

Circular S/IF/64/18

November 2018

To: The Head of Centre

For circulation to: The Examinations Officers and Heads of English and Mathematics

Functional English and Mathematics

As a result of a ministerial decision to recognise achievement in literacy and numeracy at Key Stage 4, CCEA Regulation requested the inclusion of Functional English and Mathematics in the revised GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics specifications. CCEA Awarding Organisation therefore awarded Functional English and Mathematics units in summer 2018 and the cut-scores were communicated to you in September (Circular S/IF/52/18).

There are significant changes in the examinations system for summer 2019, with the first award of CCEA revised GCSEs, the introduction of the new grading structure, and the different grading structures of the Welsh and English Awarding Body qualifications. GCSEs are high stakes qualifications for learners, therefore, rather than introduce reporting of candidate functionality performance, CCEA will run a three year trial period (2019-2021). During the trial period, CCEA will automatically collect the data for all relevant GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics candidate entries. CCEA Regulation will analyse the data during the trial period and we will invite a range of schools to be involved in a focus group to review the outcomes after each summer series. The focus group will explore elements of functionality in the context of certification, diagnostic feedback and consider the overall approach. The analysis and input from schools will help inform future decisions about the reporting of achievement of functionality and appropriate options.

If you would like to be involved in the trial, or have any questions, please contact:

Esther Martin, Programme Manager: Qualifications Development
emartin@ccea.org.uk.

Inclusion in the trial period will be dependent on ensuring an appropriate representative sample of schools.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

Esther Martin at CCEA on: (028) 9026 1200 ext: 2415

Email: emartin@ccea.org.uk

