REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL VIETNAM

Predicted Grades Policy

Context

RGSV prepares students for various post-18 opportunities, including further study in Higher Education (universities & colleges in Vietnam and abroad), apprenticeships, employment, and vocational training. For some of these opportunities, concerning university & college applications, RGSV is required to provide predictions of the grades that a student is expected to earn in each subject in the IB Diploma Programme, and maybe IGCSE levels.

Please note that we will use the term 'Predicted Grade' to encompass a predicted, estimated, projected, or anticipated grade for the purposes of this document.

Timing

University Predicted Grades: Applications to universities around the world are usually accompanied by Predicted Grades. The grades are submitted along with the application by the stated deadlines. Following long-standing practice, we submit all applications before the winter holiday as we believe it is in the students' interests to submit them during the Autumn Term.

IB Diploma Predicted Grades: These are given by DP staff to the DP Coordinator by 1st April each year in order to be sent to the IBO for their 20th April deadline.

RGSV Predicted Grades:
At RGSV Predicted grades are requested during the following times and purposes:

June of DP1 (Grade 11):
Teachers and students share Predicted Grades at this time. Students and teachers assess where they think their efforts and work are leading in terms of Predicted Grades. The student and teacher meet to discuss the similarities or differences between both grades. The discussion will include explanations as to how they have come to the grade. The discussion will end with goal setting to help students assess what they need to do to begin preparation for their external May examinations and to either keep or improve the prediction. (Link to form to be used)

October of DP2 (Grade 12)
October Predicted Grades will be requested from teachers *only* for students who are applying to UK Oxbridge programs and for certain universities' courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Or in the case where a university specifically requires or requests Predicted Grades for Early Decision or Early Action. Teachers will be asked to review if the June Predicted Grade needs to be changed. If the Predicted Grade stays the same or increases, the student will not be informed. If a change lowers the Predicted Grade, the University Counsellor will inform the student.

December of DP2 (Grade 12)
December Predicted Grades are used for regular decision processes around the world, and are shared only if the application process or universities require the information. Students and parents will receive the Predicted Grades within two weeks of teachers assigning them.

April of DP2 (Grade 12)
April Predicted Grades are required to be shared and uploaded with the IB and are only for externally required processes. The IB uses these grades in cases when final examination grades cannot be assessed in unusual examination circumstances (such as COVID-19) or if examinations are lost while being sent to the IB. Students do not usually receive information about the April predictions, unless the DPC and UC see a large enough point discrepancy from the December Predicted Grade that could impact university

applications. In that case, they will inform students and parents to plan for adjustments in university application processes.

Predicted Grades and the Application Process

Many universities advertise the typical offer grades for their courses on their web pages. Requirements are expressed in terms of IB points either in a range (e.g. 38-40 IB points) or in single points.

IB Predicted Grades are only one element in the selection process. Universities & colleges weigh several factors, and there is no single formula for this. Universities & colleges consider Predicted Grades, historical performance in public examinations, the pupil's Personal Statement/Essay, the school's Reference/Recommendation, and in some areas, such as Medicine, relevant work experience. As students prepare University applications for a variety of countries and University programmes, they will work together with the RGSV University Counsellor to determine the most appropriate application strategy.

Considerations Regarding Predicting Grades

Both universities and RGSV appreciate the fact that predictions are estimates and cannot be 100% reliable, although experience shows a good correlation between teachers' predictions and eventual outcomes. A temptation to 'inflate' Predicted Grades has led to poorer correlation for many schools, in turn undermining the credibility of their estimates. In common with other leading schools RGSV does not collude in the practice of 'grade inflation'. This policy follows the guidance of the UK Department for Education, whose spokesperson (reported in The Independent, 4th February 2016) said:

> "We trust teachers to act in the best interests of their students by giving fair predicted … grades that accurately reflect their ability. Distorting grades would be unfair on the pupils involved and could result in universities having to artificially inflate their entrance requirements, rendering it pointless in the long run."

***RGSV's** approach is based on the following principles:*
- Teachers have the students' best interests at heart, and try to support their applications so that they make a successful transition to higher education.
- Teachers draw on a wealth of professional judgement and experience. They consider the following factors:
  - school reports
  - previous public examination performance
  - performance under test conditions in school
  - data drawn from tracking tests and termly assessments
  - classroom performance and engagement with the subject
  - comparative performance against the standards achieved by previous students on the course
  - any special factors which may have caused temporary under-performance.
- Teachers do not base predictions on what a student would like to achieve in order to get into a particular University or course. Nor do they predict on the basis of a student's promise to work harder in order to achieve it. This does the student no service, as university offers based on unrealistic grades are not likely to be met, and a University choice will have been wasted.

RGSV is confident that the grades we predict are an honest assessment of the student's most likely achievement, based on evidence and professional judgement. Please note that Pamoja-taught subjects and Grade Predictions follow the procedures set out by Pamoja Education.

Release of Predicted Grades

Predicted grades are released to students in the following ways:

Predicted Grade Issue	Release to students	By whom	Further communication
June of DP1	Two days after teacher and student entry	RGSV Secondary Office staff on behalf of the DPCs	Teachers and students meet to reflect on and discuss the predictions
October of DP2	Not released to students unless the University Counsellor decides to share the grades with students.	Not released	Communication initiated by the University Counsellor if needed.
December of DP2	One week after teacher entry	University Counsellor	Students may speak to teachers regarding grades with the purpose to improve learning, not to appeal a change
April	Not released to students unless the predicted grade from Dec to Oct has changed by two points	University Counsellor and DPC	Students should make appointments with the UC to reassess university applications

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