

By email to all schools and colleges in Wales

8 January 2021



Dear Head of Centre

Following the First Minister's [announcement](#) today (8 January 2021) that most pupils will continue to learn remotely until 29 January, we've [announced](#) that the spring internal assessment window for GCSE, AS, and A level planned to take place between 22 February and 23 April, will no longer take place and new arrangements will be made. This was a new assessment window that was announced before Christmas as part of the new arrangements to award these qualifications in Summer 2021.

We've taken this decision because we know that the change to remote learning for most learners will impact on preparation for these assessments, consequently impacting on the fairness of the assessments and the wellbeing of learners, teachers and lecturers. The Minister's Design and Delivery Advisory Group will now be considering the way forward and further detailed information about revised arrangements will be made available shortly.

January 2021 exams for Wales only vocational qualifications will continue as planned. WJEC has [published](#) a statement on their website. The Department of Education in Westminster has [confirmed](#) that vocational exams will also proceed as planned in January, this includes qualifications that are offered on a three nation basis. If learners are unable to sit their exams in January, they will have the opportunity to complete their assessments in the summer.

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We know that learners will be anxious about what it means for them and they need clarity at this very unsettling time. For this reason, we've prepared a letter to learners that will be shared via the WLGA network today.

If you have any specific questions, please contact us via email on communications@qualificationswales.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Philip Blaker

Chief Executive