



Policy for progression from St Laurence School Year 12 to Year 13

In light of recent DfE information relating to students progressing from Year 12 into 13 we must make it clear that we are committed to ensuring that, as far as we possibly can, all students who begin an A level programme at St Laurence School complete it successfully. The advice we give students both pre-Sixth Form and during Sixth Form, including at the end of Year 12 is based on securing the best educational outcomes for each student, not school performance. We give advice and guidance about the best possible progression route for a student, thus enabling them to achieve at the very best level they can before moving into their post-18 studies or employment.

Progression from Year 12 to Year 13 is not automatic. Students need to meet specific criteria in order to proceed to Year 13. This is because the content for A Levels is progressive and Year 13 content is significantly more demanding than Year 12, therefore, it is unrealistic for anyone to imagine they will cope with the tougher material if they have not met the required level/standard during their first year of study. However, we remain flexible and will judge cases on their own individual merits. Parents / carers will be kept informed at all times, for example at each reporting cycle.

Across the year group, Year 12 students will be sitting internal summer examinations for their A level subjects. For the purposes of progression, results of these assessments will be used. As explained below:

Students are normally expected to be following three subjects in Year 13. Only the exam board criteria departments have for assessing students' work relate to the expected level of achievement at the end of the course. Given the two year nature of the new courses, it is reasonable to expect some students to improve over the course of Year 13. For internal reporting, therefore, students will receive an examination grade AND a grade that is likely to be the UCAS predicted grade. In many cases, the second will be higher. However, the examination grade will be taken into consideration when making the UCAS predicted grade, so internal examinations are important.

It is the likely UCAS grade that will be used in decisions relating to progression. Students predicted a likely UCAS grade of a U will be asked to take another internal examination in the first week of September if they wish to progress to Year 13. If a second U grade is achieved, the student will not have demonstrated that they have the capacity to cope with the Year 13 content. At this stage they will be advised to consider an alternative pathway in discussion with the Director of Sixth Form, subject teachers and parents / carers.

In terms of progression, we will consider a number of factors, among them:

- The target grades for that student (which are based on prior attainment at GCSE);
- Attainment in other subjects in Year 12;
- The student's approach during the Year 12 course (attendance, punctuality of work submission, effort, engagement in class, etc);
- Previous meetings with parents that have taken place during Year 12
- Any other mitigating circumstances that may have occurred such as long term illness.

As a result, comparisons cannot be drawn between students, even if they achieve the same grade in a particular subject. Finally, only in exceptional circumstances and dependant on availability of spaces on courses after all the applicants for that year have been placed will we consider allowing students to repeat Year 12 courses.

W Penny
Director of Sixth Form

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