

Dear Parent/Carer

I am taking this opportunity to write to all parents of Year 10 students and hopefully offer some reassurances. Your children are all part way through their examination course and, understandably, this is causing considerable anxiety as to the impact of school closure on their learning.

The Welsh minister for education has stated the following:

Those who were due to sit units that will lead to GCSE results next summer will not receive a unit result. Instead, those learners will have two choices, to either:

- *sit only the units they plan to take in summer 2021, with their GCSE grade based on that performance only;*
- *or sit the Year 10 units in summer 2021, along with the Year 11 units. They will be awarded the best grade from either route.*

For year 10 students at John Bright, GCSE units were due to take place in science, Welsh, history, ICT and also religious studies this summer. At this stage, with the information we have at the moment, the most likely response from the school is to enter students for only their Year 11 exams in these subjects next summer rather than taking the second option of sitting both Year 10 and 11 examinations. Year 10 students were also entered for the full GCSE in English Literature this summer and therefore will be given a full GCSE final grade in this subject in August. This will be based on centre assessment data and external statistical modelling. This helpful [flow chart](#) clearly shows the approach Qualifications Wales are taking towards this summer's examinations..

Qualifications Wales are looking at how school closure will affect this year group when they come to sit their examinations. I am reassured that they can see that home learning cannot make up for lost teaching time in school and I strongly believe that there has to be some adjustment to mitigate the impact. When I have further details as to what this may look like, if they do decide to make any adjustments, then I will let you know.

I hope that you have found the new learning grids helpful as a simple visual summary of the work in google classrooms. Mrs Whitham, Director of Learning for Year 10, is the person to contact should you have any issues either through google classroom or by email n.whitham@johnbright.uk. Please keep your eye on the year group page of the website for updated information.

Finally, we will be providing you with a short report on the most recent mock examination this half term. Under normal circumstances you would have received a report this week but events overtook us in school on the week these exams were completed, so I apologise that this will be slightly later than we originally intended.

I want to thank you all for your continued support and also very helpful feedback. I can only assure you that we are doing our best to lobby Welsh Government through our unions, the Local Authority and the Regional Consortia (GwE), to ensure our Year 10 learners get the best possible support, not only through adjustments to the assessment process, but also for a recognition of the impact the school closure has had on a year group mid way through their courses.

As always, I will keep you updated with developments. Please take care and keep safe.

Yours faithfully

Ann Webb