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Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11199/21

David B Jones OBE DL & Philip Blaker
Chair & Cheif executive
Qualifications Wales

corporategovernance@Qualificationswales.org

12 October 2021

Dear David & Philip,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September providing a summary of the work to date in respect of Qualifications Wales' Qualified for the Future programme and your next steps.

I am pleased to see your continued commitment to focus on undertaking meaningful engagement with the education profession to co-construct proposals. I have seen your recent communication for Wales' education profession to join *working groups* and *stakeholder groups*. Whilst I recognise that it remains a challenging time for schools and colleges, I believe this is a great opportunity for Wales' education profession to contribute towards this once in a generation project. I hope that you receive significant interest and will endeavour to promote this opportunity and encourage broad participation.

I am again reassured to see the importance and emphasis you are placing on ensuring qualification reform is progressed to complement, align and to support the ambitions and fundamental principles of the Curriculum for Wales.

I am grateful for the extensive engagement there has been with my officials to help refine thinking and ensure this alignment with Curriculum for Wales is clearly visible. As we have learnt from other countries who have embarked on reforming their educational system, the role of qualifications cannot be underestimated if the opportunities presented by a new curriculum are to be fully realised. In this context I am grateful for your commitment to exploring innovative approaches and re-imagining content and assessment for future qualifications, as well as the work you are doing looking at the wider 14-16 qualification offer. I also recognise the clear interdependencies between the development of new qualifications and the future evaluation, improvement and accountability arrangements and have asked my officials to continue to work closely with you as this work progresses.

We have previously discussed opportunities for you to utilise the National Network to further maximise opportunities for engagement with the education profession as we prepare for curriculum roll-out and I know these discussions are now well progressed with conversations planned via the National Networks from spring 2022.

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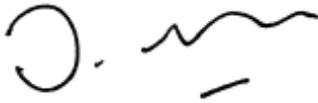
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

We have recently, briefly discussed your proposals in relation to qualifications for Welsh and how these can align with and effectively contribute towards the rightly ambitious goals of Cymraeg 2050. I know our officials are working closely together in relation to these proposals and the wider policy landscape I look forward to meeting you in due course to discuss these aspects in detail.

I would like to conclude by once again thanking you for a comprehensive and informative update on the Qualified for the Future programme and to again formally acknowledge the effort you have made to keep this pivotal programme on course, despite the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic. I recognise that it remains a challenging time for the education sector and that you have had to be responsive to the pressures that schools and colleges are facing, in order to ensure the education profession is able to engage with and inform the future suite of qualifications. I will continue to work with you to enable this and have asked my officials to continue to explore avenues to support you in this co-construction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke.

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