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23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021

### Summer assessment update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Given the calm atmosphere around the school, one would not think we are in the midst of one of the most intense periods of assessment in the history of education in Wales.

Staff are enjoying teaching highly motivated students and carefully implementing guidance from the WJEC examination board. Students are expending considerable energy and care on completing wide-ranging assessments in each subject area; their level of focus is impressive. Indeed, in most cases, students feel this style of assessment is helping them secure strong progress. I take this feedback as a good sign.

Your child's success continues to be our top priority as we support them over the final period of face-to-face teaching before they receive their provisional grades at the beginning of June.

Below, I will briefly provide information on our WJEC approved Centre Policy on summer assessments. Please note that guidance in the March summer assessment letter still applies.

### Centre Policy

I have attached a copy of our Centre Policy. The purpose of this Centre Policy is to:

- Ensure that Centre Determined Grades (CDG) are conducted fairly, consistently, free from bias and effectively within and across departments and maintained throughout the process;
- Ensure the operation of effective processes with clear guidelines and support for staff;
- Ensure that all staff involved in the processes clearly understand their roles and responsibilities;
- Support teachers to take evidence-based decisions in line with Qualification Wales requirements;
- Achieve a high standard of internal quality assurance in the allocation of CDGs;
- Ensure the school meets its obligations in relation to equality and disability legislation;



- Ensure the school meets all requirements set out in the Special Regulatory Conditions, and the Joint Council for Qualifications and Awarding Organisation instructions for Summer 2021 qualifications.

### What level of detail will we be given regarding the timing and content of assessments?

It is worth noting that a few schools across Wales have provided detailed timelines of their summer assessments. Please note that the information we have communicated to you and your child is very deliberately less prescriptive. There are several reasons for this connected to giving your child the very best opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability:

- **Teachers need the flexibility to adapt timings:** If teachers are required to provide precise timings for the completion of each assessment, they would be unable to extend assessment completion periods in a way that takes into account the actual progress of your child in lessons. For example, if a time window of three weeks is given to prepare for and complete a modified past paper, but pupils require additional teaching time in order to fully absorb the depth of content needed to access top grades, then specifying precise timescales will have the unintended consequence of disadvantaging students.



- **Teachers need the flexibility to adapt assessment content:** Similarly, to ensure each child performs to their very best, teachers may need to provide additional, bespoke opportunities for assessment. For example, a child may underperform on one of the tightly defined assessments because they are self-isolating or unwell and do not have access to the preparation materials available in the classroom. Our approach allows a teacher the flexibility to adapt the requisite assessment content in an individualised way to ensure that such a child is not disadvantaged. Centres that have narrowly defined assessment evidence may inadvertently limit the extent to which pupils can be supported in this way.



- **Learners cannot be provided with the assessment to view in advance:** The examination board's guidance is clear that schools are not to specify the assessments in advance.

However, we also acknowledge that students and parents need as much clarity as possible within this necessarily flexible approach to assessment. To this end, in accordance with our Centre Policy, your child is being kept informed by all their teachers of up-and-coming assessment content and given time to gain a sufficiently deep understanding of relevant content before beginning that assessment. If this information is not being relayed to you by your child throughout the assessment period, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office email address: [office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk)

## Timeline

Date	Event	Key: FAO parents	FAO teachers
W/C 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Final appeals process information		
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Training: Good practice in making final grading decisions		
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Training: Live Q&A sessions		
6 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET day arranged by Welsh Government – Home learning		
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Training: Submitting Centre Determined Grades (CDGs)		
End of May*	Webinars outlining centre review and appeals process		
14 <sup>th</sup> June – 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Submission window for CDGs		
21 <sup>st</sup> June – 12 <sup>th</sup> July	WJEC QA learner decision records and overall outcomes		
13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> July	WJEC discusses any issues arising from the QA with centres		
10 <sup>th</sup> August	AS and A level Results Day		
10 <sup>th</sup> August – 7 <sup>th</sup> September	AS and A level appeals window		
12 <sup>th</sup> August	GCSE Results Day		
24 <sup>th</sup> August – 21 <sup>st</sup> September**	GCSE appeals window		

\* At the time of writing, this information has not yet been released by Qualifications Wales or the WJEC exam board.

\*\*Provisional date

### And finally...

Rest assured that we will continue to share updated information as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please can I encourage you to reinforce our message to your child that the next **five school weeks** still presents them with a **wonderful opportunity** to produce some outstanding work and excel.

Yours faithfully,



Daniel Owen (Headteacher)

