



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Kirsty Williams MS,
Minister for Education,
Welsh Government,
By Email

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URGENT

Dear Minister,

Janet.Finch-Saunders@Senedd.Cymru

I am writing with regards to my serious concerns about the detrimental impact the approach to A-level and AS grades has had on the young people of Wales and Aberconwy.

Whilst appreciating the unprecedented circumstances which brought about the cancellation of all examinations this year, the approach taken to try and resolve this dilemma and enable students to pursue their education, dreams, and career paths, has unintentionally caused serious upset.

In the circumstances it was most reasonable to ask teachers to give recommended grades for pupils. However, as I am sure you will agree, what is grossly unfair is that more than four in ten grades have been lowered by examiners, with some being dropped by four grades. The consequence is serious because some students have been:

- unsuccessful in gaining a place at their first choice university;
- left completely demoralised;
- feeling unable to apply to top universities as they no longer have the high grades expected.

When considering how a fairer grading system can be achieved quickly and in time for students so to undo some of the detrimental impact on their well-being and future, I think that it is now time for you to award teacher predicted grades to all students in Wales. The current situation cannot be allowed to continue as some headteachers have highlighted that the system puts higher achieving students at historically lower-achieving schools at a disadvantage.

I believe that my calls for the awarding of teacher predicted grades would go a long way in boosting pupil morale, and be a bold move showing our shared confidence in the education professionals who suggested the marks.

I implore you to watch the video put together by Jonathan Powell WYPM: <https://twitter.com/JonathanWYPM/status/1295090436135161867>. The young people of Wales are calling on the Welsh Government to trust our teachers, and stand by their grades. I have confidence that you already do trust our teachers, and want the best for the young people of Wales, so hope that you will agree to award the predicted grades.

Kind regards,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS