



29 September 2022

Dear Head of Centre

I hope that the start of the new academic year has been as smooth as possible for you, your colleagues and learners. Once again, we wish to thank you and your team for all your work supporting the return to external exams and assessments.

Now that you have settled into the autumn term, we would like to update you on a number of matters including the arrangements for exams and assessments in this academic year.

Exam Series 2022/23

Last term, [we wrote to you](#) to confirm that **advance information** will be provided for made-for-Wales GCSE, AS and A level qualifications for 2022/23. Any previous GCSE, AS and A level adaptations will no longer apply.

WJEC [released advance information](#) for the November exam series in June. Further advance information will be released for the January 2023 exam series later this term, and for the summer 2023 exam series during the spring term.

The Qualifications Wales board has now considered and decided upon the approach to grading for this academic year. The board has determined that our approach to grading in summer 2023 will be to achieve a broadly midway point between the 2019 and 2022 results.

This continues our journey back to pre-pandemic outcomes, whilst also continuing to support learners, schools and colleges who continue to be impacted by loss of learning. Further details can be [found here](#).

In the unlikely event of disruption to the summer exam series, schools and colleges should retain evidence of important assessments completed during the year, since previous contingency arrangements would be relied upon.

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Have Your Say on GCSEs

As part of our [Qualified for the future](#) programme, we have been working closely with teachers, subject experts and many others to co-construct proposals for the high-level design, content and assessment of a brand new set of GCSEs. We want to make sure that these new qualifications will help centres to make a success of the Curriculum for Wales and to prepare learners for life, learning and work.

On Tuesday 4 October we will launch our latest and widest public consultation to date. We want to know what learners, parents, teachers, employers, and members of the public think about the GCSE proposals. The consultation will run for 10 weeks until Wednesday 14 December.

Your feedback will help shape the final design requirements that WJEC and other awarding bodies must follow when developing the detailed specifications for these new qualifications.

To make it easy to respond, this will be an online consultation using our new **Have Your Say** engagement platform. There you (and your team) will be able to read and comment on the design proposals for each new qualification. These will be grouped around the six areas of learning and experience. You may respond to as many individual proposals as you like, and you can also provide feedback on the proposals overall and their potential impacts.

It is important that learners have a strong voice in helping to shape future GCSEs, and we have produced a youth-friendly version of the proposals for them to have their say.

We will write to you again when the consultation goes live with information on how to access it. You can also check our website and social media channels for updates.

This consultation is one part of our Qualified for the future work to reform the full range of qualifications for learners aged 14-16. Early next year, we will consult on proposals to agree what other qualifications will be available, alongside GCSEs, as part of the wider offer. This will include vocational qualifications and those providing learners with skills for life and work.

Learner Engagement Report

This year we have spoken to a wide range of learners and education providers as part of our national conversation on the future of qualifications. This supports the co-construction and delivery of proposals for our Qualified for the future programme.

We completed a series of workshops and focus groups with close to 900 learners sharing their opinions on GCSE assessment. We also conducted a survey that received more than 500 responses to gain further insights from learners.

The full report findings will be published shortly and will be available on [our website](#).

Learner Advisory Groups

During the first few weeks of this term, our Communications and Engagement team has been busy attending freshers' events and speaking to learners about joining one of our Learner Advisory Groups.

Our learner groups make sure that the learner voice is embedded in our work. Joining offers learners the opportunity to get involved and help shape future 'Made for Wales' qualifications. Joining can help learners to build confidence whilst developing their professional skills.

There is still time to apply to join one of our learner groups, so if your learners may be interested, please encourage them to [apply via our website](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker', written in a cursive style.

Philip Blaker
Chief Executive