



MDB/LMD 4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

RE: UCAS Predicted Grades

I write to inform you that finalised UCAS Predicted Grades are now available to view on the SIMS Parent App. Please be aware that this is the only way we will be sending the Predicted Grades. Students will not receive paper copies.

Universities require us to provide realistic Predicted Grades and these are considered along with the student's personal statement and the school's reference when offering places to students. St Olave's has a very good track record for accuracy in its Predicted Grades. Over predicting does not benefit students and often results in students being disappointed when they receive their exam results in the summer. Departments have considered grades very carefully, using all available evidence. The predictions are realistic whilst erring on the side of optimism. Students were given Anticipated Predicted Grades earlier in the year and have had a large window of time to provide evidence of their effort and performance. Departments will not enter into negotiations over these grades and Predicted Grades will not be increased on promises of hard work over the coming months. It is worth noting that universities sometimes make aspirational offers to students whose predictions fall below the minimum entry requirements but who demonstrate potential through their personal statement. UCAS also offers an Adjustment service where students can apply to higher tariff universities if they exceed their predictions and places exist on the desired courses.

Should there be disruption to public exams as there was last academic year, it is important to highlight that Predicted Grades are not the same as Centre Assessed Grades. Despite what has been reported in the media, teacher predictions were not used to award exam results this summer and students should not expect to receive exactly these predictions in the summer of 2021 if their exams were to be cancelled.

Please can I remind students that the deadline for submitting applications for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine is Monday 14th September. The deadline for all other courses and universities is Friday 16th October. Due to the numbers of applications processed (250+), it is vital that these deadlines are met so that each application receives the individual attention required.

Yours sincerely

M Birtchnell
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form