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Results Bulletin – 4th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child was due to sit GCSEs, AS or A-levels this summer, the news they have been waiting for has finally arrived. Qualifications Wales has explained how grades are going to be awarded!

- **Which students' exam grades are going to be decided in the way outlined below?**

The new approach will affect learners who were due to sit exams in the summer of 2020, including GCSE, AS, A level and Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications.

- **How will grades be calculated?**

Most GCSEs, AS and A Levels that learners in Wales have been entered for will be awarded by WJEC exam board. The Skills Challenge Certificate (part of the Welsh Baccalaureate) is only awarded by WJEC. If students are entered for a GCSE, AS or A Level offered by a different exam board, the same principles will apply.

All schools and colleges have been asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each student's qualifications, based on what we know about their work and performance:

- **the grade they believe students were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned;**
- **the order of learners, by performance, within those grades.**

Teachers will consider a range of evidence like: class and homework; results in assignments; mock exams (do not worry, we understand the level of preparation for mocks is often minimal in comparison with the work students put into their actual exams); any non-exam assessment students might have completed; and students' general progress during their courses.

This information will allow WJEC and other exam boards to gather and compare grades across centres.

- **Will the grades given by teachers definitely end up being pupils' final results?**

Qualifications Wales have explained that they want to make sure that results are fair and that, as far as possible, learners are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade students get could be different from the one awarded by the school as exam boards 'fine tune'.

- **What do students need to do now to be awarded their grades?**

Your child does not need to do any additional work to be awarded their summer grades.



The work teachers set over the summer term will aim to prepare students for their next steps in education, training or employment. We will tailor the summer online learning programme to meet your child's needs. The Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Taylor, is coordinating the summer term teaching programme with subject leaders and will provide additional information over the next two weeks so that students can hit the ground running when the new term begins on 20th April.

- [Can I find out the grades submitted by the school?](#)

Qualifications Wales have given schools strict instructions **NOT to share the grades or rank order with students or parents/carers**. Qualifications Wales insist this is necessary to help ensure the information submitted by schools and colleges is as fair as possible. I think they envisage parents lining up outside teachers' classrooms with home-made bara brith in the hope of pushing up grades! Please explain to your child that they must not ask their teachers, or anyone else at school, for the grades we will be sending to exam boards or where they have been placed in the order of learners.

- [When will students get their results?](#)

This has not yet been decided, but Qualifications Wales is working hard to make sure students get their results as soon as possible – and no later than the published dates of 13 August (AS and A level) and 20 August (GCSE). As soon as they confirm dates, I will let you know.

- [Can students take exams another time?](#)

There are already exams available in GCSE English Language, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy and Welsh Language in November each year. Students can be entered for these exams in November 2020. Other exams will be available, as usual, in summer 2021.

- [Keep informed](#)

Qualifications Wales has published a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and more detailed information on their website www.qualificationswales.org. Updates are also available via social media (@quals_wales on twitter and @qualswalescymcymru on facebook).

[As Headteacher, what do you think of the approach being taken by Qualifications Wales?](#)

In a word, I am delighted! This is undoubtedly good news for your child. If Qualifications Wales had chosen to base grades solely on mock results, or AS results then, overall, grades would have been much lower and desperately unfair. The approach being taken is spot on! It's true that the 'fine tuning' process that will be carried out by exam boards remains unclear. It's also true that we don't yet know how they are going to decide grades for the wide-ranging vocational qualifications. However, the approach taken to GCSEs, AS and A-levels fills me with confidence that Qualifications Wales are thinking along the right lines.

At Llanidloes High School, we are blessed with an outstanding and deeply compassionate team of teachers who have your child's best interests at heart. There is no doubt that each and every assessment grade we recommend to exam boards will be rigorously checked and re-checked to ensure your child is fairly rewarded for their work.

If you have any questions – other than 'What are my child's assessment grades?' - please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Take care,



Daniel Owen (Headteacher)