

31 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Examination Update (year 10 and Year 12 Students)

Following my letter on 23 March confirming the government's announcement that examinations will not take place this Summer, a further announcement was made late on Friday 27 March by Kirsty Williams, Education Minister in relation to the impact this may have on students in Year 10 (GCSE) and Year 12 (AS level).

Please ignore my letter of 24 March.

A full copy of the Minister's announcement can be accessed via Wales Online. However in summary:

GCSE – Year 10

All Year 10 students in Llantwit Major School were due to sit unitised elements of examinations in June eg a proportion of the qualification in the following subjects: English Literature, Science, Hospitality & Catering Theory Exam, Welsh Oral Exam and RS Module Exam. When these students are in Year 11, the following options will be available:

1. Sit the Year 11 unit examinations in the Summer of 2021, with the final overall GCSE grade calculated on the basis of their performance in those units; **or**
2. Sit the Year 10 units in Summer 2021, along with Year 11 units. Where a student opts for this model, their final grade will be the best grade awarded from either option.

A decision will be made by the school on an individual subject basis as to which option will be undertaken, but rest assured no student will be disadvantaged.

AS Level

AS levels are not stand alone qualifications. In nearly all cases, they are examinations which are taken in Year 12 which contribute to the full A level qualification. However, we recognise that universities access these grades to help offer places at higher education. Since examinations will not be held this Summer, the news on 27 March will mean that:

- Students who were due to sit their AS examinations this Summer will not be required to sit them at a different period (eg. January 2021);
- AS grades will be awarded in the same way as those students taking GCSE and A levels this Summer;

- AS outcomes will be based on a range of factors, including NEAs and teacher assessed grades/professional prediction;
- **AS grades will not contribute towards the full A level result in 2021**

In Summer 2021, students will be given two options for their A level qualifications. These are to

1. Sit their A2 units only, and their overall A level grade will be determined solely on their performance in these units. In this scenario, the examination board will calculate predicted marks for their AS units; **or**
2. Sit both AS and A2 units only. Their final grade will be the best grade awarded from either option.

A decision will be made by the school on an individual subject basis as to which option will be undertaken, but rest assured no student will be disadvantaged.

Skills Challenge Certification - WBQ

Qualifications Wales have confirmed that grades will be awarded to those students who have been undertaking the Skills Challenge Certificate using the same principles of other qualifications eg Teacher assessed grades/professional predictions and any scores to date.

Vocational Qualifications

Qualifications Wales is able to make decisive decisions with regards to those courses which it is responsible for. However, given that many vocational qualifications available to schools in Wales are regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales will continue to work with them to consider how best to progress with determining outcomes. As soon as we have this information available we will communicate this with you.

Next Steps

Mr Davies (Assistant Headteacher) responsible for data and Mr Francis (Assistant Headteacher) in charge of Years 10-13, and I have already been in discussion on how best to respond to the announcement of the 27 March. Given that school is closed from 1 April, much of our work will be undertaken remotely outside of the occasions when we will be providing childcare at Ysgol Y Ddraig. However, be assured that we will begin working closely with our subject leaders, who in turn will work with class teachers to ensure that students are awarded the grades they deserve.

I would ask families (and students) not to contact the school or individual teachers to enquire about predicted grades. I have asked staff not to respond to these requests. I appreciate there will be uncertainty and anxiety around the announcement. However, be assured we will be

acting in the best interests of our students while preserving the integrity of the school as an examination centre. Mr Davies will coordinate the work for students completing GCSE qualifications, while Mr Francis will do the same for those undertaking AS qualifications. Collaboratively, we will ensure there are quality assurance measures to verify any prediction made.

I hope this communication is helpful. As you know the school site is now closed. Therefore, no staff will be on site for the foreseeable future. However, be assured that we will continue to monitor the situation and are working 'behind the scenes' so our students are not negatively affected. I will send out a further letter later to explain how you can still make contact with the school during the period of closure.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. K. Greville', with a stylized flourish at the end.

F K Greville
Headteacher