



4 May 2023

Dear Head of Centre

As the summer exam series will begin next week, I am writing to thank you for all your hard work preparing your learners for exams and assessments this year. We understand this is a busy time for you and your colleagues.

Summer 2023 exams

It is important that centres follow [Instructions for conducting exams](#), including the requirements around question paper security. As we shared previously, it is also important to have contingency plans in place to enable you to run the exams smoothly, whatever the challenges. For full details of the JCQ joint contingency plan in place to deal with any major disruption that may affect exam candidates, visit [our website](#).

Entries

We will be publishing a report on the provisional entries for this summer's GCSEs, AS and A levels and Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications on 25 May 2023. This will alert us to any changes in entry patterns, which will be useful when interpreting the summer results.

Have Your Say on Summer 2023 Exams

Our annual survey on summer exams will be open from next Friday, where you can have your say on this summer's exam series. We're inviting learners, teachers, lecturers, parents, carers and anyone with an interest in this year's summer exams to complete the short survey. The feedback we receive will help us monitor the qualification system in Wales. We would be grateful if you can help us promote awareness of our survey among your colleagues and learners. We will share more information and the link to the survey with you next week.

Support available for your learners

Extra resources are available to support your learners taking assessments this year via the [Power Up content hub](#). They can access revision guides, online revision sessions, health and wellbeing support, and advice for planning their next steps. There is also lots of information and support for learners in our [learner guide to exams and assessments](#), please share this with your learners so that they're aware what support is in place this year.

A supportive approach to awarding and advance information

As you know, some changes have been made this year to provide extra support for learners in the form of advance information and a grading approach that is similar to that used last summer. WJEC has released [advance information](#) to support your learners to prepare for

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this summer's exams, giving them some indication on what will be assessed, to help focus their revision. For GCSEs, AS and A levels and Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications provided by WJEC, overall results will be broadly midway between those awarded in 2019 (the last year before the pandemic) and 2022 (the first-year learners sat exams as we emerged from the pandemic). This means that when WJEC awards grades, the process will continue to provide learners with a safety net as we take the next step on the journey back to pre-pandemic results.

Results release and results days

We would like to remind you that results are confidential until the official results days (17 August for AS and A level and 24 August for GCSE) and must not be shared with any person or organisation outside of your school or college. I'd also like to reassure you that additional steps have been taken to ensure level 3 vocational and technical qualification results used for progression are issued in August alongside A levels.

I hope you find this update helpful, please let me know if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive