



**January 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**For the attention of families with children in years 10, 11, 12, & 13**

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will no doubt be aware, on the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> January, the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams, announced changes to the arrangements for awarding grades for GCSE, AS and A Level in summer 2021. Qualifications Wales has also written to learners to explain the changes and a copy of this letter is attached here. Please take a few moments to read through this.

Learners undertaking GCSE, AS and A levels approved by Qualifications Wales will now have their qualifications awarded through a Centre-Determined Grade model. This means that grades will be determined by their school, based on an assessment of the learner's work. The detail about exactly what assessments will be based on in each subject is yet to be decided, as is the timeframe for when grades will need to be submitted. However, what is clear is that there will be some flexibility built into the system to ensure that learners can be assessed on the work they have covered.

We are truly aware that the uncertain situation surrounding assessment has been a source of anxiety for many students and their families and understand that, even with this announcement, the exact arrangements are still not certain. However, we hope that this latest development provides some reassurance. Further detail will be made available to schools in the coming weeks and we will of course keep you updated. We appreciate that you are likely to have lots of questions related to assessment, but we would appeal to you and your children not to contact individual teachers with specific queries about grades. The subject specific detail about how the process will work is still being worked on at Welsh Government and examination board level and, once it is released, we will then need time to interpret it for our learners. For now, please rest assured that we are doing everything possible to develop learners' skills and understanding appropriately. Please encourage your children to engage fully with their remote learning timetable and the associated tasks. We would like to reassure all learners that if they do this, they will be doing everything possible to achieve to their full potential. Y12 have already had subject feedback reports, Y11 and Y13 will receive their reports in the next few weeks with Y10 to follow. These provide specific advice about what pupils have done well and what they can do to make further progress.

Please note that arrangements for learners studying GCSE Economics have yet to be announced as this qualification is awarded by the English examination board OCR. When we have further information regarding this qualification we will update you.

Many thanks for your continued support. We will be in touch again as soon as we can provide updated information.

Kind regards

S. M. Jones

Headteacher