

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr



Ffordd Pentrebaen,
YTyllgoed,
Caerdydd,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Pennaeth: Mr John D Hayes

Pentrebane Road,
Fairwater,
Cardiff,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

29.03.20

Dear Parents/Guardians and Learners in Years 10 - 13

FURTHER INFORMATION RE: CANCELLED EXAMINATIONS SUMMER 2020

Earlier this week I wrote to you about the cancellation of this summer's examinations for learners in Years 10 -13, and promised to update you as the examination boards announced further details.

I can now provide you below with:

- 1) Information about Non-Examined Assessment and,
- 2) Arrangements regarding AS levels and Year 10 Units.

1) Non-examined assessment (NEA)

The WJEC has now stated that non-examined assessments – that is, coursework or controlled assessments - will not be moderated this year: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/nea-update-for-centres-in-wales-march-2020>. All schools have been told how to proceed, and the key points, as we understand them, are as follows:

For **GCSE, AS/A level, and Skills Challenge Certificate** qualifications:

- Completed NEA and controlled assessment work should be retained and stored securely by teachers. (Work already sent to the WJEC will be returned at a later date.)
- Teachers should keep a record of marks awarded for work completed to date, but these marks will not be submitted to the WJEC.
- The only assessments to be marked by the WJEC are those timetabled on or before 6th March.

For **other qualifications** (like Pathways or Entry level):

- all coursework, controlled and non- examination assessment work should be stored by the school until further information is available.

For current Year 10 pupils, coursework completed this year is not affected, as it can be assessed within the next academic year as normal. For Year 12 learners, you may wish to move to read section 2 of this letter now.

What does this actually mean for our Year 11 and 13 students?

The key message is that **any work which has already been completed should be kept safe by teachers. It is therefore important that any current or upcoming hand-in deadlines for work are met by pupils, and that drafts are sent promptly via email as directed by teachers.** That work will provide solid evidence of pupils' attainment so far and teacher assessments, if required.

At the same time, pupils should not worry about improving drafts further, as the WJEC has said that school closures mean "learners are not in a position to complete [NEAs]" under fair conditions. And of course the

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

Ffordd Pentrebaen,
Y Tyllgoed,
Caerdydd,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Pennaeth: Mr John D Hayes

Pentrebane Road,
Fairwater,
Cardiff,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

WJEC have made clear that its calculated grades this year will be assessed on a range of appropriate evidence about pupils' attainment, not one piece or a piece which is unfinished due to recent events. Subject Leaders can offer clarification in regard to individual specific subjects' if needed by email, to make sure there is no confusion amongst pupils. However, find below advice for a few particular subject areas where questions have already arisen:

Year 13 – Art/Graphics/Textiles

Unlike most subjects, creative art projects cannot be sent to school electronically. Therefore, careful arrangements will be made to recall portfolios and work to date, so that these can be stored in school. It is important that everyone keeps to the original deadline of the **27th of April**. Mrs Helen Stiff will email all relevant students with instructions, so please check emails regularly for this information.

Year 11 and Year 13 Skills Challenge Certificate

- The WJEC is not requiring centres to submit work for any sub-sections of the Skills Challenge Certificate.
- Work which has been completed should be kept and carefully stored by teachers/tutors. Teachers/tutors should keep marks for work completed at this time.
- The qualification will not be moderated by the WJEC for this summer's series, and this means that work which is not yet finished does not need to be completed.
- Following the statement by Qualifications Wales, we have decided that **final drafts (Prosiect Unigol / Her Menter / Her y Gymuned) should be sent to mentors by 2nd of April**, the original hand-in date. This will provide strong evidence of your progress to date, to justify your predicted grade. You will not need to make any improvements after this date.

BTEC Courses

Following the recent announcements regarding external exams, assessments, coursework and the awarding of grades for the Summer 2020 exams, we have been following the advice given by the awarding body (Pearson Edexcel). We expect all pupils following a BTEC L1, 2 or 3 vocational course to continue presenting work using the medium as agreed with each individual teacher e.g. Teams, email etc. We would like to emphasise that regardless of the decisions taken by the awarding bodies, no pupil will receive a grade lower than predicted – the grade will be based on work already presented and assessed, coupled with the predicted grade given by the staff during the year. Following the same principle, there will not be an opportunity for individual pupils to raise or improve their grades during the next few weeks. The simple message is, continue to complete and present all work which is due at the level expected of that assignment. It is entirely possible for us to receive a request for a sample of work either in the Summer or Autumn terms and we therefore need to ensure that our standards are maintained in terms of quality

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

Ffordd Pentrebaen,
YTyllgoed,
Caerdydd,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Pennaeth: Mr John D Hayes

Pentrebane Road,
Fairwater,
Cardiff,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

assurance and transparency in the work, standards and processes. We thank you all for your continued support and understanding in this difficult and most unique of circumstances.

2) AS examinations and Year 10 modules

The WJEC has also provided clear and detailed information for learners in Year 12 following AS courses, and those in Year 10 who were due to sit modules this year. The statement below was published on 27 March. Mr James has already contacted all Year 12 students by email. Decisions about the various options offered below will be discussed within departments over the coming weeks, and we will update you in due course. **It is extremely likely that departments will make recommendations to pupils based on their knowledge of their own courses and with the pupil's best interests at heart.** For example, the English Department may say: There is no need for Year 10 to sit the Unit 1 Literature exam in Year 11 as they can still succeed in Unit 2. However, another department might recommend differently. Whatever the case, it may be necessary to adjust the work programme set by teachers for Year 10 and Year 12 for the coming weeks, so keep checking emails and Teams.

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/awarding-of-wjec-as-and-year-10-gcse-specifications-in-wales>.

AS level learners - Year 12

"In our WJEC specifications in Wales, AS levels are not solely stand-alone qualifications; they also contribute to A level qualifications. AS units are usually taken in Year 12 and A2 units in Year 13. Some learners may just sit AS qualifications and not progress to the A level. As exams are not being held this summer, we understand this will have implications for those learners entering for stand-alone AS qualifications and for those taking their AS units this year leading on to the full A level next year. We are pleased to inform you that we have now come to an agreement with Qualifications Wales and Welsh Government to take the following steps in respect of our WJEC specifications.

- . Learners who were due to sit their AS exams this summer will not be required to sit those exams.
- . AS learners will be awarded a qualification in a similar way to those taking GCSEs and A levels this summer.
- . AS learners will receive a final AS grade from WJEC this summer, which will be based on a range of evidence, including teacher assessed grades.
- . The AS grade awarded to learners this summer will not contribute to their A level results in 2021.

In summer 2021, AS learners will be given two options for their A level qualifications, either to:

1. sit their A2 units only, and their grade will be awarded based solely on their performance in those units (which will be used to calculate marks for their AS units)
- or
2. sit both AS and A2 units, if they wish to do so.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

Ffordd Pentrebaen,
YTyllgoed,
Caerdydd,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Pennaeth: Mr John D Hayes

Pentrebane Road,
Fairwater,
Cardiff,
CF5 3PZ

 029 20 405 499

 post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

 @YsgolPlasmawr

Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

If learners decide to take option 2 next year, we will also consider the grade they would have been awarded if they took option 1. Their final grade will be the best grade awarded from either option”.

Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

From the current information available it is important that Year 12 continue to work on their Enterprise tasks and any work set by the teachers over the next period as this is not affected by the details released regarding the AS qualification. The only change is that the Citizenship Challenge will now be moderated in January instead of the summer. We are still awaiting confirmation regarding the Skills Challenge Certificate.

Year 10 GCSE learners

“For learners in Year 10 who were due to sit units only, rather than completing an entire GCSE qualification this summer, we will not be issuing unit results. Those learners will be provided with two options which are either to

1. sit the Year 11 units in summer 2021, and their final overall GCSE grade will be calculated on the basis of their performance on those units

or

2. sit the Year 10 units in summer 2021, along with their Year 11 units.

If learners decide to take option 2 next year, we will also consider the grade they would have been awarded if they took option 1. Their final grade will be the best grade awarded from either option.

For learners in Year 10 who were due to sit units to complete their GCSE qualification this summer, they will be issued a grade following the same process we outlined last week for Year 11 GCSE learners”.

I hope that this information offers some clarity and reassures learners that awards will be made fairly.

Most importantly, I hope that you and your families are safe and well. If you become aware of any member of our school community who require our assistance and support please contact us through post@ysgolplasmawr.cymru

Best wishes and please keep safe.

John Hayes
Headteacher