

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P—04-679
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00096/16
William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk
seneddpetitions@assembly.wales

26 January 2016

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 19 January concerning a petition for the removal of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification.

The new Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification was rolled out for first teaching in September 2015 following a wide consultation with stakeholders including universities. This followed a comprehensive Review of Qualifications for 14-19 year olds in Wales, which made 42 recommendations for improving the qualifications system. The review was based on a large body of evidence and on discussions with stakeholders and experts from across the UK and beyond. The changes that have been made to the Welsh Baccalaureate are in line with these recommendations, and will deliver a high quality and well respected qualification.

I firmly believe that the new and more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate is a qualification that all learners will benefit from studying, through its focus on the development of valuable life skills that will help learners to progress to further/higher education or to secure employment.

I would like to see the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate with all its benefits becoming universally adopted across Wales by 2020 although it is not compulsory for Post 16 learners.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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.

The new Welsh Baccalaureate with the fully graded A* to E Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate at its heart will affect university entrance for 2017 entry. Universities are currently considering their positions for 2017 and the information will be in their prospectuses and websites in the early spring of 2016. Early indications are very positive with the majority of universities prepared to accept the new Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate and to treat it as an 'A' level for entry requirements purposes. I am also very pleased by the recent decision of Cambridge University to also include it, as appropriate, in their offers for 2017 entry.

I hope that you find this information helpful in consideration of the petition.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills