

WJEC Newsletter – April 2026

SAD NEWS

It is with much sadness we share that our friend and colleague, John Williams, Mathematics Subject Officer, sadly passed away in March after a period of illness.

John was much loved and well-respected, both within WJEC and the wider maths community in which he played a pivotal role.

He will be remembered fondly for his commitment, tenacity and his want to always do the right thing – he will be missed by many.

Our thoughts are with John's family, his close WJEC colleagues and his many friends.



NEW GCSE MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY (DOUBLE AWARD)

UPDATES TO THE GUIDANCE FOR TEACHING

While there have been no recent updates to the specification itself, the Guidance for Teaching is a live document and may be revised throughout the lifespan of the specification. Updates are typically made in response to teacher feedback, requests for clarification, or common misconceptions identified during the marking process.

The most recent updates to the Guidance for Teaching include the following:

- **Strand 1.8.2:** Clarification on the validity of a trialling method to forecast when a target could be met.
- **Strand 2.2.9:** Examples have been added demonstrating how the conceptual understanding of the formal trial and improvement method can be assessed.
- **Strand 3.8.1:** Further clarification and an example showing how one of the bullet points within this strand may be assessed.

To see the full Guidance for Teaching, including the above updates, click [here](#).

SUMMER 2026 EXAMINATIONS

This summer will see the new GCSE papers being sat for the first time. It is therefore essential that examination officers take particular care to ensure that the correct papers are issued to the correct candidates.

The new GCSE papers will be clearly identified by the following label:

Surname	
First name(s)	
	GCSE – NEW

Please ensure that all examination staff are aware of this when preparing and distributing examination materials.

As a reminder, the dates for this summer's examinations are listed below:

- Thursday 7 May: **Mathematics – Numeracy Unit 1** - MORNING
- Tuesday 12 May: **NEW Mathematics & Numeracy (Double Award) Unit 1** - MORNING
- Thursday 14 May: **Mathematics Unit 1** - MORNING
- Wednesday 3 June: **Mathematics – Numeracy Unit 2** - MORNING
- Thursday 4 June: **NEW Mathematics & Numeracy (Double Award) Unit 2** - MORNING
- Wednesday 10 June: **Mathematics Unit 2** - MORNING

CROSSING OUT A CORRECT RESPONSE

Please note that from **SUMMER 2026**, the following **marking guidance** will take effect.

Example – a candidate has written a correct response and then crossed it out.

We do **not** mark responses which have been **crossed out** even if no alternative answer is offered. The only time we would mark something which has been crossed out is if the candidate clearly states in their answer book that they did not intend to cross it out.

Question – Write down the next two terms in the following sequence: 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, (2 marks)

Answer – 25 ~~and 29~~.

The candidate identified the two correct answers, but crossed out one of them. Therefore, they score only one mark, even though they have not offered an alternative answer.

BLENDED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

A reminder that we currently have two blended learning webpages running in parallel, one for the [legacy qualification](#) and one for the [new qualification](#). While some topics overlap, it is important to ensure that students are directed to the correct resources page for the qualification they are following.

GCSE MATHEMATICS AND GCSE MATHEMATICS- NUMERACY

PRINCIPAL EXAMINERS' REPORTS

Principal Examiners' reports are available for the November 2025 series for GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy. They can be found under the Key Documents tab on the [legacy GCSE Mathematics webpage](#).

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Please see the examination details on page 2 of this newsletter.

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NEW LEVEL 2 ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

UPDATES TO THE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT – WELSH ONLY

There have been two minor updates to terminology in the Welsh specification document. These updates are to ensure that the terminology used in the specification is correct and corresponds to the terminology used in English. The details are on page 3 of the specification document that can be found on the [subject webpage](#).

RESOURCES

The key documents for the new Level 2 Additional Mathematics qualification have been published on the [subject webpage](#), including the Specification, Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs), Guidance for Teaching documents for each unit. Blended learning resources and knowledge organisers are in development for the qualification. Some have been published already and can be found on the [blended learning webpage](#). The remaining resources will continue to be published between now and the summer, ready for first teaching in September this year. Examination walkthroughs (EWTS) are also being developed for the qualification and will be published on Portal in the summer.

AVAILABILITY

Unit 1 Algebra will be available for the first time in January 2027, and all six units will be available in the Summer 2027 series. Current year 10 learners who wish to do Level 2 Additional Mathematics should be entered for this qualification.

Current year 11 students will sit the legacy qualification which is available for the last time in the Summer 2026 series. There will be a resit opportunity in the Summer 2027 series, but this is only for candidates who have previously been entered for the qualification.

LEGACY LEVEL 2 ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

Principal Examiner's report

The Principal Examiner's report for the Summer 2025 paper is available on the key documents tab on the Subject web page: [Level 2 Additional Mathematics](#)

Assessment feedback materials

Assessment Feedback materials relating to the Summer 2025 series are available on [WJEC Portal](#). The materials can be accessed by first selecting 'Resources', then 'Subject-Specific Support Materials inc CPD & Exemplars'.

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Availability

The legacy qualification will be available for the last time in the Summer 2026 series. There will be a resit opportunity in the Summer 2027 series, but this is only for candidates who have previously been entered for the qualification.

NEW ENTRY LEVEL / LEVEL 1 FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

MADE FOR WALES QUALIFICATIONS

A subject page for the [NEW Entry Level / Level 1 Foundation Mathematics and Numeracy](#) qualification will be available in due course. The qualification is for first teaching from September 2027.

An overview of the new qualification is available in our [Quick Guide](#). The guide explains the purpose of the new qualification, who it is for, its general structure and our approach to assessment.

For further updates, please see the [Made for Wales](#) webpage.

GCE MATHEMATICS AND GCE FURTHER MATHEMATICS

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) TRAINING COURSES

Materials from all of the Professional Learning events that have taken place this academic year for GCE Mathematics and GCE Further Mathematics are available on [WJEC Portal](#). The materials can be accessed by first selecting 'Resources', then 'Subject-Specific Support Materials inc CPD & Exemplars'. The documents can be found quickly by entering 'Mathematics', 'WJEC' and 'GCE' in the first three search boxes.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Visit the [Home Page WJEC Educational Resources Website](#).

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Get in touch

If you have any queries, please get in touch with us via e-mail (mathematics@wjec.co.uk) or telephone (02922 404 251).