

Ysgol Harri Tudur Henry Tudor School

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow Dysgwyr Heddiw, Arweinwyr Yfory

22 January 2021

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Dear Learner, Parent, Guardian

I hope by now that you have had an opportunity to read the letter circulated by Qualifications Wales (QW) last week relating to its updated assessment arrangements for GCSE, AS and A level grades this summer.

Here at Ysgol Harri Tudur, just like in every other secondary school and college across Wales, we are beginning to modify our planning in order to be ready to align with the detail that will emerge from the Welsh examinations body (WJEC) over the coming weeks. However, at this early stage following the announcement, I have to inform you that we know little more than was covered in the QW letter, namely:

- There will be NO external assessments or examinations for students this summer;
- Non-examination assessments (NEA) which are integral aspects of many courses will no longer have marks submitted to WJEC but it is important that pupils complete these to the best of their ability;
- AS courses will be graded, although these grades will not contribute in any way to the A level outcomes in 2022;
- Subject teachers will be responsible for determining pupil outcomes. These will be based on a range of school based assessments, including NEAs, and other materials to be provided by the WJEC later this term.

In order to ensure fairness and consistency across schools, the WJEC have been tasked with developing subject assessment frameworks for teachers to use when arriving at grades. These have yet to be published, but it has been made clear that it means any predicted grades which were shared with you in the Autumn term may differ due to shift in the nature of the assessment process. However, when making applications to college or sixth forms, I suggest that pupils use the grades which were reported to you in the autumn term. Pupils were given both a MEG (Minimum Expected Grade) and a predicted grade, if we receive any grade requests for individuals please be assured that we will use the highest grade of the 2.

The QW letter also states that schools will not be required to submit grades to WJEC until the summer term. We welcome this statement as it allows us time to ensure that subject teachers can continue teaching content as well as prepare learners thoroughly for the new internal assessments that learners will need to take.



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As you will appreciate, until we receive further direction from WJEC with regards to the subject assessment frameworks and a clear timeline of landmarks and deadlines we are limited in the decisions we are able to make. However, please be assured that every member of staff at Ysgol Harri Tudur has the best interests of our learners at heart and are continuing to prepare and deliver high quality online learning activities and lessons during this period of lockdown.

As we learn more from WJEC over the coming weeks I will endeavour to update you further on developments and how they will unfold in the classrooms at Ysgol Harri Tudur.

With all best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Kite', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Fiona Kite
Headteacher