

May 2023

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). We apologise for the delay in releasing these grades but this is a consequence of national data being made available much later than normal.

We set individual subject targets which at A Level are created in conjunction with an organisation named Fisher Family Trust (FFT). FFT produces targets by using the national data-set of GCSE results alongside student background information. It has access to students' GCSE results and bases calculations on a capped point score (CPS) system, using each student's best 8 GCSE results which are believed to give the most accurate correlation to outcomes at A Level. The FFT algorithm matches this student-level profiling to historical attainment of similar students within each subject.

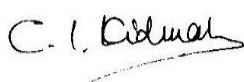
For Applied courses, FFT does not produce targets due to the lack of data on these new courses so we are using a system known as ALPS which uses similar processes but bases its calculations on all GCSE results and on data from the Applied courses which preceded the current specifications.

The target grades we are using are aspirational and pitch our attainment in the top 5% nationally. 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.

As these target grades are based on GCSE results that were higher in 2022 nationally than before the pandemic, they should be viewed with some caution. Target grades are less robust than pre-pandemic when GCSE outcomes could be matched to A Level-outcomes based on a number of years not affected by Covid.

Target grades are not the same as projected grades which are based on student's actual performance in their Sixth form courses. Target grades are also not used to decide UCAS predicted grades students will receive in September.

Yours faithfully



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



J Sharpe
Director of Sixth Form, St John Fisher