

Ysgol Rhiwabon
Pont Adam
Rhiwabon
Wrexham
LL14 6BT
Ffon: Wrexham (01978) 822392
Ffacs: (01978) 814918
e-bost: mailbox@rhiwabon-high.wrexham.sch.uk
www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk



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Ysgol Rhiwabon

Pennaeth - Melanie Ferron-Evans B.A.(Joint Hons) MSc. N.P.Q.H - Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would like to begin this letter by congratulating Year 11 for the excellent start they have made to their studies since their return to Ysgol Rhiwabon this September. They have faced many challenges since the March lockdown and yet they have continued to work hard and to approach change in a positive way.

A special mention must be made of the way the students have approached the GCSE Mathematics examination and the way families have supported the revision programme, extra classes and distance learning. As Headteacher the dedication of staff and the positive attitude of our Year 11 students is something I am very proud of.

The Education Minister's Announcement regarding Summer Examinations 2021

In September, we received revised examination specifications in school for every GCSE subject. This removed an element of work in each subject to address the fact that students had missed face to face learning in the classroom for a significant amount of time. Following the announcement yesterday, we will continue to deliver these specifications which will provide every student a fair and equitable programme of study as they prepare for post 16 studies or the world of work.

You will be aware that yesterday the Education Minister announced the following:

- There will be no formal GCSE examinations in the Summer Term.
- That in place of exams, the Welsh Government intends 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.
- It is her expectation this work will form the basis for centre-based outcomes which will be linked to an agreed national approach to provide consistency across Wales.

At this point the Government are working with advisors, including teachers, to provide the fine detail we need to deliver the external assessments later in the year.

I know that you will have many questions regarding this decision and as soon as we receive greater clarification regarding the assessment arrangements, I will be informing students and our families so that you can support.

Last year Ysgol Rhiwabon rose to the challenge of producing Centre Assessed Grades with much shorter notice and last year's cohort did very well, receiving the grades they deserved

At this stage the message is that it is business as normal. The English Literature examination will continue as planned in January. Every student will need to continue to work extremely hard as they have been doing to ensure the best assessment grades and overall Centre Grade.

I want to reassure you that staff in Ysgol Rhiwabon will respond to the new system ensuring that it secures the very best results for our young people. As the system unfolds in the Spring Term onwards, we will ensure that it is fair and that every student is supported to achieve the very best outcomes in the Summer. Family support is a vital part of this success and we will keep you informed of the changes as soon as we know them.

In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any immediate questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferron-Evans', with a decorative flourish underneath the name.

Mrs M Ferron-Evans
Headteacher