

Sent by email to all schools and colleges in Wales



12 February 2021

Dear Head of Centre,

## **Weekly update from Qualifications Wales**

### **Alternative assessment arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels**

On Tuesday (9 February), we [wrote to you](#) about the [guidance document](#) that provides high level information about the requirements for producing Centre Determined Grades in summer 2021. It gives centres an overview of how you should make those decisions and what types of evidence could be used.

We also [confirmed](#) that the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications will align with the approach to awarding Approved GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications in summer 2021. Learners will be awarded a Centre Determined Grade based on their demonstration of each of the skills assessed through the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications. There will be a variety of ways in which centres will be able to undertake this, and WJEC have already emailed centres with information on the range of options.

We sent a [letter to learners](#) to keep them informed about the assessment arrangements. If your centre has not received the letter we sent via your local authority, please could you send it to your learners. There is information for centres and learners on our [website](#). WJEC published a [timeline](#) giving details of when further information, including when Qualification Assessment Frameworks will be available.

### **Alternative assessment arrangements for vocational qualifications**

On 9 February we [announced](#) alternative assessment arrangements for Essential Skills Wales qualifications. Centres will be able to provide a Centre Determined Grade for learners who are unable to access the adapted methods of assessments due to the impact of Covid-19.

We are continuing to work on the arrangements for vocational qualifications and we will share further information as it becomes available. For information, Welsh Government announced that learners of practical vocational qualifications and apprenticeship programmes will be able to return to learning from 22 February. Welsh Government has published [operational guidance](#) to support centres to get learners back safely.

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We are meeting with the Design and Delivery Advisory Group every week and with many other stakeholders. We know people want to know more about the detail and how the assessment arrangements will work in practice. WJEC will publish more information about the initial qualification frameworks during the week commencing 22 February. We are working with the Design and Delivery Advisory Group on the approach for appeals, arrangements for private candidates and quality assurance requirements.

Finally, I wanted to say that I know it's important for you to have this information in a timely way, so you can make plans and support your colleagues and learners. We are working at pace to give you all the information as we have it. Everyone working on the arrangements for Summer 2021 understands the pressures that teachers face. We want to provide the best support and guidance that we can throughout the coming months.

We will share any updates on our guidance with you as quickly as we can.

Have a good half term break.

Yours sincerely

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

Philip Blaker

Chief Executive