

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

During these first few weeks of the academic year, we have been working hard to look at how we can improve the system of reporting on your daughter's academic performance and of assessing her current work, as she either enters the Sixth Form or heads towards her A2 exams. This discussion has been undertaken with feedback from both parents and girls taken into consideration and with respect to the likely changes in and increasing rigour of the public examination system in the immediate future and over the next few years.

We also believe that focusing in on this area will significantly enhance your daughter's understanding of what she can achieve and encourage her to aim even higher so that she gains the best results possible in her A Levels. Such detailed observation is not only invaluable to our staff but will also inform you and help your daughter to understand how to make further progress.

Your daughter has recently been assessed and her work and results have been analysed to provide:

- 1) The grades that your daughter is capable of achieving based on her ability.
- 2) The grade that your daughter is working at now based on a rigorous A Level assessment.
- 3) The effort that your daughter is putting into her classwork and lessons.

Within this interim report, therefore, you now have three key pieces of information:

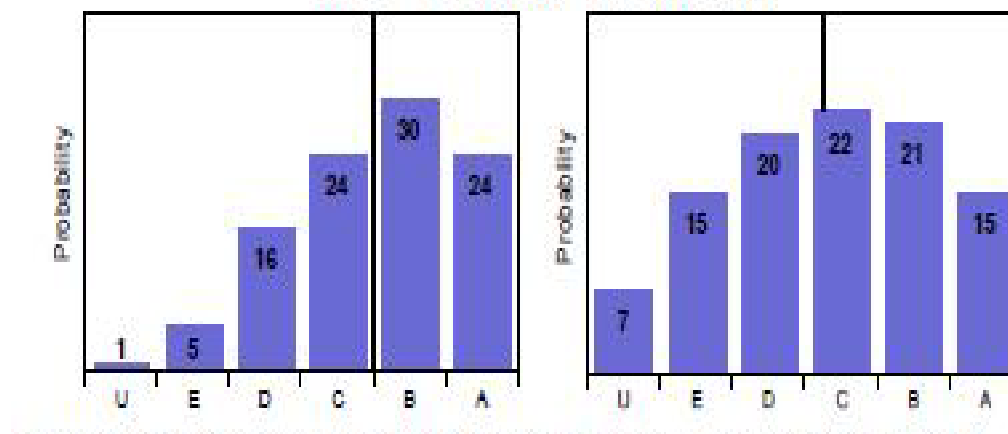
1. Firstly, please find the individualised '**Chances Graphs**' for your daughter across the subjects. This is based on a test that your daughter took at the start of her A Level course together with the results of her GCSE grades. The results of these are then nationally standardised across hundreds of independent schools across the country and thousands of pupils. This objective data gives your daughter a percentage probability of the A Level grade. These grades are not predictions but individual indicators of your daughter's prior ability based on a statistical test as well as her performance at GCSE; they provide us and your daughter with a starting point. It is important to note that in the achievement of the final award at A Level, prior attainment is only one factor. Other influences such as perseverance, practice, health and work ethic are all central to attainment so it is important to take the whole picture, not just the graphs provided.

Sample Graphs

Thus, in the Biology graph shown below the grade probabilities from GCSE are in the grid on the left and the probabilities calculated from the ALIS test on the right. Thus this girl has a 30% chance of getting a B grade, 24% chance of gaining an A grade and 24% chance of gaining the C grade as calculated from her GCSE grade. From the ALIS test, however, she has a 15% chance of getting an A grade, a 21% chance of getting the B grade and a 22% chance of getting the C.

The smaller black line between the larger columns shows the *mean grade* for that student. So, in the chart on the left, the girl has a 30% probability of gaining a B grade with a 24% chance that she will get higher and a 46% chance that she may get lower than a B. The same is true of the data shown in chart 2 except that this is taken from the ALIS test, not from the GCSE grade obtained.

GCSE - A2 Biology - Baseline Test



2. **The current Attainment Grade:** This is the grade that your daughter gained in her most recent classroom assessment. This allows all of us, staff, girls and parents, to understand exactly the current level of achievement. This is based on a task which is directly relevant to her A Level examination so will give an insight into her performance at exam level. Where low, this will be a benchmark from which your daughter can grow; if high, a sign that she will continue to be pushed to extend even further.
3. **The Effort Grade:** This is a grade which represents the effort that your daughter has made across the term in preps and classwork.

Where the Attainment Grade is low, but the Effort Grade is high, it may be that your daughter needs to focus on examination technique; where the Attainment Grade is high, but the Effort Grade is low, this is a sign that your daughter may be coasting. Whatever the questions raised at this early stage, interventions will be put in place. These Attainment and Effort Grades will be tracked across the course and will be shared with you through the half termly report.

On Friday morning, your daughter will be talked through the reports she will be bringing home by her tutors to ensure she understands the data and how to start to make it work to her advantage with our on-going support. This information will then be coming home with your daughter at half term for you both to share and discuss.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further either by email or in person, please do contact Mrs Furniss-Roe on mfurnissroe@heathfieldschool.net

Thank you and have a lovely half term with your daughter

With best wishes

Jo Heywood
Headmistress