

January 2015

Dear Head of Centre,

Edexcel International GCSE update

We recently invited teachers to take part in our Edexcel International GCSE qualification development survey. The purpose of the survey was to obtain your feedback on these qualifications, so we can ensure that they remain appropriate for international and UK independent schools and students.

Your feedback

Your feedback highlighted that you value our International GCSEs and would like to see some updates, but also expressed the importance of building on our existing high quality qualifications, rather than making large scale changes. Having listened to you, our aim for updating the suite is to retain the best elements of the current qualifications that you have told us you value, and make sure:

- The content of the qualifications is up-to-date and reflects the latest thinking in each of our subjects.
- That our International GCSEs are relevant for learners around the world, allowing learning in a local context with an international standard.
- The content along with the assessment and grading structure of the qualifications provides the best progression pathway for learners to Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs), GCE A level and Higher Education. We plan to fully investigate and research grading options available, in consultation with you, in the next few months.
- We have the resources and training programmes in place to support you to deliver these new qualifications with confidence, once they are developed.

Changes no earlier than September 2016

To emphasise, our plan is to make changes to Edexcel International GCSEs for first teaching no earlier than September 2016 with appropriate support in place for those who need to prepare students from well before that date. We plan to phase the introduction of any updates to subjects, to allow a smooth transition. We will consult with all stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that these new qualifications enable seamless progression to IALs, GCE A level and university level study in the exact same way the current qualifications do.

As mentioned, we will also make sure the focus allows for learning in contexts relevant to your students, so they are even more suited to the needs of you and your learners.

How you can contribute

The Edexcel International GCSE redevelopment process is already underway. You may already have seen surveys that we have undertaken or attended events where we have sought feedback. We will be in touch soon to invite you and your teaching team to take part in further research so that you can actively contribute to all aspects of the new qualifications, including: content, assessment methodology and structures.

Next steps

We will share the exact timelines with you shortly so you can adequately plan and prepare.

Yours faithfully,



David Crowther
Director of International Products and Global Partnerships
Pearson Qualifications International