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10th November 2020

Dear parent / carer,

You may have seen this afternoon's announcement by Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education, that neither GCSEs nor AS / A levels examinations will take place in Wales in summer 2021. We note also that further information will follow about vocational qualifications eventually.

The Welsh Government have indicated that they will eventually award grades based upon data from teacher-managed assessments and externally set and marked pieces of assessed work. Some of these tasks will be conducted under exam conditions in classrooms in school. It is hoped that this will lead to a consistent approach across Wales in the awarding of grades for examination class students. Schools have been told that further detailed information will follow in time.

It has clearly never been more important to remind students gently that all work undertaken, whether in the context of distance learning or indeed in the school building, should provide an accurate reflection of the best of each examination class student's ability. I would ask you to convey this message to your child in the way you feel most appropriate, as we all seek to help students through the many challenges of this most demanding of times.

Many thanks for your support. We will, of course, provide further guidance as we are able.

Best wishes,

Paul Edwards