

QW(1)300124

30 January 2024

Dear Colleague

Today, after many months of thorough analysis and ongoing stakeholder engagement, we published our [Full 14-16 Qualifications Offer decisions report](#).

Your responses to our consultation, over 500 of them, together with many informative conversations and discussions with stakeholders, have enabled us to reach these decisions. We have carefully considered all of this feedback and you can now read a full report on our [decisions, an executive summary and a youth friendly report here](#).

In these reports we describe an innovative, exciting, inclusive and challenging new qualifications offer that will support learners in meeting the aims and purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.

Reflecting the principles of progression and the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, this offer will equip young people with skills for life, learning and work, helping them to become qualified for the future.

By 2027, along with new Made-for-Wales GCSEs, learners in Wales aged 14-16 will be able to choose from:

- VCSEs (Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education)
- Foundation qualifications
- Skills for Life and Skills for Work qualifications
- Personal Project qualification

Learners have played a key part in all our decisions helping us to describe the range of National 14-16 Qualifications. These qualifications will:



- prepare learners for the challenges of modern society, reflecting the diversity of the world we live in
- incorporate digital technologies to future-proof qualifications
- include a range of relevant, engaging, and varied assessment methods
- support positive mental health and wellbeing
- promote positive teaching and learning experiences
- help learners make meaningful connections across their learning

### **What happens next?**

We will continue to involve practitioners and stakeholders in our work with further engagement and consultations planned for 2024. We will be working closely with awarding bodies who want to develop this new exciting offer. The new qualifications will be approved by September 2026, giving schools a full academic year to prepare for first teaching in September 2027.

A package of teaching and learning resources will be made available to support the transition, and all information on the National 14-16 Qualifications can be accessed via our [Have Your Say portal](#).

### **Find out more**

If you would like to learn more about the consultation outcomes and decisions, [register now to join our webinar on 1 February at 4pm](#).

Further details and publications are also available on the [Qualifications Wales website](#).

Thank you once again for your support, feedback, and contribution. We are now looking forward to the next phase of our Qualified for the Future reform work, and will keep you informed and involved in the journey as we move into a new chapter for education in Wales.

Yours sincerely



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Philip Blaker

Chief Executive