

The Hemel Hempstead School

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Headteacher: Neil Hassell BEng (Hons) NPQH FCCT

Letter 23

13th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

A Level Target Grades

As we approach the end of the first half term, please find attached a copy of your son/daughter's Key Stage 5 target grades.

We use the A Level Performance System (ALPS) to provide these target grades for all students in Key Stage 5. ALPS call them the Minimum Expected Grade. These grades are calculated based upon their performance at GCSE level (average point score) and are specific to each individual subject chosen at A Level. The ALPS system uses a national database used by over 1,400 schools against which to base a student's target. The grades give us a benchmark to represent the level that a student with your son/daughter's attainment at GCSE could be expected to be able to attain at A Level. Following the cancellation of this summer's GCSE examinations and the adoption of the Centre Assessed Grades, ALPS have maintained their approach of using national data sets to arrive at their target grades based on the top performing 25% of cohorts.

These target grades that we set are realistic but aspirational with the intention of stretching our able cohort of students. They are based on the top 25% of students nationally and Mr Bryson will be explaining this to students during their remote Year assembly shortly. Our students are still in the early stages of linear two year A Levels and it is not to be expected that their Most Plausible Grades on their first report will match their target grade, yet. We are looking to see progression towards their target grade and beyond over the duration of a two year course.

Target grades are not shared with universities or other institutions when students begin their university or post-16 applications.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students that consistent hard work is vital from the start of Year 12 if students are to achieve their target grades and beyond and our Study Skills programme is designed to help students develop the skills they will need as a Sixth Form student to maximise their independent study time.

We would value your support in discussing the grades with your son/daughter when they receive them. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via ParentMail at school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eleanor Bevan'.

Miss E Bevan
Assistant Headteacher