

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-938
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00692/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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01 April 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

Thank you for your letter regarding petition P-05-938, asking for further information on our work to raise awareness of the Welsh Baccalaureate and to improve how Universities include the Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) in their offers. Please find below a response to the points you raise in your letter.

Detail of how the work to compile a list of universities which accept the Welsh Baccalaureate in their offers is progressing

Qualifications Wales' work to produce a list of universities that accept the SCC is ongoing. However, this is not as straightforward as it may sound. For example, their work has identified that whilst most universities accept the SCC, there remain differences between faculties within these universities. Another challenge is that the information is dynamic – universities and faculties regularly review and update their entry requirements. We have written a [blog](#) to show what has been happening over the past year which may prove useful.

A response to the petitioner's comments that there is a difference between the qualification being accepted as additional to 3 A levels and being as equivalent to A level

As explained in my previous response to the committee, many universities now include the SCC in offers. The Certificate is recognised as comparable in challenge to an A level and receives the same number of UCAS points. However, as autonomous bodies, it's up to universities to decide their own admissions processes and criteria. Whilst we agree that there is a difference between the qualification being accepted as additional to 3 A levels and being accepted as equivalent to A level, it is ultimately for universities to set the entry requirements to their courses. While there are differences in individual institutions' and

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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.

faculties' policies, the overwhelming picture that Qualifications Wales has seen from their engagement and evidence gathering is that the SCC is valued and seen as making a positive contribution to learners' applications to university.

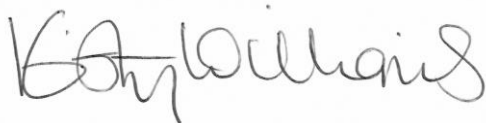
How the Welsh Government is raising awareness of the qualification and encouraging universities to recognise the Bacc as an A level equivalent

A communications task and finish group has been set up to coordinate work on promoting the Welsh Bac and includes representatives from Qualifications Wales, WJEC, FE, regional consortia and Welsh Government.

Activity has been agreed and work is underway to deliver a stakeholder campaign. This will include refining key messages to improve understanding of Welsh Bacc amongst learners, parents, schools, higher education institutions and businesses. The campaign will include development of a microsite PR, social media, presentations and multimedia content.

Promotional activity is currently on hold due to Welsh Government communications guidance on Coronavirus. However, the elements of planning work that can be undertaken are progressing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

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