

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This letter should reach you with a copy of your student's target grades for Level 3 courses (A Levels and equivalent Applied courses), along with confirmation of Assessment and Effort Grades covering the period from September to January.

### Target Grades

We set targets in the Sixth Form that are based on national data-sets, linking GCSE performance to subsequent grades achieved in A Level and Applied General qualifications. Calculations use each student's average GCSE points and the DfE Level 3 Value-Added (L3VA) estimates to produce individual subject targets. The target grades are aspirational: we encourage our students to be amongst the top 20% of attainers for their prior attainment nationally as many of our students achieve at this level. A Level courses will have targets in the form of A\*- E and Applied courses will be D\* (Distinction\*), D (Distinction), M (Merit) and P (Pass). There will be no 'split' grades such as A/B. Students will also be informed of their target grades and subject teachers and Senior Tutors will continue to monitor performance throughout their courses.

### Assessment and Effort Grades

These are the grades submitted by subject teachers referring to assessments completed during December and January based on the work from the Autumn Term, which will have been discussed at the recent Parents' Evening. Clearly this is an early stage in their courses and in most cases we would not expect students to be achieving the same marks after one term as they will later in their courses when they have built up and consolidated their skills and understanding. There will of course be many opportunities for students to improve their grades: further assessed work will be completed during the year including end-of-year exams and Predicted Grades for university applications are not submitted until late in September. These will take into consideration all work completed in Year 12, over the summer and at the start of Year 13 and will provide an indication of potential results which can support applications to university, FE or employment.

### Summer 2021 Grades for one-year qualifications


Students working towards Level 3 Applied General, Core and AS Maths qualifications will be aware that, in the absence of public examinations this summer, grades will be submitted by centres to confirm completion of these one-year qualifications. We are awaiting further details from the Exam Boards but the guidance released by the government's regulator last week states that these grades will be based on evidence from assessed work up until June 2021. The grades submitted will be subject to rigorous internal and external quality assurance procedures and results will be published on 10 August. For the Applied General subjects, these overall grades will offer a stand-alone grade for next year's applications but will also serve as part of the two-year qualification to be completed at the end of Year 13. We will inform you of further developments in this year's grading process in due course.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back into school: whilst coronavirus restrictions remain in place, we hope that the resumption of face-to-face lessons and the opportunity for students to be amongst their peers will provide a positive boost for all students at this stage of their courses.

Yours faithfully



C I Kidman  
Director of Sixth Form, St Aidan's



J Sharpe  
Director of Sixth Form, St John Fisher

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