

## UCAS Grades July 2021

Dear Parents,

The UCAS grades for your son/daughter are now available for viewing on the parent portal. These grades will be sent to the student's chosen universities if they are applying for entry in this year's UCAS cycle. Please be advised that these initial UCAS grades are non-negotiable at this stage.

As you know, the grades are used by university admissions tutors (along with the personal statement, teacher reference and the rest of the student's UCAS application) to decide how to award offers of places to applicants. Please note that the initials next to the grades are those of the Head of Department for the subject concerned.

The grades are designed to be as supportive as possible of our students' university applications and do not necessarily reflect their current 'progress' grade. These initial UCAS grades are based upon a combination of their internal summer examination results and the standard of their work in that subject over the course of the past year. The grades also assume an element of progression on behalf of the student between now and the A level examinations and are therefore a positive indication of their likely best performance on the day.

Where a grade is split (for instance B/A), it is always the higher grade that will be communicated to universities via UCAS, although students are clearly advised to note the element of insecurity that is being indicated here and should ensure that their university and course selection includes at least one choice with the lower grade requirement.

Students who are disappointed with the grades that their initial UCAS grades, do however, have the chance to prove themselves by working hard over the holidays and then sitting an additional assessment towards the beginning of next term. Following consultations after this review period, if a student's subject teachers and Head of Department believe that the standard of their work warrants an increase in the UCAS grade, the appropriate changes will be made and you will then receive their final UCAS grades next term. It is these final UCAS grades which will be communicated to universities via UCAS.

Where a student's initial UCAS grades do not match their HE ambitions, it is also worth thinking about delaying their application until next year, when they will know their A Level results (Post Qualification Application). They can be encouraged to begin planning a meaningful GAP year that might enhance their position, come the following September.

Kind regards

Lem Millar

*Deputy Director of VI Form and Head of Higher Education & Careers*