



22 January 2024

Dear Head of Centre

Winter update from Qualifications Wales

I hope that you had a good break over the holidays and feel ready for the year ahead.

Exam series update

Throughout this academic year, Qualifications Wales will continue to oversee a return to pre-pandemic assessment arrangements. However, we know that the pandemic has had a long-term impact on learning for some, so there will be some statistical protection in place to avoid results being well below pre-pandemic years, if necessary. Read more about this year's approach to grading [here](#).

In the next few weeks, you may receive applications from private candidates wishing to register with your centre for GCSE, AS and A level exams, ahead of the entry deadlines. We encourage you to accept the entry of these candidates where possible.

Overview of November 2023 results

On 11 January, many learners received results for exams sat last November, including GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy, GCSE English Language and GCSE Welsh Language. 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](#).

Full 14-16 Qualifications Offer consultation decisions

On 30 January, we're publishing the decisions of our Full 14-16 Qualifications Offer consultation, which took place last year. We're looking forward to sharing our findings and vision for new National 14-16 Qualifications.

Ahead of publication, we're running a dedicated webinar on **24 January (from 16:00 – 17:30)** to share information with you and other heads of centres. Please register for the event [here](#).

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Statement of policy intent on new National 14-16 Qualifications

We have recently published a [statement](#) that describes our intended approach and rationale for determining which qualifications will be made available as part of the new national 14-16 qualifications offer from September 2025. It also outlines the potential impact on the availability of qualifications currently designated for use in Wales.

Our statement of policy intent will form the basis for our revised designation policy. We will launch our consultation on our revised policy next month, and will keep you updated. As always, we are keen to capture as broad a range of views as possible.

If you have any queries about the consultation, please contact policy@qualifications.wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker', is positioned above the printed name.

Philip Blaker
Chief Executive