



21 September 2023

Dear Head of Centre

Now that the autumn term is underway, we would like to provide you with some important updates, including the arrangements for exams and assessments in this academic year.

Exam Series 2023/24

Qualifications Wales has now considered and decided upon the assessment arrangements for qualifications and the approach to grading for this academic year.

In line with our previously set out plans, I can confirm a return to pre-pandemic arrangements, with some protections in place to support learners.

This means that WJEC will not provide advance information ahead of the examinations. Nor will there be a broadly midway grading policy, as there was in 2022-23. However, there will be a statistical protection in place to avoid outcomes falling substantially below pre-pandemic levels.

This signals the final step on the Welsh qualification system's journey back to usual assessment arrangements, following years of variation due to disruption from the pandemic.

Learners are at the heart of our decisions

I want to reassure you that fairness for learners is a priority, which is why we have taken a gradual approach to returning to pre-pandemic arrangements over the last few years.

It is important that we return to usual arrangements so that grades prepare learners for their next steps in the best possible way. It is also vital that we protect the long-term value of learners' qualification grades, to ensure comparability with learners from other jurisdictions. We want to make sure that qualifications maintain their value for all learners – current, past and future.

We understand that schools and colleges make use of past papers when helping learners prepare for exams, for example, using them in mock exams. Subject teachers should bear in mind that the grade boundaries set in the past two years do not reflect the usual exam standard, since we have had a broadly midway grading policy in place. This is important

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when working with learners on target grades and especially when producing predicted grades to support university applications.

Subject expert recruitment

We would like to share an opportunity for you and your staff, that we would appreciate your support with. We're looking for knowledgeable and experienced educators to work alongside our approvals team to help us approve exciting, new Made-for-Wales qualifications.

Subject experts will collaborate closely with our approvals team and play a supporting role in the review of the new Made-for-Wales qualifications developed by the awarding body. This is a unique opportunity to make a significant impact on the new qualifications and gain invaluable experience that will undoubtedly be of great benefit to both your staff and the wider school community.

The subject expert commitment will be up to 5 days in term time. A fee of £189 per day will be made available to centres releasing teaching staff on completion of a teacher release form. More information relating to fees and teacher release can be found within the application.

Applications are now open via [Sell2Wales](#). More information about how to use the Sell2Wales site is available on [our website](#). The closing date for this opportunity is **Friday 3 November 2023**.

Help us to hear the learner voice

Do you know young people who could make a great contribution to one of our learner groups? We are looking for learners to join our learner groups, and you can help us by nominating individuals.

We want to ensure representation from centres across every county in Wales to develop a diverse learner voice to support us in our work. To help ensure this, we've prepared [a poster](#) to help you to promote this opportunity with your colleagues and learners.

More information about the groups is available on [our website](#). For further details or to nominate individuals, please contact penny.evans@qualifications.wales.

Nominations close on **Friday 27 October**.

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive