



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

## Year 12 Target Grades

Your child is about to learn their target grades for their 6th form courses, and I wanted to get in touch to explain the context behind these grades.

Some of you may have questions about how the target grades are calculated. The DfE uses a formula that considers many variables including the average point score and GCSE grades achieved in English and maths. Points are banded into groups and then linked to potential grades. Some students may be at the very top of the target band - close to the next higher grade which might be within their reach, and others may have just slipped into the band, so the target grade may seem very high to them. This grade calculation system is used by all consortium schools. In all cases targets are an aim and a guide. No one is limited to or restricted by their grade, and all students are taught and able to achieve the best grades they are capable of.

Aspirational target grades at 6th form level are the goal the students should aim to try and achieve by the end of their course. It is not possible for them to consistently achieve these at this stage in their learning, as they are developing the skills, knowledge and understanding they will need when they undertake the exams in May 2024. It is unlikely that students will achieve these highly aspirational targets until towards the very end of their courses and it is important to see the journey towards them as being incremental, with periods of acceleration and consolidation. It is perhaps best to think of these aspirational targets as being similar to the aim to achieve a personal best in a sporting event. Much training, dedication and coaching is needed for the achievement of such a goal to be possible, and we would not expect the athlete to achieve their highest records or results during the months before the olympic games themselves.

Please be as encouraging and supportive as always if your child receives results that are not yet at this target grade level. Teachers will give regular advice on how to improve through feedback, and students should take careful note of these recommendations throughout their course. The target grade itself is an end goal to work towards rather than something to be measured against at all stages of their course.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Langston  
**Assistant Headteacher**

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