



**Y Coleg
Merthyr Tudful**

**The College
Merthyr Tydfil**

Dear Parent/Carer,

This academic year, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on teaching and learning, the education minister, Kirsty Williams announced that the exam series for 2020/21 would be cancelled. WJEC, during the week beginning 15th March, confirmed the individual subject assessment frameworks for schools and colleges regarding centre approaches to assessing AS, A2, GCSE and Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications. Centres are required to produce Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) for all learners based firmly on evidence of their achievement. This differs from last year's approach where Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) were utilised as there is no prediction involved and no external standardisation to be undertaken by the awarding body.

A range of assessments will be utilised to generate the evidence required on which to base a Centre Determined Grade. In the majority of subjects, work already completed by learners will contribute to their grade where that assessment is deemed to be fit for purpose and the grade awarded an accurate reflection of the learner's ability. In many subjects, coursework will have already been completed and will contribute to the overall grade awarded for that subject. We believe it is important that, where possible, learners are rewarded for the hard work they have already demonstrated and that we keep future assessment to a minimum while adhering at all times to the WJEC frameworks.

Each subject leader has proposed which example from the WJEC framework they wish to follow based on the content already delivered and assessed. In the majority of cases this will involve learners completing a short series of approved WJEC past paper questions during their normal timetabled sessions. It is important to highlight that these are not exams and will not be approached under exam conditions. Learners will be informed of the broad topic to be assessed in advance of the assessment beginning and in many cases there will be adaptations to the control measures employed such as timings and access to books or notes. In Maths and Science-based subjects, tighter measures may need to be employed due to the nature of the skills and knowledge being assessed.

Where questions produced by the WJEC have already been seen or addressed by learners as part of their formative assessment, these questions may be replaced by those from past papers from another awarding body. We will not be producing our own questions to assess learners. We would very much hope that these assessments are able to be facilitated on site and face-to-face, however we need to remain flexible in this so that assessments can be undertaken online should Welsh Government impose further lockdown restrictions, or should a large number of learners be required to self-isolate.

Pennaeth Principal Lisa M Thomas

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Although there is a clear attempt to be consistent in our approach, it is vital to understand that consistent cannot mean identical. The requirements of the individual subject frameworks vary in terms of volume of work, number of assessments and overall evidence recommended. Consistency will be achieved in our approach to internal moderation and standardisation where samples of learner work will be second-marked and professional discussions undertaken within teaching teams to ensure grades are fair and accurate. In subjects where only one teacher delivers the content, they will work with a subject teacher from another school or college to undertake the moderation and standardisation process. All grades will then be scrutinised by the senior management team before being submitted to our Student Records department.

Student Records will notify learners of their Centre Determined Grades by post no later than the 11th of June 2021. On receipt of the grades, learners will have five working days to request a grade review if they appear to have been awarded grades far lower than anticipated. These requests will be made directly to Student Records and no learner or parent should contact teachers directly to discuss this process.

The College Merthyr Tydfil is committed to ensuring fairness and accuracy for all learners and will support our learners fully throughout this process. The centre will be transparent in its approaches to assessment so that learners and their parents have full confidence that our processes are robust and inclusive. There will be an opportunity to engage with a Q&A session later this week should you have any specific questions that are not addressed in this communication. A proposed timeline is outlined below as well as a summary of the main points raised in this letter.

Best Wishes,

Chris Ford
Director of Learning