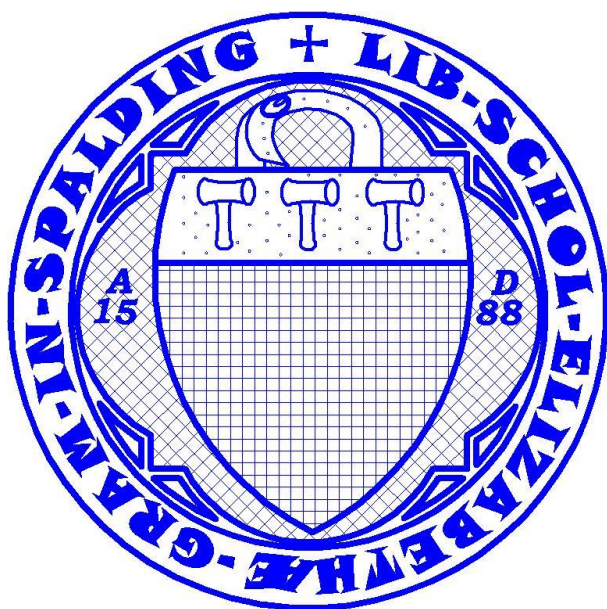


Spalding Grammar School



UCAS Predicted Grades Policy

2023-24

Aims

Spalding Grammar School (SGS) aims to ensure that the majority of its students move to Higher Education. Economic success in later life is linked intrinsically to the successful award of higher qualifications. Ensuring that students succeed at this stage of education very much begins in the Sixth Form. In addition to specialist teaching and learning at Key Stage 5, aspirational yet achievable goals within high-quality Information and Guidance will ensure that students stay on their awarded courses at higher educational establishments.

UCAS applications require accurate predicted grades, based upon prior attainment grades and performance in class. It is important that the school shows integrity in making accurate predicted grades.

Procedures for UCAS applications, references and grade predictions:

When students apply for courses via the UCAS process, the school must enter predicted grades for any course students are currently studying and have not completed.

SGS Sixth Form will:

- Offer individual advice and guidance to each student about the choice and process of applying to university.
- Organise the administrative support for a student to apply as a member of Sixth Form.
- Advise the student about how they can best complete their form.
- Conduct a check of key elements of the application form.
- Provide predicted grades and a reference for the application.
- Send the application to UCAS.

The student will:

- Take responsibility for the full, accurate and truthful completion of the form.
- Be responsive to advice and guidance on the choice of courses and universities.
- Be timely in the completion of their form, observing SGS Sixth Form target dates and UCAS deadlines.
- Respond promptly to communications, verbal or email, to make corrections.

Predicted Grades:

The UCAS predicted grade is an estimate of the grade that the student is most likely to achieve at the end of the course and is based on a holistic assessment of all work completed by the student since starting the Sixth Form up to the point of prediction. Examples of work that will be taken into consideration include: CATs (Common Assessment Tasks), assessed homework, coursework and any internal/ external examinations the student might have sat. The predicted grade will also take into account the student's work in class and their attitude and commitment to study, including their use of private study.

Predicted grades will be an honest assessment of student attainment at A Level. Therefore, it is not in the student's best interest to predict a grade which is not clearly supported by evidence, however much a student may wish to apply to a particular course or university. It is important that universities retain confidence in the grades predicted by SGS.

Students should also be aware that:

- A predicted grade in a subject is only one of a series of indicators that universities look at when making offers and it thus needs to be kept in perspective.
- Universities can and do make offers at levels above prediction when they can see a strong case being made in other areas of the UCAS form (e.g. personal statement and school reference).
- Also, students should always be mindful of the importance of applying for suitable courses at suitable institutions. Securing an offer to get on a course on the basis of unrealistic grade predictions is unlikely to lead to success.

Communication of Predicted Grades:

- Students and parents will be officially notified of the results of the UCAS predictions via Grades issued in Term 6 of Year 12.

Appeals:

In the event that a student does not believe a predicted grade – as set above – is a fair reflection of what they will achieve at the end of Year 13, they can choose to appeal the grade prediction. Please note, however, that appeals will not be considered if their only substantive basis is simply a student's desire for a higher prediction.

- Students can apply, via a predicted grade form, to increase their predicted grade by one grade only.
- This can be done by completing the predicted grade form (see online form available on this page) which involves consultation with student, subject teacher(s), the Head of Department and the Head of Sixth Form.
- As long as this change of grade is supported by all parties – student, subject teacher(s), the Head of Department and the Head of Sixth Form - the student's grade will be increased by a maximum of one grade.
- **Appeals must be submitted by 9.00am on Thursday 21 September 2023 using the online form available on the school website on the page dedicated to Sixth Form Policies.**
- In order to have a chance of success, an appeal would have to outline how the criteria used to form the prediction (as outlined above) should reasonably have produced a higher prediction.
- Heads of Departments will consider each case on its merits and respond directly to the student.
- Depending on the nature of the appeal, this may happen quickly; however, please be advised that Heads of Subject may wish to defer making a decision until the student has proven that they have made further progress. In such cases, the student may have to delay submission of their UCAS application. Heads of Department will respond to students no later than Friday, 24 November 2023.
- We appreciate that those students submitting early applications (Oxbridge, Veterinary Science, Medicine and Dentistry are unable to delay their applications due to the external UCAS deadline of 16 October. In such cases, we will ensure a timely decision is made.