



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1540
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/01187/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

11 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 October, regarding Petition P-06-1540: Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate.

In Wales, there are no statutory requirements for learners to undertake any qualification. The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (ASBW) is a Level 3 qualification, equivalent to an A Level, that helps learners to develop and apply key skills that are valued by both universities and employers. We encourage schools and colleges to offer the qualification to all their learners aged 16 to 19 on a 2-year course, alongside other Level 3 qualifications.

Schools and colleges can set their own curriculum offers and should provide opportunities which are in the best interests of their learners. Institutions must use their professional judgement in determining which learners should be undertaking the ASBW, giving due consideration to each young person's needs, wellbeing and future pathways.

Since August 2024, mainstream funding for school sixth forms and colleges has been provided by Medr, the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research. The funding is allocated on the same basis in both schools and colleges, who are provided with the funds required to cover the costs of the learning programmes they offer. There is no bespoke funding for the ASBW, and schools and colleges are not financially incentivised to promote uptake of this course. Within 16-19 programmes of learning, the ASBW is funded within General Education programmes consistent with how A Level or BTEC Vocational subjects are funded, as a direct equivalent. The funding at Programme level is based on all qualifications that learners undertake during the academic year, in recognition of the costs of delivery each of these involve for providers. This means that schools and colleges receive the same level of funding for learners studying 3 A levels and the ASBW, as they do for a learner studying 4 A levels.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

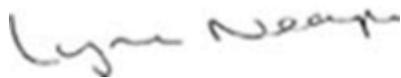
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In addition to the skills that learners undertaking the ASBW develop, there are also benefits in achieving this qualification when applying for work and for university. The majority of universities attended by Welsh learners accept the ASBW as a direct equivalent to an A Level. Those universities and faculties that have a strict policy of only making entry offers based on A level grades still value the skills and experience the ASBW provides, and which can provide strong evidence within personal statements and interviews.

We are currently developing statutory guidance for Medr on 16-19 Local Curricula. This will continue to emphasise the importance of students having access to a wide range of courses of study in their post-16 education and will describe the role of the ASBW within local curricula.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education