

By email to all schools and colleges in Wales

13 January 2021



Dear Head of Centre

Re: Summer 2021 and the new curriculum qualifications offer

Following our announcement on Friday we would like to provide a further update.

Summer 2021

We know learners, teachers and lecturers have concerns and questions about what happens next regarding assessments for Summer 2021.

We are exploring all the possibilities including teacher assessed grades, remaining mindful of the continually changing situation. We met with the Design and Delivery Advisory Group (DDAG) last week and continue to do so this week. They will provide advice to the Minister to inform Welsh Government policy on assessment for Summer 2021.

This process is important and will take a short time. In the meantime, we are taking views from our head teacher reference group, 2021 stakeholder group and others. We will update you as soon as we can.

Vocational Qualifications

Learners taking vocational qualifications (VQs) are also experiencing lost teaching time and appropriate arrangements need to be put in place to mitigate the impact of this disruption. Later this week, Ofqual will be consulting on the approach to vocational qualifications taken across Wales, England and Northern Ireland. We are working closely with them on this to ensure a fair and consistent approach for learners across the three nations.

All the decisions for assessments in 2021 will give due consideration to teaching and learning time lost, the uncertainty of when learners will return to face-to-face education, and learner and practitioner health and well-being.

Qualifications Wales

Q2 Building, Pencarn Lane
Imperial Park,
Newport
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222



Cymwysterau Cymru

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn
Parc Imperial,
Casnewydd
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222

Curriculum - Qualified for the future: the right choice for Wales

The draft Curriculum Bill is making its way through the Senedd, and we want to continue the important debate about its impact on qualifications. Later this month, we will consult on proposals for the GCSE subjects and other made-for-Wales qualifications to support the new Curriculum for Wales. This will give learners and schools a better idea of the range of subjects that could be available to them, to help them think about and prepare for the future.

At this stage, our focus is on the choice of subjects and qualifications that should be available. We are not yet consulting on the content that individual qualifications should include nor on how that content should be assessed. Proposals on content and assessment will come later, informed by research and further engagement with stakeholders. In the coming months we will gather views and test ideas about different ways of doing things, including how the alternative approaches in response to the pandemic can help shape future qualifications.

The consultation will be online and run for at least 10 weeks. There will be a youth-friendly version of the consultation alongside the main consultation document. You will be able to respond to all proposals or choose to focus only on those related to specific curriculum areas. We will monitor the rate of responses carefully; if it appears the continuing pandemic means that respondents need more time to give their views we will consider extending the consultation period.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any specific questions, please contact us via email on communications@qualificationswales.org.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive