



## **Forthcoming important dates**

16.06.21 Provisional Centre Determined Grades to Years 10, 11,12 and 13

**18.06.21** INSET Day

21.06.21 Year 12 return to school

22.06.21 Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening

## **Scheduled INSET day - June 2021**

We previously advised you that our June INSET day was to be held on Friday 11 June 2021. One of the purposes of this INSET (as allowed by Welsh Government) was to allow members of staff to complete the Centre Determined Grades process in line with WJEC procedures.

However, we have now been informed by the WJEC that a critical element of the final process can only be completed after 14 June 2021. Therefore, our INSET day will change from Friday 11 June to **Friday 18 June 2021**.

We apologise for this change in date and for any inconvenience it may cause.

## **Arrangements for Years 11, 12 and 13**

Please see below a reminder of the arrangements for Years 11, 12 and 13 for the remainder of this half term. These details were first provided in last week's Parentmail dated 14.05.21.

In our original assessment planning, the weeks beginning the 17 May 2021 and the 24 May 2021 were scheduled to be used by most subjects to deliver final assessment lessons or "mop up" sessions in the event of disruption to the assessment window due to Covid-19. However, thankfully, we have experienced only minimal disruption to lessons and assessments due to Covid-19 since examination year groups returned to school before the Easter holidays. This means that many students will have completed all assessment activities before 26 May 2021. As a result of this, please see arrangements, for students in Years 11, 12 and 13, for the next two weeks.

1. Wednesday, 26 May 2021 is not a "leavers' day". This is the last date set by the school for assessment completion. There is no official leavers' day and there are no leavers' activities planned, due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions.
2. From the 17 May 2021, students should only attend school if they still have assessment lessons or assessment preparation lessons.
3. If a pupil does not have assessments on a particular day - and does not have any lessons where they are required to prepare for a further assessment – he/she does not need to attend on that day.
4. If a **Year 11** student is in school for an assessment, or for an assessment preparation lesson, they must be present in **all** lessons for that day. (This does not apply to Year 12 and Year 13 students). Year 11 students are not 'free' to only go to assessment lessons and spend the rest of the time out of lessons, for example, in school break out areas or in the canteen, etc. The only exception to pupils not being present in all timetabled lessons is if a parent notifies the school that their child/children is/are being collected or returning home after an assessment. Pupils in Years 12 and 13 can leave the site if they do not have assessments or assessment preparation lessons.

## **Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) - review and appeals procedures**

Earlier this week we received the delayed information from Qualifications Wales and the WJEC relating to the review and appeals process for CDGs. The information contains detailed guidance relating to the procedure, including strict timeframes within which we will have to work. More detailed information regarding reviews/ appeals and timings will be sent to students and parents/carers next week and after the half term break. However, please see below a summary of the review/ appeals process.

After provisional CDGs are released in most subjects on 16 June 2021, students will have access to a review and appeals process.

### **Stage 1 Centre (school) review**

A student can request for a centre review of the provisional CDG awarded on the grounds that there has been an error in the determination of their grade. Students must give a clear reason why they believe there has been an error in the determination of their grade. After the internal centre review grades can go up, down or remain the same.

### **Stage 2 Appeal to WJEC (following completion of Stage 1)**

An appeal to WJEC on the grounds that the judgement that the centre has made is unreasonable and/or a procedural error has been made. Students must give a reason why they believe the centre has made an unreasonable judgement and/or procedural error. Grades can go up, down or remain the same as a result.

### **Stage 3 EPRS - Qualifications Wales (following completion of stage 2)**

A request to Qualifications Wales for an Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) to review whether the WJEC has followed the required procedure.

### **Key Points (Stage 1 centre review)**

- The internal centre review is an opportunity for students to request a review where they consider an error had been made in the determination of their grade.
- Students should only request a review where they consider that the error has had a material effect on the accuracy of the grade awarded.
- Students will need to explain the nature of the error when requesting a centre review.
- The centre review is not an opportunity for students to try and improve grades that have been determined fairly in accordance with the centre's assessment and quality assurance processes.
- The centre review is an opportunity for the school to check that an error has not been made.

### **Learner Voice Research Project**

Pupils in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13, and their parents, have received information about a Learner Voice Project, which is a Welsh Government funded research project being run collaboratively by a number of universities in Wales. The researchers aim to gather pupils' views and experiences of teaching and qualifications assessment during 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to express their opinions about the processes that have been in place to award Centre Determined Grades this year and to help shape future policy. For further information, please see the separate email that has been sent about this project.

We wish all families an enjoyable weekend,

Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior Leadership Team.