

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### Information regarding Year 11 and Year 13 pupils

The Welsh Government's decision to close schools and to cancel examinations for the summer of 2020 is an unprecedented measure taken to protect public health. Although it's undoubtedly the right decision, we know how hard this decision is for our learners and teachers who have worked very hard for these exams – and for you, as loved ones who are supporting them.

We are exceptionally proud of all of our learners and understand the anxiety that they may have around how exam grades will be awarded and any implications that this may have on their future plans. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update of how exam grades will be awarded and to offer support to our young people in preparation for the next stage of their learning.

At present Qualifications Wales are working with the WJEC examination board to establish the fairest way to issue grades and they have stated that GCSE and A level qualifications in 2020 will be calculated using a range of evidence. The grades will be based on a combination of factors which may include marks for work completed to date (e.g. AS results for A level grades or completed unit marks for GCSE) and standardised teacher assessment grades.

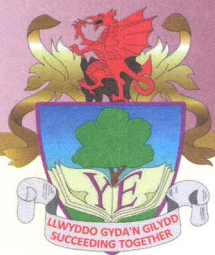
*'Teacher assessment grades will be based on what teachers would expect a learner to achieve at the end of the course and must represent a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade that might be achieved in normal circumstances. This is a professional judgement based on the combined assessment information held for each learner and will be a holistic judgement rather than focusing on a single source of evidence like mock examinations. These are not target grades or aspirational grades.'*

*Qualifications Wales*

Qualifications Wales and WJEC are still in ongoing discussions regarding how to progress with the Skills Challenge Certificate and qualifications other than GCSEs and A levels for this summer moderation series. The present guidance for our learners with respect to their Skills Challenge Certificate at both GCSE and A level is to keep to coursework deadlines and submit their Individual Project via email to their class teacher or [ip@eirias.conwy.sch.uk](mailto:ip@eirias.conwy.sch.uk). Please see the Workzone on the school website for further support with this. We are in regular contact with WJEC and will share more detail on these plans as soon as we have them.

Qualifications Wales are currently working with fellow regulators, exam boards and government across the UK to agree dates on which results will be released. We are anticipating that exam grades will probably be issued in August and we plan to combine the day of issuing GCSE results with our enrolment day for Sixth Form. We would like to reassure you that we will be considering entrance criteria for Sixth Form courses very carefully in light of these highly unusual circumstances. If your child has applied to college, we suggest that you contact them directly for further information and support.





In the meantime, we encourage our learners to access the work made available to them on the Workzone via the school website, especially for the subjects that they are planning to continue with. Bridging work to support the transition from GCSE to A level can also be accessed by contacting subject teachers and we recommend that year 13 learners consider further reading in preparation for their future destinations.

We will continue to maintain regular contact, supporting year 13 through their UCAS applications and sharing any updates as soon as we receive them. You can also find updates via the following links:

<https://qualificationswales.org/english/coronavirus---covid-19/>

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/cancellation-of-summer-examinations-2020-wales>

<https://gov.wales/examinations-and-assessments-coronavirus>

I appreciate this is a lot of information to take in but I am keen for you to have all of the information you need; as I receive updates I will contact you again.

Wishing you all good health,

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs S Sutton

Headteacher

