

Circular S/IF/14/20

March 2020

To: The Principals of Post-Primary and Special Schools, Directors of Further and Higher Education Colleges and Training Organisations

For circulation to: Head of Journalism/Media Studies Department

Withdrawal of CCEA GCSE and GCE AS and A Level specifications in: Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry

CCEA has decided to withdraw the following qualifications:

- GCSE Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry;
- GCE AS and A Level Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry.

CCEA considered the viability of this qualification in relation to limited demand and cost effectiveness and found that the qualification is unsustainable.

CCEA also identified several alternative media and journalism related qualifications available to learners at equivalent levels. There are currently 4 other Awarding Organisations (AQA, Eduqas, OCN and Pearson) that offer media and journalism related qualifications at an equivalent level:

GCSE Media Studies (AQA & Eduqas);
 GCE Media Studies (AQA & Eduqas);
 OCN Level 2 Media Techniques;
 OCN Level 3 Sports Journalism; and
 Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production.

The withdrawal will proceed according to the following timetable:

- GCSE units will be offered for the last full cohort in **Summer 2022** (with a re-sit opportunity in Summer 2023).
- AS units will be available for the final time in **Summer 2022**.
- A2 units will be offered for the last full cohort in **Summer 2022** (with a re-sit opportunity in Summer 2023).

According to this timetable the last full GCE and GCSE cohorts will commence their two year courses in September 2020.

The table below shows the availability of units from Summer 2021.

	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024 onwards
GCSE	All units available	All units available	All units available (Re-sit candidates only)	GCSE, GCE AS and A LEVEL Specifications withdrawn - no units available
AS	All units available	All units available	No units available	
A2	All units available	All units available	All units available (Re-sit candidates only)	

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