

Dear Year 13,11,12 and 10 students and parents/carers,

This afternoon, we received a letter from Philip Blaker, Chief Executive of Qualifications Wales, which outlines how they intend to award qualifications this summer despite all examinations being cancelled.

The text below is quoted directly from Mr Blaker's letter to Headteachers:

I am writing to update you on our approach to grading this summer.

Following the Welsh Government decision to cancel exams for summer 2020, we are working with WJEC to establish the fairest way to issue grades for GCSE, A Level and the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications. We understand this is a very difficult time for learners, education professionals, parents and anyone else affected by serious and rapid public health developments and a situation which is beyond their control.

People have many questions about how this will work in practice. Although we will not have all the answers until we have carefully worked through the detail and analysis, we can give an indication of our approach.

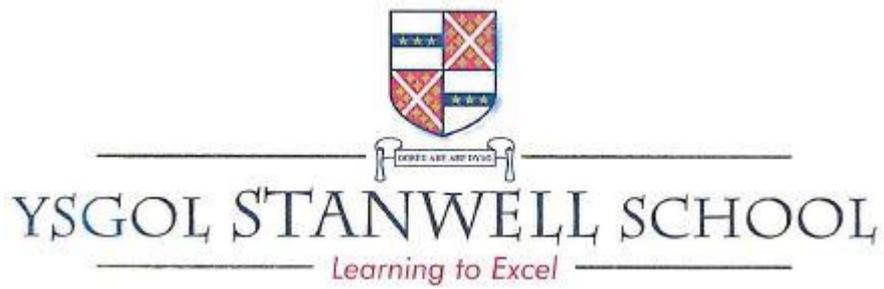
Grades for GCSE and A level qualifications in 2020 will be calculated using a range of evidence. They will be based on a combination of factors which may include marks for work completed to date, for example AS results for A level grades, and standardised teacher assessed grades.

Mr Blaker's letter seems to indicate that Year 13 and Year 11 students' qualifications will be prioritised, with the letter stating: **We are not planning to issue grades for AS Levels or for unit assessments taken by Year 10 learners in the same way. For those learners, we are looking at a wide variety of options, including the opportunity to sit exams in subsequent exam series. We will share more detail on those plans as soon as we can.**

An update from the WJEC states that Year 10 pupils entered for cash-in exams this summer (full GCSE e.g. English Literature) will be awarded a grade. For students taking vocational qualifications eg BTEC, there is no indication as yet of what they will decide but the letter again states that they will provide more detail as soon as they are able. The letter also states that they are working hard to provide greater clarity as quickly as possible.

As promised, we will keep parents/carers and students updated as and when information is given to us.

We take this opportunity to urge all members of the school community to follow all Government instructions on self-isolating as a household for a 14 day period if any



member of the household develops a new, persistent cough or temperature. We also urge all parents/carers, students and their families to do their civic duty and ensure that social distancing guidelines are followed. Your efforts now to reduce the spread of the virus will be crucial in the weeks to come.