



By email to all schools and colleges in Wales

3 May 2019

Dear colleague

Summer 2019 exams

As the exam season approaches, I am writing to you about the upcoming GCSE, AS and A level examinations. This is the first summer that all the reformed qualifications will be awarded and our priority continues to be on fairness for learners.

Entries

We will be publishing the provisional number of entries for this summer's GCSE, AS and A level exams on 24 May 2019. This data will alert us to any changes in entry patterns, which will be useful when interpreting the summer results.

Qualifications awarded for the first time

There are seven GCSEs and five A level subjects being awarded for the first time this summer¹. As with those subjects awarded for the first time in 2017 and 2018, WJEC will be carrying forward standards from the old qualifications. In general, where the 2019 cohort is similar to the 2018 one, we expect broadly similar outcomes at key grades². We will share more about this cohort once entry statistics are released.

Keeping you informed

The exams content on our website has been updated. A new [Exams 360](#) section has information for stakeholders involved in the exam series. There will be summaries of the exam process and how exam papers are set and how they are marked. There will

¹ GCSEs: Business, Computer Science, Design and Technology, History, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Welsh Second Language / A levels: Design and Technology, Government and Politics, Law, Further Mathematics, Media Studies

² GCSE key grades: A, C, and F / A level key grades: A and E.

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also be tips for exams officers, who have a critical role in the successful organisation of exams in schools and colleges as well as advice for students. A range of handy [postcards](#) are available to download from our website, covering the main features of the new GCSEs and the Welsh Baccalaureate. We will continue to send regular updates to schools and colleges on GCSEs, A levels and the other qualifications we regulate through our 'Slate' newsletter. You can sign-up to receive this from our [website](#).

Have your say!

As part of our monitoring of the summer examination series, we are running an on-line questionnaire to give students, teachers and lecturers the chance to give feedback about examinations. The questionnaire opens on the 7 May and is available until 5 July.

Results release

We would like to remind schools and colleges that results are confidential until the official results days (15 August for GCE and 22 August for GCSE) and must not be shared with any person or organisation outside of your school or college.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any suggestions for information you would find useful in future, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker

Chief Executive