



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Re: Initial Beyond 18 Grades

Wednesday 14th July 2021

Dear parent(s) and carer(s)

I am writing to inform you that you are now able to view the 'initial' Beyond 18 grades for your son/daughter. These are now available to view as a 'report' on their Go 4 Schools page.

What are initial Beyond 18 grades?

Initial Beyond 18 grades are an early and initial estimate, of what your son/daughter's teachers feel may be the outcome of their A Level result next summer. Their main purpose is to provide an all-important steer to your son/daughter as they further develop their 'Beyond 18' plans for life after Coopers' Coborn. Many students wish to complete extensive research on university courses and school-leaver programmes and it is important that they end the academic year with an initial indication of outcomes from their subject staff to inform their planning.

Please note these grades are subject to change and are only a 'starting point' for discussion in the Autumn Term – they are not the final grades that will be sent off to universities and employers. We would anticipate changes to be made to many of the predicted grades in September and October.

Please also note that there will be a small 'b' letter after each initial predicted grade – please ignore this – it is a default on the system that we are unable to change. The key letter is the first main letter.

How will my son/daughter receive their initial predicted grades?

Academic subject staff have taken time in lessons to chat individually to students and explain the initial predicted grade they have arrived at and the logic behind this process. This has taken place over the last 5 days.

How are initial predicted grades calculated?

Initial predicted grades are based on an objective assessment of your son/daughter's progress in each subject since they joined the 6th form. Your son/daughter's teachers spent a significant amount of time in June, making a holistic judgment about their progress, following the marking of internal examinations. It has obviously been very difficult for colleagues having not seen your son/daughter for extended periods of time this year, but they will have considered their interactions over a 9-month period, considering: class work, homework, results on key assessments and understanding shown in lessons. I wanted to reassure you that we fully understand the past 15 months have been challenging for students with a wide range of differing individual experiences, as such, all grades are considered on an individual basis.



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What should my son/daughter do if they are not happy with these initial predicted grades?

The most important point to reiterate, is that these grades are 'initial' and operate as a starting point for discussion with subject staff in the new academic year. They are unlikely to be the final grades that will be sent off to universities and employers, in many cases.

Due to the emotive nature of these grades, I kindly request that students/parents do not engage in lengthy communications with my colleagues about their predicted grades in the final week of the academic year, but instead wait until September. It is absolutely critical that students have a fair process at their disposal to work with my colleagues in order to discuss changes to the initial predicted grades – and this cannot operate sensitively and appropriately over email in the summer holidays.

In September, students will be given the opportunity, if required, to complete assessed work by subject staff in examination conditions. If a student consistently shows work at a higher level, then colleagues, will of course reflect on the initial grades that have been submitted. This is particularly important for those students who may be working towards a UCAS deadline of 15th October (Oxbridge applicants, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applicants). Therefore, if your son/daughter is disappointed by these initial grades, then it is important that they respond positively and may wish to consider additional work over the summer holiday.

You have already received a letter from us explaining our 'Virtual Meet the Tutor Event' which takes place throughout next week. This will be your opportunity to chat to a member of staff at the School (either your son/daughter's Form Tutor, or member of the 6th Form Pastoral Team) to discuss their Beyond 18 plans in light of these initial Beyond 18 grades.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Bell
Deputy Headteacher

Mr J Teece
Head of Year 12