



# Predicted Grades

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<b>James Thomas</b>	<b>March 2022</b>	<b>March 2024</b>

The practice in the majority of schools is to predict GCSE grades and set young people targets.

Unless young people are driven to achieve well and the grades are 5 or equivalent, this practice can be demotivating.

It is our belief that in a world where only Cs and 5s and above are seen as the only grades worthwhile young people will believe it pointless to try if their predicted grades are to achieve less. They often talk of lower grades as a 'fail'. The media promulgate this view. University is seen as the only worthwhile future and failure to achieve at this level is seen to lead inevitably to a lesser future.

The young people attending CE have often experienced trauma and/or are part of a dysfunctional family, some are in care. Their ability to function in all aspects of life can be hampered by crisis. The death of a parent or close relative, moving care placement or a disclosure can all result in a need for extra, very specific support to continue their learning. It can also be very damaging to self-esteem and being told that they are not on target can bring additional unnecessary stress to young people and parents/carers.

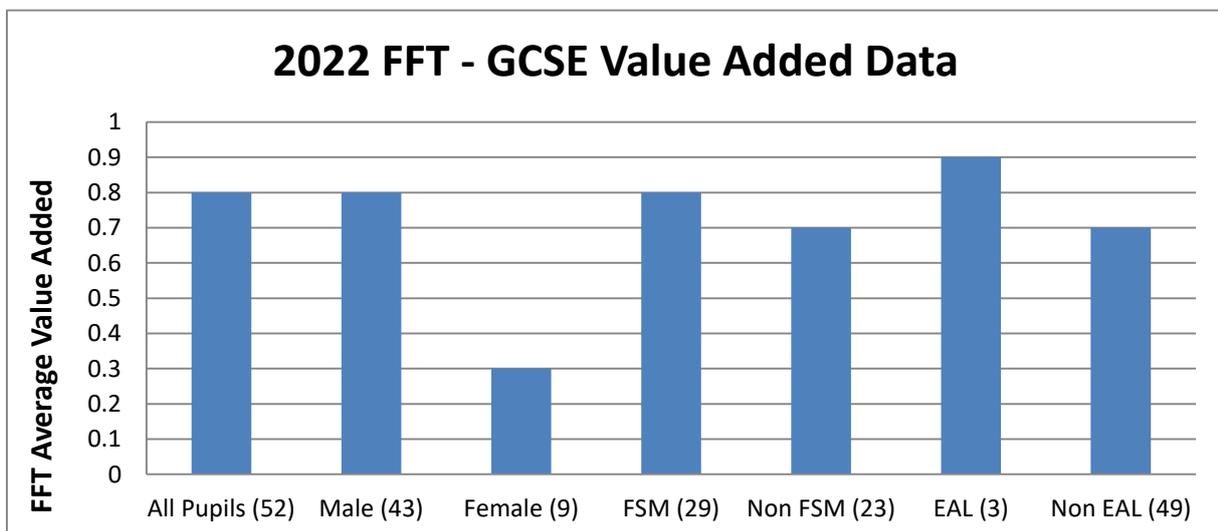
For many of our young people their confidence in their own ability has to be repaired and rebuilt (if it ever existed). We tell them they can always achieve if they work. How well they achieve will be influenced by prior knowledge and any interruptions to their education; be they social or emotional. Our job is to teach, persuade, cajole and support them to ensure they do achieve.

FFT data suggests that this is a methodology that works at CE Academy. Many young people achieve better than expected. They are not hampered by poor expectations of themselves. We have removed the opportunity for a self-fulfilling prophecy whatever grade that may be. We believe this is also a method that supports good teaching and learning in that teachers also do not have pre-conceived expectations of young people.

Many schools are unhappy that CE is not prepared to give predicted grades. Some want to tell parents. This would inevitably result in the information being passed to young people thus compromising the whole basis on which we work.

This is a method that works. As previously stated we have the evidence for it in FFT data. We therefore hope that schools will respect this way of working and contribute to its success.

Presumably we all want to work towards the best outcomes for the young person even if this does mean abandoning a data driven approach.



## Policy Control Sheet

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