

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01725/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 October 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter dated 17 October from Katherine Drinkwater about the petition calling on the Welsh Government to remove the compulsory aspect of the Welsh Baccalaureate and review the structure of the qualification.

The Welsh Baccalaureate, like other qualifications, is not compulsory at either Key Stage 4 or post 16. However, I do encourage learners to study the qualification because it provides them with an extra dimension, adding breadth to their learning and providing them with skills needed by both employers and universities.

In her letter Ms Drinkwater makes reference to research into the Welsh Baccalaureate, however the version of the qualification considered by these researchers is not the same as the qualification currently studied at either Key Stage 4 or post 16. A revised Welsh Baccalaureate was introduced in September 2015 in line with recommendations made by the independent Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19 year olds in Wales.

Qualifications Wales are currently undertaking a review of the Welsh Baccalaureate and the findings will be published later this year.

Let me reassure you that the current specifications for the Welsh Baccalaureate at Key Stage 4 and post 16 do not sanction any behaviour or content that is detrimental to learners' wellbeing; including gambling or the encouragement of fiscal irresponsibility.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

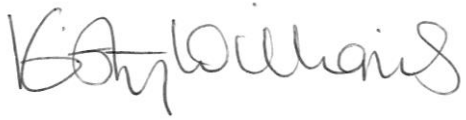
Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

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.

All challenge briefs for the Welsh Baccalaureate are approved by the WJEC, and learners can choose which approved challenge brief to undertake.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education