



Hitchin Sixth Form Consortium

April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Hitchin Consortium Procedures for UCAS Predicted Grades

When a student applies to University through UCAS, their school is asked to give predicted grades in order that Universities are best able to establish the suitability of the student to their chosen courses. We are writing to confirm the procedures that will be used across the Hitchin Consortium for predicting UCAS grades for our current Year 12 students.

It is essential that we predict grades that we feel are a true reflection of each student's ability and potential. We adopt an honest and evidence-based approach to this process, whereby attainment and progress in Year 12 is the main indicator of future performance.

The teachers of each subject decide the predicted grades for their students, as they know them best. They will use their professional judgement and experience of making UCAS predictions and may consider some or all of the following factors:

- Results of Year 12 half-termly assessments (HTA's)
- Results of Year 12 Mock Examinations
- Grades awarded in progress reports
- General attitude to learning and commitment
- Performance in homework assignments
- The student's drive and passion for the subject

Teachers will not base their predictions on student or parent wishes, what the student needs to get into a particular course, or on a student's promises to work harder. Teachers need to provide within their reference evidence that the student is **regularly** attaining the grade predicted.

We have a professional and moral responsibility to ensure that the student has realistic expectations with regards to their abilities, whilst still remaining motivational and aspirational. University admission tutors build up a knowledge of the accuracy

of a particular school's predictions. If the school becomes known for over-predicting, then future applications are put at a disadvantage.

Teachers will input their predicted grades along with their comments for the student's UCAS reference at the end of the summer term and will complete a final review in the autumn term. These are recorded on Unifrog, a common platform across the three schools that has been used for a number of years.

If a student feels that a particular predicted grade is not a true reflection of their ability or what they may achieve at the end of Year 13, then they can ask for the grade to be reviewed by providing a letter of appeal and completed proforma to the Head of Sixth Form at least 10 working days before the UCAS deadline, to enable staff to respond.

The letter should outline the reasons 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 the subject teaching staff, following which a final decision will be made as to whether or not the grade should be increased. The Head of Sixth will respond in writing within 10 working days of receiving the request to review predictions and offer the student an opportunity to meet to discuss the outcome.

Industry advice is that competition for places will be high for a 2025 start so early applications are advised. Universities do not wait until the deadline before releasing their offers. All students are encouraged to have a genuine insurance offer choice where entry requirements are lower than their first choice.

We have in place a programme of activities and interactions through our Sixth Form Enrichment slots or Careers Advice offer and all students will be guided and assisted through their post-18 option choices.

Yours sincerely,



Aron Carr
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The Priory School



Emily Christou
Head of Sixth Form
Hitchin Boys' School



Tina Stojko
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