CRGS Sixth Form Predicted Grade Statement

Definition and purpose of predicted grades:

UCAS guidance defines predicted grades as "the grade of qualification an applicant's school or college believes they're likely to achieve in positive circumstances". There are many variables which affect final performance at the end of the two year course which make formulating predicted grades very challenging.

We seek to provide predicted grades that are aspirational and stretching but also realistic and achievable. Our main aim is to ensure that students gain access to the most suitable courses for them and are successful and fulfilled in their Higher Education studies or on an appropriate apprenticeship / job-based training programme. Universities tell us that they generally presume that "the predictions will be optimistic but realistic – what the applicant can achieve on a good day if they put the work in" (Peter Chetwynd, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions, King's College, London).

Principles for formulating predicted grades:

Teachers at CRGS Sixth Form will consider the following principles when considering the most appropriate predicted grade for an individual student. Predicted grades should be:

- aspirational and achievable – stretching predicted grades are motivational for students, unattainable predicted grades are not.
- determined by professional judgement – teacher expertise and experience are vital in informing predictions.
- based on evidence – student performance in Year 12 will strongly inform predicted grades. This may be consistent performance in assessments and / or examinations during the academic year. High ALPS target grades are an indicator of potential future performance but not a guarantee. Therefore students who have high ALPS targets but poor performance in Year 12 should not be automatically predicted the highest grades. Conversely, students should not be limited by prior performance at GCSE / ALPS targets. Very many students flourish in their chosen A Level subjects and outperform their ALPS target grades. It should be remembered that universities / employers will always have access to GCSE grades so will already have a method of judging an applicant's prior academic achievement in external examinations.
- transparent and in the best interests of the applicant – student and parents / carers are formally informed of predicted grades and these grades allow students fair access to the most suitable courses for them.
- not influenced by university entrance requirements or parent / carer pressure – predicted grades should be set in isolation of an applicant's chosen route or course / university.

Process for formulating and potentially updating predicted grades:

Students and parents will be informed of predicted grades in June of Year 12. All students will have the opportunity to request that their predicted grades are reviewed in the Autumn Term, if they have demonstrated consistently improved performance. However, this is not automatic and there must be clear evidence that the student has significantly and repeatedly improved their performance, especially under timed conditions. The fact that a student "needs" a certain grade for a particular course or university is not a compelling reason in and of itself. It should be noted that applicants do not always have to meet the entry requirements with their predicted grades to receive an offer. The only person who can agree to increase a predicted grade is the Head of Learning of the subject concerned. The process for requesting an amended predicted grade is via a yellow form, issued by, and returned to, the student's Senior Tutor.

Senior Tutors will provide appropriate contextual information in the student's reference, including factors which may have affected a student's progress during Y12 or their earlier schooling. In the event of a student or parent / carer challenging a predicted grade, the Head of Sixth Form will review the situation. If the issue cannot be resolved, a decision will be taken in conjunction with the Headteacher to either maintain or increase the predicted grade. In this circumstance, all parties concerned will be informed of the final decision and the reasons behind it.

K L Johnston, Reviewed April 2026