Dear colleague

Confirmation of our plans for AS and A-level Archaeology under Government reform

As you will be aware, government changes to the exam system and qualifications mean that only new qualifications accredited by Ofqual can be offered by awarding bodies in the future.

As you entered students for the A/AS level Archaeology qualification in 2016, I am writing to let you know that we have decided not to continue developing this as a new AS and A-level qualification for first teaching in 2017. This means 2018 will be the last time students can sit the exams for the current A-level and 2019 will be the last re-sit opportunity.

I appreciate that this is disappointing news and wanted to explain the reasons behind this decision.

The existing specification is challenging to mark and award because of the specialist nature of the topics, the range of options, difficulties in recruiting sufficient experienced examiners, and limited entries. We had hoped that we could reduce or remove these areas of difficulty in developing the new specification, but this has not proved possible.

We are committed to ensuring the safe and secure delivery of all of our qualifications and, after careful consideration, we have concluded that the delivery risks we currently manage for this subject are not sustainable in the longer term. We have therefore taken the decision not to continue with the redevelopment of this qualification.

I am sorry that in this instance we are unable to offer you a directly comparable alternative. We wanted to give you as much notice as possible so that you have enough time to accommodate these changes in your plans. We will of course continue to provide you with any support you need in order for your students to complete this qualification while it is still available.

Thank you for choosing AQA in the past. If you have any questions or would like further support, please contact me or a member of the Archaeology team on 0800 197 7162 or by email.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Phillips
Director: Chief Executive’s Office

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