



Hampstead School

Sixth Form

Parents Information Booklet

February 2024





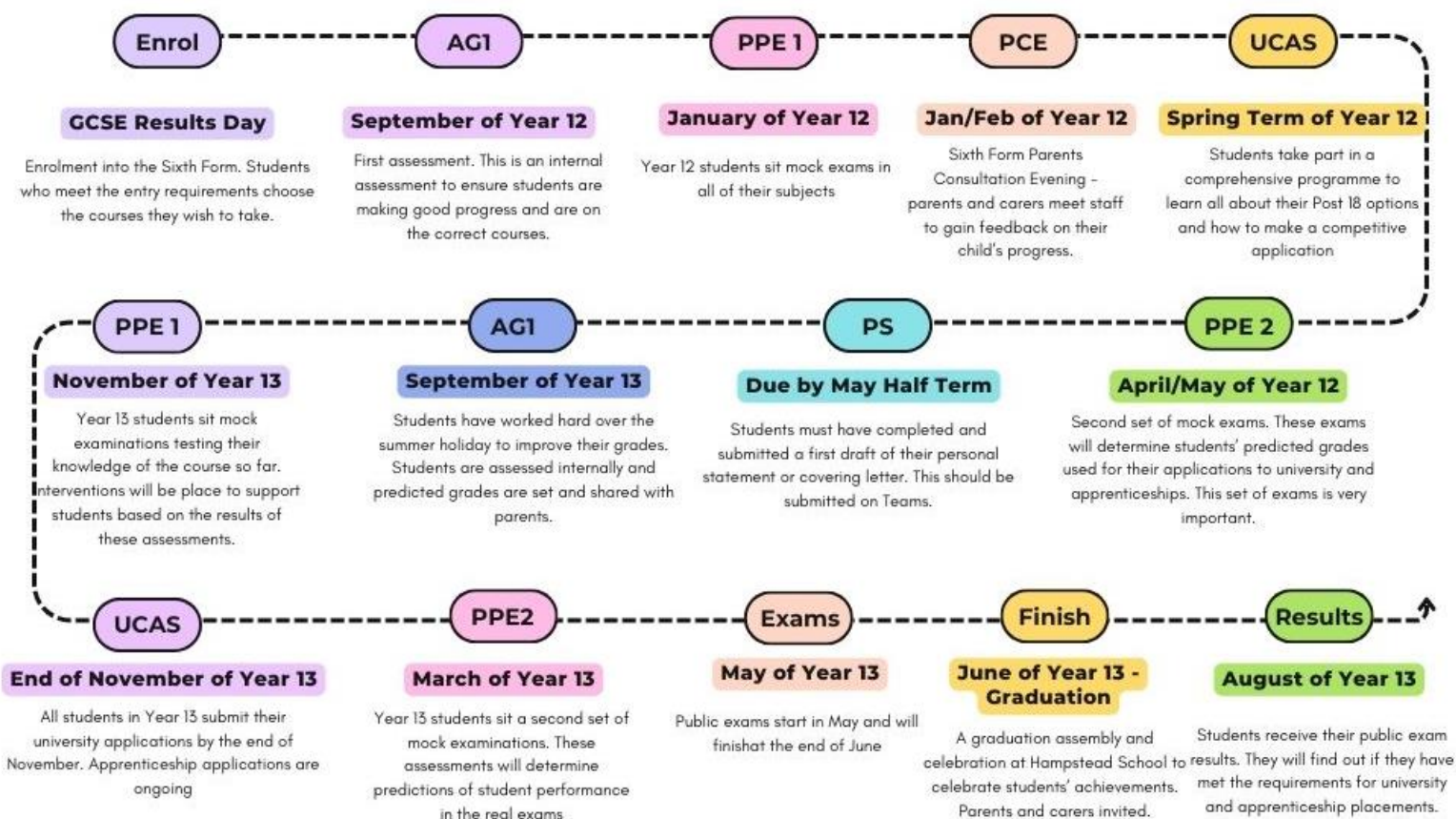
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Hampstead School Sixth Form Timeline





Year 12:

Year 12 is a very important year. Students will manage the transition from GCSE study to Sixth Form. During this year, students must start to make important decisions about their Post 18 pathway. Students will make applications to university and apprenticeships from October in Year 13, therefore, they must spend the Summer Term of Year 12 working hard to create a competitive application so that they can progress to their chosen destination.

We have organised the Applications Programme in Year 12 to support students to make informed decisions about their Post 18 pathway.

Year 13:

In Year 13, students will continue to work on their applications. All students must submit their application by the end of November. During November, they will also have another set of PPEs (mock exams). These exams are very important as they provide an indication of how a student will perform in their public exams in the summer term. Students in Year 13 will sit further PPEs in March. This is the another opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress before their public exams in the summer term.

Please see the timeline below to give you an understanding of key dates within this process.

Information Relating to Expected Progress:

- Students will complete two series of Pre-Public Examinations (PPE) per academic year.
- For Year 12 these will be in January and May; for Year 13 these will be in November and March.
- These are internally moderated and graded using the A-level/BTEC Level 3 grading criteria. The assessments have been designed to enable students to demonstrate the relevant skills and knowledge of the course synoptically and for a grade to be awarded. It is important to understand this is a reflection of smaller isolated topics for the course thus far and does not automatically equate to a final A-level grade.
- If students in Year 12 achieve a C grade in their first PPE, they will be expected to achieve a B grade in the second PPE in Year 12. It is therefore likely that they will be predicted an A in Year 13, if they continue on this trajectory.
- Students typically achieve lower grades in the first PPE in Year 12. We expect students to make good progress and achieve higher grades in the second PPE in Year 12.
- The PPE windows and grades given are to help provide a clear picture of the progress the student has made and enables teachers to assess where students are not making the expected progress for a given subject. This allows teachers to implement appropriate intervention to support students to make improvements.



- Where students significantly underperform, the Sixth Form Team will contact parents and carers and will arrange a meeting to discuss strategies to support student progress, including internal and external interventions.

Year 12 – Applications Programme 2024

Date	Activity
26 th January 2024	Choosing the right course
9 th February 2024	Apprenticeships
1 st March 2024	Student Finance and Budgeting
15 th March 2024	Personal Statements
22 nd March 2024	Student Experience



Hampstead School Predicted Grades Policy 2023 - 24

What are Predicted Grades?

When a student applies to university through UCAS, the school is asked to give predicted grades in order that universities are able to establish the suitability of the student to their chosen courses.

1. When do students get their predicted grades?

Tutors will release predicted grades to students at the end of September. This ensures that all students, including early-entry applicants (those applying to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary) have sufficient time to choose their courses appropriately. Students and families will have an indication of a student's progress through the assessment reports shared throughout Year 12 and through discussions at the Year 12 progression meetings in June.

2. How are predicted grades decided?

It is essential that we predict grades that we feel are a true reflection of each student's ability and potential. We adopt an honest and evidence-based approach, whereby attainment and progress in Year 12 is the main indicator of future performance. The teacher or teachers of each subject decide the predicted grades for their students, as they know their own students best. They may consider some or all of the following factors when making their decision:

- Results of Year 12 assessments or mock examinations
- Grades awarded in progress reports
- General attitude to learning and commitment (as evidenced by contributions made in class, meeting deadlines, attendance and punctuality)
- Performance in homework assignments
- GCSE results
- The student's drive and passion for the subject (as evidenced by wider reading, involvement in extra-curricular activities around the subject etc.)
- Professional judgement and experience of making UCAS predictions

For example, a student who consistently achieves C grades throughout Year 12 in assessments and homework assignments in a particular subject may be awarded a predicted grade of a C, or a B if they have an excellent work ethic and attitude to learning and have shown evidence of consistent progress. It is less likely, however, that such a student would be predicted an A grade, as the evidence would not necessarily support such a prediction. Teachers will not base their predictions on a student's wishes, what the student needs to get into a particular course, or on students' promises that they will 'work harder this year'. While this affirmation is admirable, it is the case that Year 13 students must work much harder than they did in Year 12 simply to maintain their grades due to the increased difficulty of final year content.



2. Over-inflated predictions:

It is understandable that students and parents may want teachers to over-predict A Level grades, in order that the student may access a particular University course.

However, we have a professional and moral responsibility to ensure that the student has realistic expectations with regard to their likely grades, whilst still remaining motivated and aspirational. The potential consequences of over-predicting A-Level grades can be outlined as follows:

- Students find themselves without a University place when they receive their results, as they achieved what teachers originally predicted, but not the higher grades that were requested. The student must go through the Clearing process, which can often result in a student choosing a course that has lower entry requirements than what they actually achieved.
- Future Hampstead School students are affected, as the school's reputation for accurate predictions is diminished. University admission tutors build a knowledge of the accuracy of a particular school's predictions. Therefore, if the school becomes known for over-predicting, future applications may be put at a disadvantage, as the school's predicted grades will be brought into question.
- Teachers are asked to go against their professional judgement and honest opinion, which is not moral, nor is it fair to other students who are given an accurate prediction which may be lower than they would like.

4. Appeals

It may be the case that some students feel that a predicted grade they have been given is not a true reflection of their ability or what they are likely to achieve at the end of Year 13. If a student is in this position, then they may ask for the grade to be increased by providing a letter of appeal to the Head of Year 13. This should outline the reasons why they think the predicted grade is not a fair assessment of what they might achieve, as well as a summary of the evidence that supports their view that a higher prediction is warranted.

Appropriate evidence may include:

- Grades from assessments that they have completed in class and for homework
- Grades from mock examinations
- Evidence of their drive and passion for the subject shown through wider reading, commitment to extra-curricular activities, attendance at lectures and subject-related events
- Excellent attendance and punctuality records

The Head of Year 13 will then consult the subject teacher or teachers, following which a final decision will be made as to whether or not the grade should be increased. Please note that the final decision will rest with the Head of Year 13.

Please note: All teachers will be asked to review the predicted grades after the Year 13 PPEs at the beginning of November 2023. They will then make necessary adjustments, where appropriate.



Any student who would like to appeal their predicted grade should speak to their teacher ahead of the appeal deadlines (listed below) to ask what they need to evidence and what opportunities they need to take part in.

Appeal Deadlines: There will be two cycles of appeal deadlines. One is before the early entry deadline (16th October) and the second is before the school deadline (1st December).

Appeal Deadline 1: Friday 4th October

Appeal Deadline 2: Friday 24th November

Appeals entered after these dates will not be considered. Students must ensure that they submit their appeal letters to the Head of Year 13 in good time.

5. What happens next?

Teachers will input their predicted grades into our internal database along with their comments for the student's UCAS reference at the end of September.

This information is passed along to the student's tutor, who will then put the grades onto the student's UCAS application, along with their completed reference.

The application is then checked by the Head of Year 13 or the Head of Sixth Form, before finally being sent to UCAS.

Key Dates:

Please be aware of the following key dates:

- **Tuesday 15th October 2024**– early entry deadline. All students who are applying to Oxford and Cambridge or to medicine, dentistry or veterinary courses need to submit their applications by 6pm on this date.
- **Friday 29th November 2024** – school deadline for submitting UCAS applications. All students who want to apply to university must have submitted their application by this time.



Student Finance 2024 - 25

Student Finance is a service that the UK government provides to support students with the cost of university.

Eligibility

You will be eligible to apply for full support from Student Finance if you have:

- you're a UK national or Irish citizen or have 'settled status' (no restrictions on how long you can stay)
- you normally live in England
- you've been living in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for 3 years in a row before the first day of the first academic year of your course (apart from temporary absences such as holidays)

There are other categories where you can be eligible for full support on Student Finance, such as refugee status. To find a full list please follow the link here -

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies>

Types of Loans

There are two types of loans that students can apply for, these are Maintenance Loans and Tuition Loans

Maintenance Loan

This is a loan that you are given to help you live at university; it should go towards normal living costs such as rent, bills, food and travel.

This loan is paid directly to the student in three instalments one in September, one in January and one in April. This means that students will have to budget the amount of money they are given at these points for it to last them until the next instalment.

Every student is eligible for a basic amount of £3698, but this differs depending on circumstances. The criteria that this changes under is whether you are living at home, studying in London and household income. In 2024, it has a maximum amount of £13,022, which was for a student who was living away from home, studying in London and from a household whose income is less than £25,000.

You can find more information on Maintenance Loans here -

<https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/maintenance-loans.html>

Tuition Loan

This loan is used to pay for the fees that universities charge to study their courses.

This loan is paid directly to the university and will be paid in three instalments September, one in January and one in April.



This loan is not means tested and everyone is entitled to the full amount of their course, usually £9,250.

Scholarships, Grants and Bursaries

Scholarships, Grants and Bursaries are money that universities give away to students to support them with the costs of studying. These can come in a variety of forms such as; for achievement as A-Levels, abilities in sports or music or based on household income. The majority of students do not apply for these, and therefore this money remains unspent.

It is worth checking universities for the types of scholarships, grants and bursaries they offer. Here is one example of a university and their page on this topics -

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/scholarships/>

These will need to be applied for directly to the university, and researched for by students independently. They can come and speak to their tutor or head of year at any point for advice on this topic.

Please find more information here - <https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/student-grants-bursaries-scholarships.html>

Applying for Student Finance

Students can start applying for Student Finance from the end of March and in order to be guaranteed funding by the start of their course need to apply by **31st May**.

Students will need to complete a form and an application by going to the following website - <https://logon.slc.co.uk/welcome/secured/login? locale=en GB>

Students will need to create an account through the website and supply them with all of the information needed. The application usually takes between 30 minutes and an hour.

If a student is applying for a means tested maintenance loan, their parents/carers will need to supply evidence of their earnings via forms such as P60 or letters from their local authority around benefit amounts. Information about that can be found here -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-students-parents-and-partners-providing-evidence-to-support-a-student-finance-application>

Repaying the Student Loan

Students will be paying their loans back on the Plan 5 scheme. Students will start repaying their student loan the April after they graduate as long as they are earning over £25,000 a year.

Any money earned over this amount will start repayments on at a rate of 9%, so if someone was earning £30,000 they would be paying back £38 per month. This comes straight out of your payslip, so students will never have to pay this charge directly to the student loan company.



Any amount that is not paid back after 40 years of graduating will be written off and will not have to be paid back.

A student loan has no impact on a person's credit score, and ability to take out loans or finance in the student, but may be figured into an affordability check. This is just ensure that they will be able to afford all payments they have to each month.

Students who decided to move abroad after university, will have to still pay back their student loan, this is usually paid in one lump sum annually rather than monthly.

More information about student loan repayment can be found here -

<https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/student-loan-repayments.html#plan5>