



13 May 2022

Dear Head of Centre

Summer 2022 exams

As the exam season will begin next week, I am writing to thank you for all your hard work preparing learners in Wales for exams and assessments this year. We understand that you and your colleagues have been busy dealing with the continued disruption caused by COVID-19 and our priority continues to be a fair system for learners. It is heartening to see so many learners aiming for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications, and we will be publishing provisional entry numbers for this summer's exams on 20 May 2022.

Delivering the exam series

This is the first summer series since 2019 and it is a busy time for exam officers as well as learners. We appreciate that schools and colleges have had to manage many issues and challenges during recent months. As a reminder, it is important to make sure you have contingency plans in place to make sure that exams run smoothly whatever the challenges. Key to this is ensuring papers are always stored securely. Our Strategic Engagement Team has been providing updates and training and is on hand to support exam officers prepare.

Awarding in summer 2022

As previously [announced](#), in recognition of the disruption to teaching for learners sitting GCSEs, AS, A levels and the Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) qualifications, the assessment requirements for this summer have been adapted. The adaptations have been put in place to support learners and to recognise lost teaching and learning time.

With the return of exams, WJEC will award grades to learners this summer. As outcomes during the pandemic have been different to the pre-pandemic period, it has been decided that a slightly different approach will be implemented this year. As [announced](#) previously, results this year will be broadly midway between 2021 and 2019. This means that at a national level, we expect results to be higher than in 2019 and lower than in 2021.

It is a priority that the grades learners achieve support progression to the next stage of their education or employment. We are working with WJEC to agree procedures for awarding grades this year that build on usual practice and provide a safety net for learners. We continue to work with other regulators across the UK so that the grading process is as consistent as possible and fair for learners.

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Keeping you informed

I hope your learners have found the content in our shared reassurance campaign [Lefel Nesa/Power Up](#) helpful. Partnering with Welsh Government, WJEC, Careers Wales and e-sgol the campaign has provided reassurance, resources and additional support for learners.

As part of the campaign, we will celebrate Wales' first **Pob Lwc Day** next **Monday 16 May** to wish Pob Lwc to all learners taking exams and assessments this year. You will see a range of Pob Lwc messages shared on the day across all the campaign partner channels and we hope your school or college will join in to wish Pob Lwc to learners across the country.

Preparing for future exam series

We understand that the pandemic continues to have a substantial impact on teaching and learning. We have considered the need for learners to continue to be supported and appreciate that centres need to know if any assessment changes will continue to be in place. To support your planning for the autumn term, I can confirm that **advance information** will be provided for made-for-Wales GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in the 2022/2023 academic year. Any previous GCSE, AS and A level adaptations will no longer apply. Advance information gives an indication of topics, themes, texts or other content that learners can expect in their exams. Its main aim is to support learners' exam preparation. WJEC will release advance information for the November 2022 series before the end of this term. Advance information for the January 2023 series will be released in the autumn and for Summer 2023 in the spring term. We also anticipate that advance information may be appropriate for some made-for-Wales vocational qualifications. Advance information is not possible for the SCC, so many of the current adaptations will continue into next year. WJEC will release information about this shortly. These measures are for the benefit of learners and signal our journey back to pre-pandemic assessment arrangements.

Have your say!

As part of our monitoring of the summer series, we are running an online questionnaire to give learners, teachers and lecturers the chance to give feedback about the exams. The questionnaire opens on the 16 May and is available to complete until 4 July. We would be grateful if you can help us promote awareness of our questionnaire among your colleagues and learners. We will share the link with you next week.

Results release

We would like to remind schools and colleges that results are confidential until the official results days (18 August for AS and A level and 25 August for GCSE) and must not be shared with any person or organisation outside of your school or college. I hope you find this update helpful, please let me know if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive