



Cardiff High School Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth
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November 11th 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Yesterday, Education Minister, Kirsty Williams announced that no GCSE, AS or A Level exams will take place in Wales at the end of this academic year.

The Minister went on to outline:

- that in place of exams, the Welsh Government intended to work with schools and colleges to take forward teacher-managed assessments
- that this should include assessments that will be externally set and marked but delivered within a classroom environment under teacher supervision
- her expectation that this work will form the basis for centre-based outcomes which will be linked to an agreed national approach to provide consistency across Wales

[Welsh Government press release 10th November]

We fully understand that this announcement will have generated lots of questions about how this will work in practice and how grades will be arrived at. We are now awaiting further detail from the Welsh Government, WJEC and the regulating body Qualifications Wales. As soon as more information is available, we will carefully consider the implications and communicate with you accordingly.

Until we have further subject specific guidance is available, we are also not yet in a position to update you about the impact of this announcement on any coursework, practical elements or other assessment methods such as oral or performance exams. Teachers will continue to work with students on these elements in the normal way and we will share any changes with you as soon as we know more.

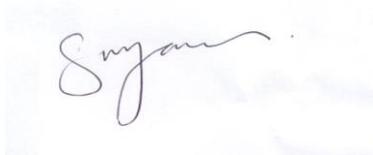
Y10 students were due to sit an English Literature module examination on *Of Mice and Men* in January 2021. The January exam period has not been referred to specifically in the announcements, but we do not envisage this going ahead. Students will however continue to work on their study of this text and be assessed on this material within school as part of our normal progress tracking procedures.

In a normal academic year, students in years 11, 12 and 13 would sit formal mock examinations before Christmas. However, in light of this announcement and the fact that we are still awaiting detail surrounding the format of assessments going forward, we feel that this would not be appropriate at this time. Nevertheless, normal in-class assessment processes will continue as part of our usual assessment for learning strategies as we approach the end of a term. Teachers will communicate directly with students about the nature and timing of any class based assessments. These should be regarded as important check points to assess students' understanding of the material they have covered so far, and to inform the next steps in their learning.

We appreciate that the uncertainty surrounding examinations and assessments may have been the cause of anxiety and worry in recent weeks and months and hope that this development offers at least some clarity and re-assurance. We are committed to ensuring that our students continue to love learning and achieve to the very best of their potential, regardless of the method of assessment.

We will keep you updated as soon as we have more information and thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S M Jones', is written over a light blue rectangular stamp or watermark.

S M JONES
Headteacher