



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



## Qualifications Wales:

“This year all AS learners will receive an AS grade and there will be no AS exams until summer 2021. The grade awarded will be based on a range of evidence, including teacher assessed grades, and will not contribute to A level results in 2021”.

In summer 2021, AS learners will have two options for their A level award. They can either choose to only sit the A2 units, with the A level grade based on their performance in those units, or they can choose to sit AS and A2 units. If they choose to sit the AS units alongside the A2 units **they will be awarded the best grade from either route.**

## AS Grades:

- ❖ *In Wales, the AS and A2 qualifications are normally linked.*
- ❖ *AS qualifications can be stand-alone qualifications, so you can drop a subject at the end of Y12 and still be awarded an AS grade. Alternatively, you can continue to study the subject into Y13 and sit the A2 units. Normally your AS units contribute 40% to your A2 grade.*
- ❖ *However, this year, AS exams are not taking place, so AS grades will be awarded based on the evidence available (See below).*
- ❖ *So, for this year, there will be no link and the way your A2 grade is calculated will depend on what you do in Y13 – See Subject Pages.*
- ❖ *The awarding of evidence based AS grades means that you will get recognition for the work you have done in Y12, even if you choose to drop the subject in Y13.*

## How will AS Grades be calculated?

### Qualifications Wales Letter to Learners

Your schools, colleges and other exam centres will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information, based on what they know about your work and performance:

- ❖ The grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- ❖ The order of learners, by performance, within those grades.

Your centre will consider a range of evidence. This information will allow WJEC and other exam boards to gather and compare grades across centres. Together, we want to make sure that results are fair and that, as far as possible, learners are not advantaged or disadvantaged.

**Please note: Schools are not permitted to share the grades or rank orders submitted to the exam board with students, parents or carers.**



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



*What does this mean for me?*

The decisions over the past weeks will have raised lots of questions and concerns. The answers have not all been straight forward and there will be considerations that are specific to each student and each subject. Qualifications Wales has a great deal of useful information for parents and students available on their website at QW FAQ.

<https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/coronavirus---covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/as-and-a-levels/>

## Approach to AS levels in Wales Summer 2020

### Year 12 Learners - Summer 2020

Calculated Grades for AS  
Generated through use of Centre Assessment Data & other statistical information

No contribution to A level grades in Summer 2021

## Approach to A levels in Wales Summer 2021

### Year 13 Learners - Summer 2021

#### OPTION 1

##### Sit A2 units only

A level grade based solely on the performance in these units.

#### OPTION 2

##### Sit AS & A2 units

A level grade based on performance in AS and A units.

This grade will then be compared with the grade they would have been awarded had they taken, Option 1.

The final grade will be the best grade from either option.

The calculated AS grade from summer 2020 cannot be used in the production of the A level grade summer 2021, since this would rely on there being actual Uniform Mark Scale scores. A single grade will not give enough detail to do it.



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



The following pages provide clear subject specific guidance, explaining exactly what these decisions mean in each subject. Your teachers have provided a professional recommendation about what they believe to be the best way forward for you and what it will mean for you as you move into Year 13.

### *What should I do know?*

You will naturally be worried and probably have lots of questions. Hopefully the next few pages will answer some of those questions. Until we know when we will be back in school, these are difficult issues to address, but your teachers are looking ahead and planning for this. You do not need to make any decisions at the moment. We will continue to communicate with you as and when we have any further updates.

*What we ask of you during this time is that you play your part by doing the following:*

- ✓ Keep up a **routine of focused school** work every week day, but allow some time for rest and relaxation.
- ✓ Use **Show My Homework** (Now known as Satchel One) and **Microsoft Teams** to continue to complete all work being set by your teachers. This is crucial in order that we have time to cover all of the A2 material by the end of next year. We will inevitably need to re-visit some of the topics covered remotely, but you can really help yourself by ensuring that you keep up to date with everything being set now.
- ✓ **Keep in touch** with school, your teachers and departments via email and social media. Your tutors will be contacting you fortnightly. Use the Weekly Newsletter to keep up to date (twitter and email)
- ✓ **Try not to worry** – we are here for you, even if it is at a distance.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Use your teacher contacts as well as Mr C Brooks [cbrooks@maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk](mailto:cbrooks@maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk) or Mrs K Cavendish [kcavendish@maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk](mailto:kcavendish@maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk)



Maesteg School Sixth Form  
Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers  
May Update 2020



What are your options in Year 13?  
What do my teachers suggest and why?

### 3D Design

**Option 1:** Submit both your coursework candidate portfolio (Y12 work) and also complete the Y13 A2 units (Personal Investigation and Exam) in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all three units.

**Option 2:** Just complete the A2 Units 2 & 3 (Personal Investigation and Exam) and have your grade calculated based on just these two units.

**Recommendation:** I feel that option 2 would be better for everyone, as to complete all three units in the given time would be very challenging.

### Art

**Option 1:** Submit both your coursework candidate portfolio (Y12 work) and also complete the Y13 A2 units (Personal Investigation and Exam) in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all three units.

**Option 2:** Just complete the A2 Units 2 & 3 (Personal Investigation and Exam) and have your grade calculated based on just these two units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that option 1 would be better due to the excellent work that has been completed this year for your AS studies.

### Biology

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written exams (Unit 1, 2, 3 and 4) at the end of year 13 and the A level grade will be calculated in the normal way based on the four written papers and the practical (Unit 5)

**Option 2:** Sit only the A2 written exams (Unit 3 and 4) and the A level grade will be based on just these two papers and the practical (Unit 5)

**Recommendation:** Due to time constraints we would recommend that the second option would be the better option as it would allow you to focus more deeply on unit 3, 4 and 5. You will only be taught the A2 content in year 13 lessons. However, it is essential that you have a solid understanding of the AS content as you will be building on this knowledge in year 13 so you must make sure that you are completing all of the AS work that has been published on Show My Homework.

### Business Studies

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written exams (Units 1, 2, 3 & 4) at the end of Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all four written papers.

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 written exams (Units 3 & 4) and have your grade calculated based just on these two units.



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



**Recommendation:** Your teachers strongly feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better. For Business there is an expectation that students have an understanding of all AS content before sitting the A2 exams. However, the only part of the A2 examination that is synoptic for Business is the essay section in part b of the unit 4 exam. Students are given a choice of 3 essays, one of which is often an AS topic and the other two questions are from A2. Therefore, as the amount of content is significant, time would be best spent focusing on A2 content rather than having to prepare for AS examinations in addition to A2.

### Chemistry

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written exams (Unit 1, 2, 3 and 4) at the end of year 13 and the A level grade will be calculated in the normal way based on the four written papers and the practical (Unit 5)

**Option 2:** Sit only the A2 written exams (Unit 3 and 4) and the A level grade will be based on just these two papers and the practical (Unit 5)

**Recommendation:** Due to time constraints we would recommend that the second option would be the better option for the majority of students as it would allow you to focus more deeply on unit 3, 4 and 5. You will only be taught the A2 content in year 13 lessons. However, the A2 units do rely heavily on the AS units so it is essential that you have a solid understanding of this work.

### Computing (Collaboration)

We are awaiting information from Bryntirion.

### Drama

**Option 1:** Sit Units 1-4 in Y13 (2 exams, 2 performances) and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all four units.

**Option 2:** Just sit Units 3 & 4 in Y13 (1 Exam & 1 Performance & Evaluation) and have your A2 grade calculated based only on these two units.

**Recommendation:** Your teacher feels that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better. By focusing just on the A2 units you will have the time and the opportunity to further develop and build on the skills and knowledge you have learnt in Y12 without the pressure of extra exams.

### Engineering

Engineering is examined by Pearson and Edexcel and the school is awaiting confirmation and advice. As a BTEC the majority of work is completed internally so continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



#### English Literature

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written exams (Units 1, 2, 3 & 4) at the end of Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all four written exams and your coursework (Unit 5)

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 written papers (Units 3 & 4) and have your grade calculated based just on these two written papers and your coursework (Unit 5)

**Recommendation:** Your teachers strongly feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better as it allows you to focus more deeply on Units 3,4 and 5. There would not be time to re-visit Unit 1&2 material.

#### French (Collaboration)

We are awaiting information from Porthcawl Comprehensive

#### Geography

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written exams (Units 1, 2, 3 & 4) at the end of Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all four written papers and your Investigation (Unit 5)

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 written papers (Units 3 & 4) and have your grade calculated based just on these two written papers and your Investigation (Unit 5)

**Recommendation:** The structure of the Geography A level is that the A2 units (Units 3 & 4) are more essay based whereas AS units require shorter answers and arguably students may score high marks more easily on the AS units. This must however be balanced with the workload involved in preparing for all four exams and completing the Individual Investigation in one year, compared to two exams and the Individual Investigation. Lessons in Y13 will need to focus on Y13 material, so for most students option 2 is likely to be the best way forward.

#### Health & Social Care

**Option 1:** Sit the exam unit (unit1) as well as Y13 Coursework (unit 12) and Y13 controlled assessment (unit 7) at the end of Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all parts of the A Level course

**Option 2:** Sit just the Y13 Coursework (Unit 12) and Y13 Controlled assessment (Unit 7) and have your grade calculated based on just these two internal pieces of work.

**Recommendation:** Your teacher feels that given the time constraints to complete the coursework and controlled assessment Option 2 would be most beneficial to achieve your final A2 grade. This way you will be able to focus fully on the coursework and content needed for the controlled assessment in Year 13.



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



#### History

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written papers (Units 1, 2, 3, & 4) at the end of in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all four written papers and your NEA (Unit 5 - Non Examined Assessment).

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 written papers (Units 3&4) & have your grade calculated based on these two papers and your NEA (Unit 5 - Non Examined Assessment).

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better as it allows you to focus more deeply on the A2 units and your NEA. Your work on Unit 1 (Britain) has taught you valuable essay skills and the content is not further developed in A2. Unit 2 (Weimar) does feed into the next unit, but the content was covered before school closed so this can be built on in A2 even if you haven't sat the exam.

#### ICT

**Option 1:** Sit both written exams (Units 1 & 3) at the end of Y13 and complete both pieces of coursework (Units 2 & 4) in Y13. Your A2 grade would then be calculated in the normal way, based on all four units.

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 written paper (Unit 3) and complete your Y13 coursework (Unit 4). Have your A2 grade calculated based just on these two units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better. By focusing just on the A2 modules you will have the time and the opportunity to further develop and build on the skills you have learnt in Y12 without the pressure of extra assessments to prepare for.

#### Maths

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 exams (Units 1, 2, 3, & 4) at the end of in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all four units.

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 exams (Units 3&4) and have your grade calculated based just on these two units.

**Recommendation:** The structure of the Maths A level means that the A2 content (Units 3 & 4) relies heavily on the AS content (Units 1 & 2) and there is considerable overlap between the units. Arguably, students score high marks more easily on the AS units. For this reason, your teachers would recommend that students sit all four units at the end of Y13. This must however be balanced with the workload involved in preparing for all four exams and requires yourself maintaining your practice on AS topics as well as attending all revision classes as scheduled throughout the year.





# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



#### Media

**Option 1:** Sit both written exams (Units 1 & 3) and complete both NEAs (Non Examined Assessments - Units 2 & 4) by the end of Y13. Have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all four units.

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 written paper (Unit 3), complete the A2 NEA (Unit 4) and have your grade calculated based just on these two units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better as it allows you to focus more deeply on units 3 and 4.

#### Music

**Option 1:** Sit all 6 units (Unit 1 - 6: 2 written exams, 2 performance exams and 2 separate composition portfolios) by the end of Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all six units.

**Option 2:** Just complete the A2 units 4, 5 & 6 - (1 written exam, 1 performance exam and 2 new compositions) and have your A2 grade calculated based only on these three units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better. By focusing just on the A2 units you will have the time and the opportunity to further develop and build on the skills and knowledge you have learnt in Y12, without the pressure of extra exams and performances and further Controlled Assessment in Composition.

BTEC Music is examined by Pearson and Edexcel and the school is awaiting confirmation and advice. As a BTEC all of work is completed and assessed internally, continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.

#### Photography

**Option 1:** Submit both your coursework candidate portfolio (Y12 work) and also complete the Y13 A2 units (Personal Investigation and Exam) in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all three units.

**Option 2:** Just complete the A2 Units 2 & 3 (Personal Investigation and Exam) and have your grade calculated based on just these two units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that option 1 would be better due to the excellent work that has been completed this year for your AS studies.

#### Physics

**Option 1:** Sit all 4 written exams (Unit 1, 2, 3 and 4) at the end of year 13 and the A level grade will be calculated in the normal way based on the four written papers and the practical (Unit 5)





# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



**Option 2:** Sit only the A2 written exams (Unit 3 and 4) and the A level grade will be based on just these two papers and the practical (Unit 5)

**Recommendation:** Due to time constraints we would recommend that the second option would be the better option as it would allow you to focus more deeply on unit 3, 4 and 5. You will only be taught the A2 content in year 13 lessons. However, it is essential that you have a solid understanding of the AS content as you will be expected to apply this knowledge in year 13 so you must make sure that you are completing all tasks that are currently being set.

### Religious Studies, Ethics and Philosophy

**Option 1:** Sit all 5 exams (Units 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) at the end of in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way, based on all five units.

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 exams (Units 3,4 & 5) at the end of Y13 and have your grade calculated based just on these three units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that, given the time constraints, option 2 would be better as it allows you to focus more deeply on units 3,4 and 5. You need to know the Y12 work in order to cope with the synoptic aspects of A2 and also to access some Y13 topics, so the work you have done will not be wasted, you will just build on it in Y13

### Sport

Sport is examined by Pearson and Edexcel and the school is awaiting confirmation and advice. As a BTEC all of work is completed and assessed internally, continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.

### Textiles

**Option 1:** Submit both your coursework candidate portfolio (Y12 work) and also complete the Y13 A2 units (Personal Investigation and Exam) in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all three units.

**Option 2:** Just complete the A2 Units 2 & 3 (Personal Investigation and Exam) and have your grade calculated based on just these two units.

**Recommendation:** Your teachers feel that option 1 would be better due to the excellent work that has been completed this year for your AS studies.

### Welsh

**Option 1:** Complete all 6 units (3 written exams, 2 orals & 1 Coursework unit) in Y13 and have your A2 grade calculated in the normal way based on all six units.

**Option 2:** Just sit the A2 exams (Units 4,5&6) by the end of Y13 and have your grade calculated based just on these three units.



# Maesteg School Sixth Form

## Subject Specific Advice for Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers

### May Update 2020



**Recommendation:** Your teachers would strongly advise that option 1 is better for the following reasons:-

- *You have all completed your coursework, so Unit 2 is done.*
- *You have already completed your AS examination before school closed. Your spoken Welsh will get even better in Y13 so you should score high marks on this.*
- *The work for the AS written paper (grammar and poetry) has been completed so no extra teaching would be required in Y13.*
- *In Y13 there are 3 modules (1 oral exam and 2 written exams). The written exams are very challenging and a huge step up from AS so students are likely to score better overall by including the AS units*

#### Public Services (Collaboration)

We are awaiting information from Bridgend College. **Recommendation:** Continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.

#### Law (Twilight)

We are awaiting information from Bridgend College. **Recommendation:** Continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.

#### Criminology (Twilight)

We are awaiting information from Bridgend College. **Recommendation:** Continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.

#### Film (Twilight)

We are awaiting information from Bridgend College. **Recommendation:** Continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.

#### Dance (Twilight)

We are awaiting information from Bridgend College. **Recommendation:** Continuing to work on the tasks that have been set by your teachers will allow continuation of learning into Year 13.