**Summary of Humanities AoLE Network Meeting**

**8th December 2021**

**Number of attendees: 46**

The AoLE Network Group membership included representation from Further Education, Higher Education, Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies, Secondary School representatives, Local Authorities, Faith Organisations and Education Consortia representatives. The meeting started with a presentation by O Llywelyn followed by the group working through a series of four questions and a plenary session of what happens next.

**1. What are your expectations for today?**

The majority of the attendees wanted to understand what input the group will have into the development of the new GCSEs and the process behind this. Attendees wanted to have meaningful engagement within the session and were looking to explore assessment and the scope for change in these new qualifications as part of the AoLE Network Group.

**2. What does the new curriculum mean for this Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE), and the subjects within it?**

Attendees in the meeting commented on the need for there to be a focus on the development of skills within Humanities subjects. There were points raised around the need to include all statements of what matters within all subjects and the delivery of ‘real-world’ knowledge. There was also a shared view that progression routes for subjects within the Humanities AoLE should be clear and consistent.

**3. What opportunities does the creation of new qualifications in this AoLE offer?**

When asked about the opportunities that these new qualifications may offer, the largest number of comments were around the opportunities to review, streamline and update the current content in order to make it more relevant to learners.

Others suggested that the new GCSEs need to provide opportunities to develop skills that will be valuable throughout their studies and encourage deeper learning.

**4. What are the key risks and dependencies we should be considering as we develop new qualifications within this AoLE?**

When asked about risks and challenges there were comments around the need for the new GCSEs to not review and refresh what is currently delivered. This included the need for new assessment methods within subjects and the integration of digital technology.

Some comments stated there were risks associated with the resourcing of the new GCSEs in terms of teacher workload and digital inequalities.

Attendees also highlighted the opportunities around enquiry based learning and investigation to give breadth and depth to these qualifications.

A number of questions were also raised by attendees. A summary of these is provided below:

* queried to what extent the SLWGs had looked through the lens of the new Curriculum for Wales when reflecting on existing qualifications;
* sought assurance around the SLWG membership’s familiarity with the Curriculum for Wales framework, and its broader aims and purposes, and
* queried why a decision had been taken to retain Religious Studies as the title of the new GCSE qualification when the subject discipline outlined in the new curriculum refers to Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE).