



13 March 2024

Dear colleague,

As the spring term draws to a close, we would like to provide an update on some of our key areas of work, including some reminders ahead of the summer exam and assessment series.

### **Exams and assessments**

This academic year, we are taking the last step on our journey back to pre-pandemic arrangements for qualifications in Wales. Formal exams and assessments will take place as planned, and there will be no broadly-midway grading policy. We know that the pandemic has had a long-term impact on learning for some, so there will be some statistical protection to avoid results being well below pre-pandemic years, if necessary.

We've published an updated [learner guide](#) to support learners, containing information about this year's assessments and links to useful resources. You can find this and other important information about this year's exams and assessments on our [dedicated webpage](#).

### **WJEC key dates**

To aid your centre's planning, WJEC [provides a list of key dates](#) including entry deadlines, results days, and more.

### **Vocational qualifications**

Awarding bodies will work with centres, prior to the start of the exams in May, to identify which learners need a result on or before results days in August for progression to further or higher education. These arrangements will apply to Level 3, Level 1/2 and Level 2 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) used for progression.

Ofqual has published its VTQ [information hub](#) for 2023/24. This provides essential information for centre staff who administer or deliver vocational qualifications offered by awarding bodies in Wales.

### **Senior Designated Contacts**

Awarding bodies will ask centres to confirm the details for their senior designated contacts again this year. We encourage all centres to respond to the awarding body so that any issues can be escalated appropriately and support the timely issue of results to learners.

#### **Qualifications Wales**

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn  
Imperial Park,  
Newport  
NP10 8AR  
☎ 01633 373 222



#### **Cymwysterau Cymru**

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn  
Parc Imperial,  
Casnewydd  
NP10 8AR  
☎ 01633 373 222

### **Contingency planning**

Please ensure that your centre contingency plan is reviewed and up to date so that you can respond to any disruption during the exam series. We have a [dedicated webpage](#) with guidance to support centres to put in place effective arrangements.

### **Overview of January series results**

On 7 March, some learners received results for exams and assessments sat in January. In our role as regulator, we closely monitored WJEC's delivery of this series, and the approach taken to awarding grades. You can find out more on our [website](#).

### **Support for Exam Officers**

Please encourage your centre exam office staff to keep informed of updates in the JCQ [Instructions for Conducting Exams](#) as they prepare for the summer exam season.

Our strategic engagement team is on hand to offer support through online training and resources. They recently held a session for newer exam officers on planning for the summer season – the recording is available on our [Wales Exam Officer Hub](#). The next session is on 11 April 10:00 – 11:00 and will look at the exam day. Exam office staff can register [here](#).

### **Nominate your learners to join our Panel**

One of the main ways learners can feed back to us about our work is by becoming a Learner Ambassador on our Learner Panel, which meets termly online to offer feedback on our latest activities. We welcome nominees of learners aged 14-21.

To nominate learners please email [penny.evans@qualifications.wales](mailto:penny.evans@qualifications.wales) with their:

- name(s)
- year group(s)
- 150 words outlining why they would be a good ambassador for our work.

### **Communications update**

We hope that our website is a useful resource for you. A year on since launching our new website, we're gathering feedback about what works well and how we can improve. Please share your views with us [here](#).

Feel free to share this update more widely within your centre. If your leaders and teams would like to receive regular monthly updates, they can sign up for our monthly newsletter by filling in the form at the bottom of our [website home page](#).

Yours sincerely,



**Philip Blaker,**  
*Chief Executive*