

9 September 2021

Dear Head of Centre

Qualified for the future: reimagining qualifications for the new curriculum

Next month we will confirm the outcomes of our recent consultation on the main range of GCSE subjects and made-for-Wales qualifications that will be available to support the new curriculum. There will be an opportunity to attend a supporting webinar and more information will follow shortly.

Further to Philip Blaker's [letter of 15 July 2021](#), our focus this year is on working with stakeholders to reimagine an entirely new generation of made-for-Wales GCSEs as part of a more tailored and inclusive qualifications offer for 14- to 16-year-olds. To do that we will work closely with stakeholders to re-think the key features of future GCSEs and the wider qualification offer.

We want teachers and educational professionals to help us co-construct the new qualifications, and we are looking to recruit teachers to help us to do this. This will be a dynamic process to help us explore and reimagine the relationship between curriculum, teaching practice and assessment.

There are two ways in which a member of teaching staff can get involved. They could apply to support a focused working group developing ideas for the design of individual qualifications. Or they could join a wider stakeholder group to offer feedback in response to emerging questions, ideas and proposals relating to a particular Area of Learning and Experience.

Role of subject practitioners

We are looking for subject practitioners from across Wales who are experienced in teaching and delivering GCSEs in at least one subject area. These will be teachers and

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lecturers who have a keen interest in the new Curriculum and its implications for the design, delivery and assessment of future qualifications.

Successful candidates will join a focused working group composed of other practitioners, subject and assessment experts, and colleagues from Qualifications Wales and WJEC. The role of each group will be to shape proposals for the high-level content and assessment of new GCSEs within a subject area by posing questions and ideas to the wider AoLE group.

Practitioners will be encouraged to discuss emerging ideas and proposals from with colleagues in their centres and wider professional networks and to share feedback with the working group.

Time commitment for subject practitioners

There is a time commitment involved in taking up a role as a subject practitioner (please see the [brief](#)).

We are asking each practitioner to be available for 20 days between 1st November 2021 through to 27th May 2022. This equates to around 5 days per half term across this period. Qualifications Wales will pay a day-release fee to centres to compensate for this contribution of time.

There will be some flexibility for practitioners and their centres to manage the time commitment required.

Role of AoLE network groups

We expect members to provide feedback on proposals every fortnight during term time. Expectations are that members will provide feedback at least two out of every three opportunities. Please see the [brief](#) for more information.

Voluntary role, conducted in individual's own time. Can be members as individuals, or to represent a body.

Application Process

1. Teachers to complete a short [application form](#) before closing date of Thursday 30 September (AoLE Network) or Tuesday 5 October 2021 (subject practitioners).
2. Teachers applying to join a subject working group need to gain written confirmation from the school that they support the [application](#) and understand the time commitment required between 1st November 2021 and 27th May 2022.

Remuneration

Due to the time allocated for teacher release, likely to be a commitment of 20 days across the academic year, a fee of £189 per day will be paid to the school for all subject practitioners. There is no remuneration for AoLE roles.

We recognise the ongoing pressures in schools and welcome your support of this next stage. We will host a session for Heads of Centre on the following days to answer any questions you may have. If you'd like a further discussion about this work before then, please do not hesitate to email reform@qualificationswales.org.

- [English language session: 16 September 9:00-10:00am](#)
- [Welsh language session: 17 September 9:00-10:00am](#)

The new curriculum offers a valuable opportunity to reimagine how qualifications and assessment can be designed to enhance learner experiences and outcomes. We look forward to working closely with you and your colleagues in the coming months to help make that happen.

Yours sincerely



Emyr George

Director of Qualifications Policy and Reform