



Blackwood Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon

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Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed

Friday 26th March

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well.

As you already know, there are no summer examinations for learners taking GCSEs in 2021. I am writing to you today with an update regarding arrangements for the awarding of GCSE grades this summer. GCSE qualifications will be awarded using Centre Determined Grades (CDGs). This means that individual schools will determine the grades awarded for each qualification. Each grade awarded by the school must be supported by evidence to demonstrate a learner's attainment within each subject area. The evidence will vary depending on the nature of each qualification. Centre Determined Grades are not predictions, neither do they reflect the potential of a learner. They are not the same as grades which may have appeared on reports to parents.

How CDGs will be determined

CDGs for each GCSE subject will be arrived at using evidence of work completed by a learner. In determining a grade, the following types of evidence will be used in each qualification:

1. Adapted past-paper questions

A key part of the evidence will come from the WJEC adapted past papers. Teachers will use these past papers in their day to day teaching to support all our learners. The papers will be "chunked" into smaller sections and shorter time scales to ensure that all our learners are supported as fully as possible. The length of time of these assessments will vary from subject to subject. However, most will be no longer than 30 minutes in a single lesson.

Each subject teacher will explain how this will work in their subject, giving an outline of when these assessments will take place. They are closed book assessments but will be linked to the teaching and learning that has just taken place in that lesson or series of lessons. The assessment window is 13th April- 28th May.

Where relevant some subjects have provided information regarding the topics that these adapted past paper assessments will cover should learners wish to look over them prior to our return to school, on Tuesday 13th April.

2. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

Non-examination assessments (coursework/controlled assessments) exist in a number of subjects. Teachers can use this element to help contribute towards the determination of a grade, if it is still part of the course specification.

3. Other evidence

Evidence from previously completed WJEC past-paper questions may also be used in determining a grade, if they have been completed under controlled conditions.

When we return to school it is vital that all pupils attend. The WJEC has made it clear that schools must award Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) based on evidence that is 'an authentic representation of

learners' performance' and not representative of a learner's 'potential'. We will not be able to award a CDG if pupils do not return to us and so we will be contacting the families of those pupils who do not. I hope this information has helped answer any questions you may have had. Please rest assured that we will continue to support all our pupils when they return after Easter.

Kind regards

Sue Fowles

Senior Assistant Headteacher