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Dear Lynne

Last year, we commissioned a review of the design and assessment model of the Skills Challenge Certificate and its place within the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Today, we are publishing a report detailing its findings and recommendations together with a short overview explaining how we will address those recommendations. We enclose copies of both documents with this letter.

The purpose of the review was to examine the intended design of the new Skills Challenge Certificate as well as how it is working in practice. The research included a critical analysis of the design and assessment model of the Skills Challenge Certificate alongside a series of discussions with teaching staff and students from schools and colleges across Wales.

The review concludes that the Welsh Baccalaureate and the Skills Challenge Certificate serve a valuable purpose in helping learners to develop skills that are beneficial to their future. It strongly supports retaining the Skills Challenge Certificate and developing it further by building on its strengths and reducing its complexity.

The report makes eight recommendations for us to consider, some of which focus on the current delivery of the Skills Challenge Certificate, whilst the others suggest how, in the future, the design and assessment of the Skills Challenge Certificate could be simplified.

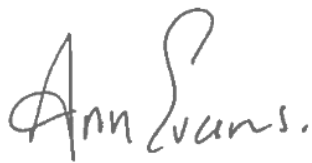
To help us consider how the recommendations could be put into practice, we will establish a working group. To test and refine any proposals made by the group, we will use a panel of stakeholders, including teachers, lecturers, students, employers and universities.



As a new and innovative qualification within a redesigned Welsh Bacallaureate, it was expected the Skills Challenge Certificate would continue to evolve over time. The findings from this research help to set the direction for a considered process of review and refinement to ensure that the qualification continues to help students develop the skills they need to succeed.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this work and its implications for the future, we would be very happy to do so.

Yours sincerely



Ann Evans
Chair



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive