Contextual Statement

The Cheadle College (Centre no.10238) and Marple Sixth Form College (Centre no. 14829).

The Cheadle College is an open access college of some 800 students of whom 80% study advanced level courses. The College serves the South and West areas of Stockport, including the less affluent parts of the borough, and also draws large numbers of students from other surrounding areas.

Marple Sixth Form College is an open access college of some 700 students of whom 90% study advanced level courses. The College serves the South and East areas of Stockport, including the less affluent parts of the borough, and also draws large numbers of students from other surrounding areas.

A level students starting in September 2018 were required to study 3 A Level subjects in the main. A small proportion of students with high average GCSE points scores (APS of 7 or above) studied four subjects if they wished. Our view was that the vast majority of our students applying to university are given offers based on three full A levels, and as a consequence should concentrate their efforts on these subjects without the risk of dilution of effort across 4.

Our motto from the outset was 'three for your degree'. For many of the students who had high APS scores, but who did not wish to study a fourth subject in year 12, the Extended Project Qualification was a good substitute, providing stretch and challenge, as well as being valued by universities.

Our method of predicting grades takes into account the result of the internal 'UCAS Exam' taken in the summer term of Year 12 , academic performance over the year in 6 key assessments (formative assessments mirroring examination material), and also the student's target grade in relation to their GCSE average points score. As ever, decisions will be arrived at on a case by case basis.

The college is happy to be contacted by HEPs if there is a marked discrepancy between GCSE performance and the predicted grade, and every effort will be made to explain any such discrepancy in the main body of the reference.