination results
- Performance on homework assignments and tests
- Pupil's attitude and commitment to learning
- Practical evidence or other non-examined elements
- The quality of Internal Assessments