

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Qualifications Wales  
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20 February 2019

Dear Ann and Philip,

Thank you for your letter of 12 February regarding qualifications for the new curriculum, building on our previous discussion.

We are at a positive stage in our reform, as you know, in April we will be further engaging with schools, practitioners and the public on the detail of the draft curriculum and so this is an appropriate stage to consider the implications for qualifications.

I am pleased that Qualifications Wales has been involved in developments from the early stages, including being part of each of the Pioneer Area of Learning and Experience and Assessment Working Groups.

As you point out, meeting the aims of Our National Mission will require new qualifications to be available for first teaching from September 2025. I know that you are committed to ensuring any new qualifications introduced will be made available simultaneously in Welsh and English; and that new qualifications will be approved at least 12 months before courses are to start to provide time for schools to plan and for bilingual teaching and learning resources to be developed to support them.

The Welsh Baccalaureate and Skills Challenge Certificate remain important. They give young people the opportunity to learn and develop a wide range of academic and personal skills and help prepare them for employment, further study and life. Your focus on how they can be further improved to support the new curriculum will help ensure our young people continue to benefit from these opportunities.

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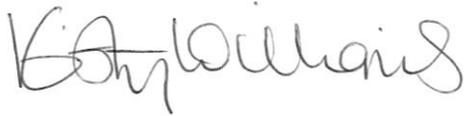
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I look forward to receiving your detailed advice and I have asked my officials to schedule key review meetings at the end of the summer and the end of the year when you have concluded your consultation activities. I would expect that you will engage with a wide range of stakeholders, going beyond the school sector to include (for example) public and private sector employers, colleges and universities. This provides a timely opportunity to both consider your advice to inform policy and also to review funding requirements for 2020-21 and beyond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

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