

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-799
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05233/17

David J Rowlands AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

02 January 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your recent letter about a petition in relation to the teaching of Welsh History from a Welsh perspective.

Wales has a rich culture and heritage and the Welsh Government believes it is essential that all pupils in Wales have the opportunity to learn about our nation's history. From the Foundation Phase onwards, teachers and schools are encouraged to develop pupils understanding of the cultural identity that is unique to Wales. This helps them to appreciate the different languages and cultural aspects that are integral in Wales today, as well as gain a sense of belonging to Wales and to understand our Welsh heritage, literature and arts.

At Key Stages 2 and 3, Welsh history is a prominent part of the programme of study for history and schools are encouraged to focus on contexts from local and Welsh history, with an emphasis on people's daily lives. Specifically, at Key Stage 2 there are opportunities for schools to study Owain Glyndwr and The Age of Princes. Welsh Government has published resources on the national online learning platform for schools in Wales, Hwb, which provide advice and support to schools on this subject.

Both the new AS/A Level qualification, introduced for teaching from September 2015, and the new GCSE introduced last September, require learners to consider a Welsh perspective. Units 1 and 3 of the new GCSE require candidates to make reference to the impact of historical change on Wales or on a Welsh perspective. Unit 1 assessments will include compulsory questions that require knowledge and understanding of Welsh History. Unit 3 assessments take a thematic approach to historical development. Candidates will be required to draw upon the Welsh context in their responses to specific Unit 3 questions.

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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.

At AS/A Level, learners should be given opportunities, where appropriate, to consider a Welsh perspective if the opportunity arises naturally from the subject matter and if its inclusion would enrich learners' understanding of the world around them as citizens of Wales as well as the UK, Europe and the world. Learners should also be given access to primary source material and historical interpretations which reflect a Welsh perspective where appropriate.

Finally, a new curriculum is being developed in Wales following the publication of Successful Futures. History will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. The new curriculum will ensure all aspects of learning have a Welsh dimension, and is being designed with four key purposes at its heart. One of these key purposes is that all children and young people will be ethical, and informed citizens of Wales and the world, ensuring they are knowledgeable about the culture, community, and history of Wales and its place in the wider world.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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