

# Employers: The Future of Level 3





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## The Future of Level 3

In July 2021, the Government completed a review and consultation that impacts Level 3 BTECs and other vocational qualifications in England.

The main proposal is to introduce a choice between T levels and A levels at Level 3, where most young people pursue one of these routes at the age of 16. Alongside this the DfE recognise that in certain areas there is a clear role for alternative qualifications to T Levels and A levels such as BTECs, and these qualifications will run alongside A levels and T Levels.

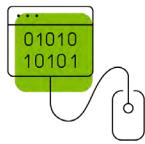
Please be reassured that BTECs can continue to be taught with confidence in 2022/23 and 2023/24 and only some BTEC qualifications will be affected in 2024/25. Students will be funded until completion for any courses they start. We are working through the implications for each of our BTEC qualifications in all sector suites and we will update all our centres where there are any changes to content, availability, and funding for BTECs.

# Post-16 stats and facts by sector

## IT and Computing

### 8,500 students take full-time BTEC IT qualifications.

The BTEC IT qualifications facilitate progression to a range of graduate Digital careers needed by the industry. The most popular higher education programmes taken by students with BTECs in IT & Computing are Computer Science, Information Systems, Games, Business and Software Engineering.



In 2020, UK tech employment had grown by **40%** over the last 2 years, accounting for **9%** of the national workforce with **2.93m** jobs created.



In 2018, there were **over 130,000** software developer vacancies - the most in-demand tech position - and this still holds true in 2020.

## Applied Science

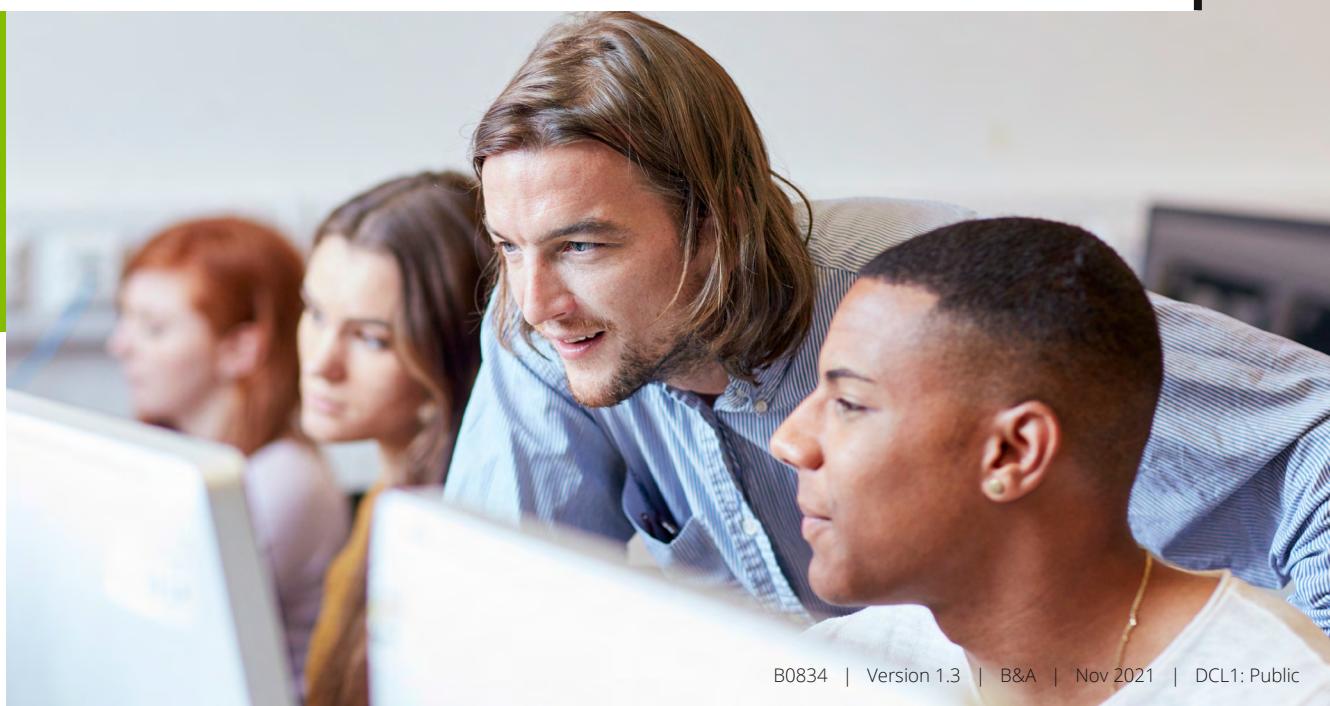
### 9,500 students take full-time BTEC Applied Science qualifications.



Students with a full-time BTEC in Applied Science accounted for **over 7,500** higher education enrolments, with the most popular courses being Allied Health, Biology, Nursing and Forensics.



Research shows a need for the sector to recruit, reskill and develop employees in both specialist and non-specialist roles as the demand for innovation and integrated skills in life sciences intensifies.





## Health and Social Care

**15,000 students take full-time BTEC Health & Social Care qualifications.**



**Over one fifth** of entrants to nursing degrees hold a BTEC Level 3 National qualification and **65%** of these students study BTEC in Health & Social Care.



Providers across NHS England are reporting a shortage of **over 100,000** staff. Adult social care is facing even starker recruitment and retention challenges, with an estimated **122,000** vacancies. Research suggests the NHS workforce gap could reach almost **250,000** by 2030.

## Creatives

**14,000 students take full-time BTEC Creatives qualifications.**

BTECs in the Creative sector contribute a high volume of students for arts-based degrees who progress to higher education:



Over **30%**

of learners progress to Drama/ Cinematics and Photography\*



Nearly **30%**

of entrants for Music hold a BTEC\*



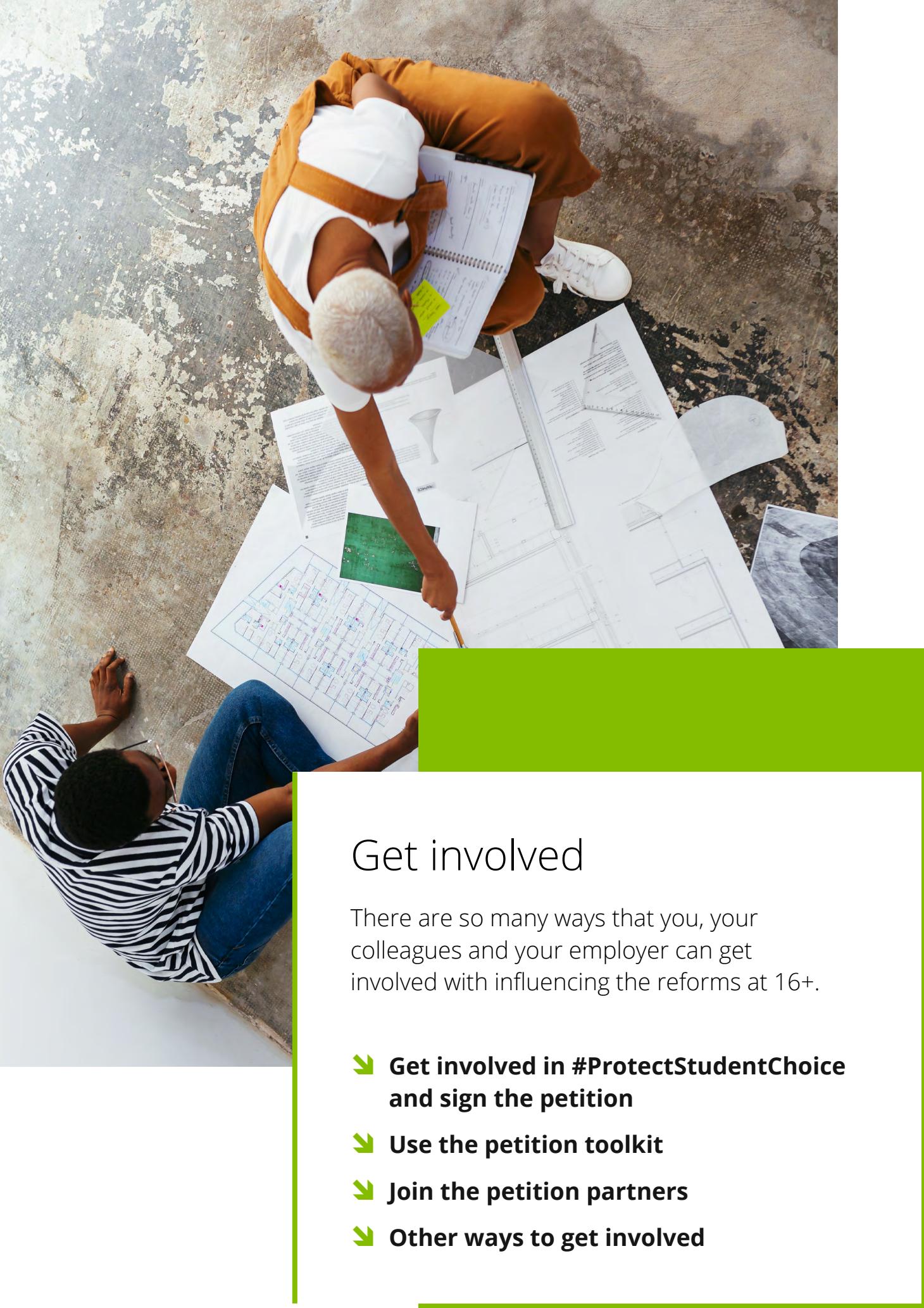
Nearly **25%**

of entrants for Design Studies, hold a BTEC in the Creative sector\*



Nearly **50%**

of Games degree entrants hold a BTEC qualification\*



## Get involved

There are so many ways that you, your colleagues and your employer can get involved with influencing the reforms at 16+.

- ➔ **Get involved in #ProtectStudentChoice and sign the petition**
- ➔ **Use the petition toolkit**
- ➔ **Join the petition partners**
- ➔ **Other ways to get involved**

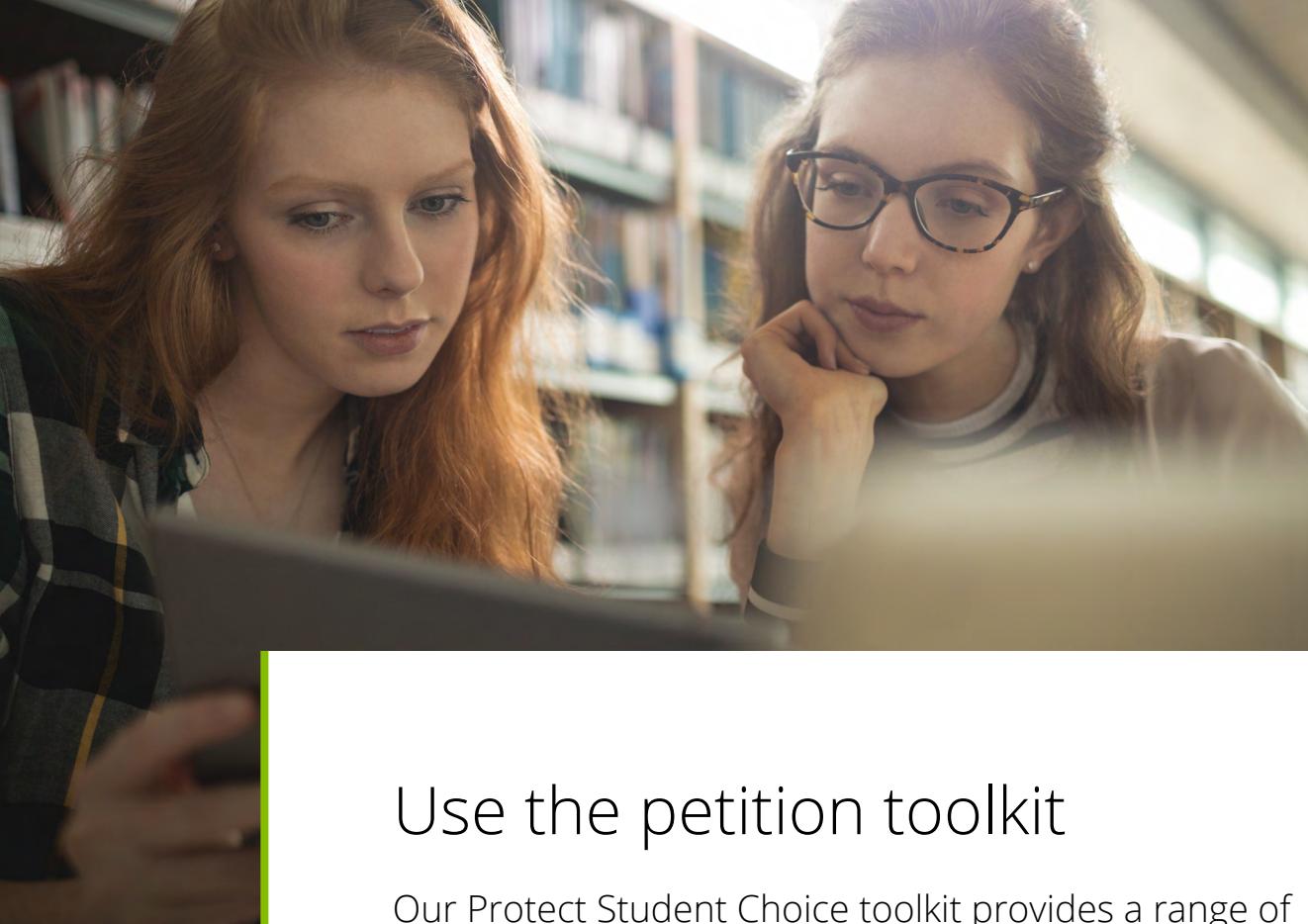


## Get involved in #ProtectStudentChoice and sign the petition

Protect student choice: do not withdraw funding for BTEC qualifications

Reverse the plan to withdraw funding for most applied general qualifications such as BTECs and guarantee they will continue to play a major role in the qualifications landscape. Students should not be forced to choose between studying A levels or T levels from the age of 16.

 **Sign here**



## Use the petition toolkit

Our Protect Student Choice toolkit provides a range of ways for you to show your support for the campaign.

This could be by signing the petition, supporting the campaign on social media, sending your local MP a letter, sharing with colleagues or all the above.

Every signature, tweet and letter shows we are united in the campaign to protect student choice and give everyone the best chance of success with their education.

The toolkit includes these campaign resources:

- ➔ **Letter to your local MP**
- ➔ **Letter to your employer**
- ➔ **Social media examples and assets**
- ➔ **Poster**
- ➔ **Checklist**

# Letter to your local MP

Dear Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms [ENTER MP NAME] MP,

I am writing to bring to your attention to the government's current review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and its potential impact on learners, schools, and colleges within your constituency.

As you may be aware, the government is currently consulting on its review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 (A level equivalent). This is putting BTEC and career/vocational qualifications at risk. The large numbers of learners taking BTECs mean that this risk is particularly acute with these qualifications. As a part of the current consultation process, organisations (including Ofqual, AoC and SFCA) have also cautioned against pressing ahead too quickly.

BTECs are taken by almost 1 million learners a year in schools and colleges around the country. These courses not only support the career progression of young people within your constituency, but they also provide a talent pipeline to local employers, and it is important to ensure opportunities remain that reflect the breadth of knowledge, skills and behaviours needed across industry.

I am writing to ask that you challenge the proposed changes to qualifications at level 3 on behalf of your constituents and highlight how BTECs and other career-focused qualifications provide vital progression pathways for so many young people within your constituency.

Best wishes,

[ENTER YOUR NAME]

# Letter to your employer

Dear [ENTER EMPLOYER NAME],

I am writing to bring to your attention the government's current review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and its potential impact on learners, schools, and colleges across the UK.

As you may be aware, the government is currently consulting on its review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 (A level equivalent). This is putting BTEC and career/vocational qualifications at risk. The large numbers of learners taking BTECs mean that this risk is particularly acute with these qualifications. As a part of the current consultation process, organisations (including Ofqual, the Association of Colleges and the Sixth Form Colleges Association) have also cautioned against pressing ahead too quickly.

BTECs are taken by almost 1 million learners a year in schools and colleges around the country. These courses not only support the career progression of youngsters within (enter company name or sector), but they also provide a talent pipeline to local employers and it is important to ensure opportunities remain that reflect the breadth of knowledge and skills needed across industry.

I am writing to you as the head of (enter organisation name) and as the employer of many people within this organisation who have studied BTEC qualifications and used them to help progress our careers into (enter sector i.e., Engineering, Health and Social Care etc). I urge you to investigate the impact removing BTEC qualifications would have on our (Company/Business) and talent pipeline, and on behalf of all of your staff who wouldn't be working with you today if it weren't for BTECs and other career focused qualifications provide vital progression pathways for so many people.

Best wishes,

[ENTER YOUR NAME]

# Social media

These are some examples of tweets that have already been posted in support of the campaign, you can share them too! Make sure you link to the petition and use the hashtag #ProtectStudentChoice

#ProtectStudentChoice Please sign the petition to make sure we protect BTECs and not limit students' learning opportunities <http://protectstudentchoice.org>

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Sign the petition to #ProtectStudentChoice urging the government to reconsider restricting students' choice of qualifications at the age of 16. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/592642>

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#ProtectStudentChoice and sign the petition to protect BTECs. <http://protectstudentchoice.org>

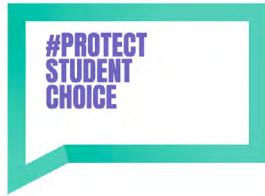
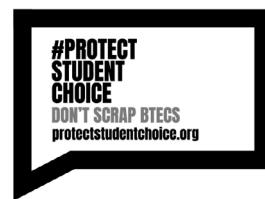
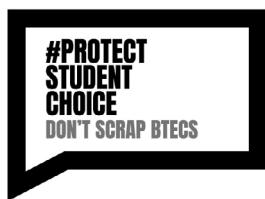
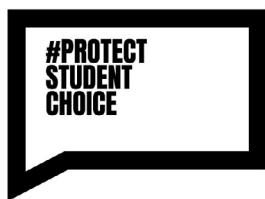
Removing BTECs will reduce the number of viable pathways for students post-GCSEs. #ProtectStudentChoice so AGQs continue to play a key role in the future qualifications landscape. Sign the petition at <http://protectstudentchoice.org>

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Support the @SFCA\_info campaign to #ProtectStudentChoice. Removing BTECs will leave many students without a viable pathway after their GCSEs; help safeguard the future of these vital qualifications and sign the petition now. <http://protectstudentchoice.org>

# Social media assets

## Download the assets



Print out and use this poster to promote the Protect Student Choice campaign



# Protect Student Choice at 16+

Reverse the plan to withdraw funding for most applied general qualifications such as BTECs and guarantee they will continue to play a major role in the qualifications landscape.

Removing BTECs will reduce the number of viable pathways for students after their GCSEs so help safeguard the future of these vital qualifications and sign the petition now.

Sign the petition at  
 [protectstudentchoice.org](http://protectstudentchoice.org)

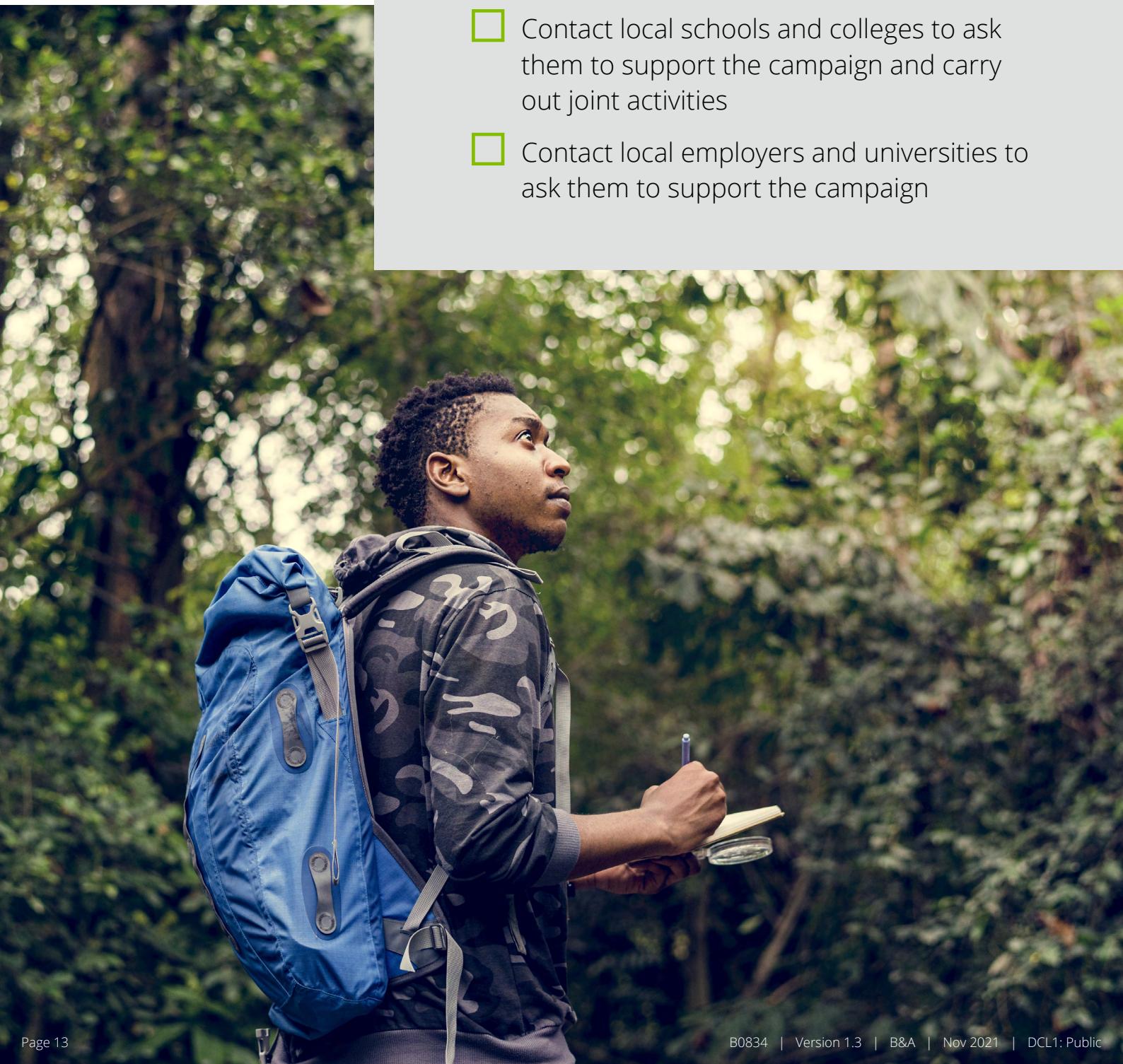
#PROTECT  
STUDENT  
CHOICE  
DON'T SCRAP BTECS



Pearson  
BTEC

# Campaign checklist

- Sign the [\*\*petition\*\*](#)
- Promote the [\*\*Protect Student Choice petition\*\*](#) on social media
- Promote the campaign on your website and via newsletters
- Write to your local MPs, asking them to support the campaign
- Contact local schools and colleges to ask them to support the campaign and carry out joint activities
- Contact local employers and universities to ask them to support the campaign





## Join the petition partners

Join over 20 organisations driving the  
**#ProtectStudentChoice** campaign.

Contact  
**[info@protectstudentchoice.org](mailto:info@protectstudentchoice.org)**

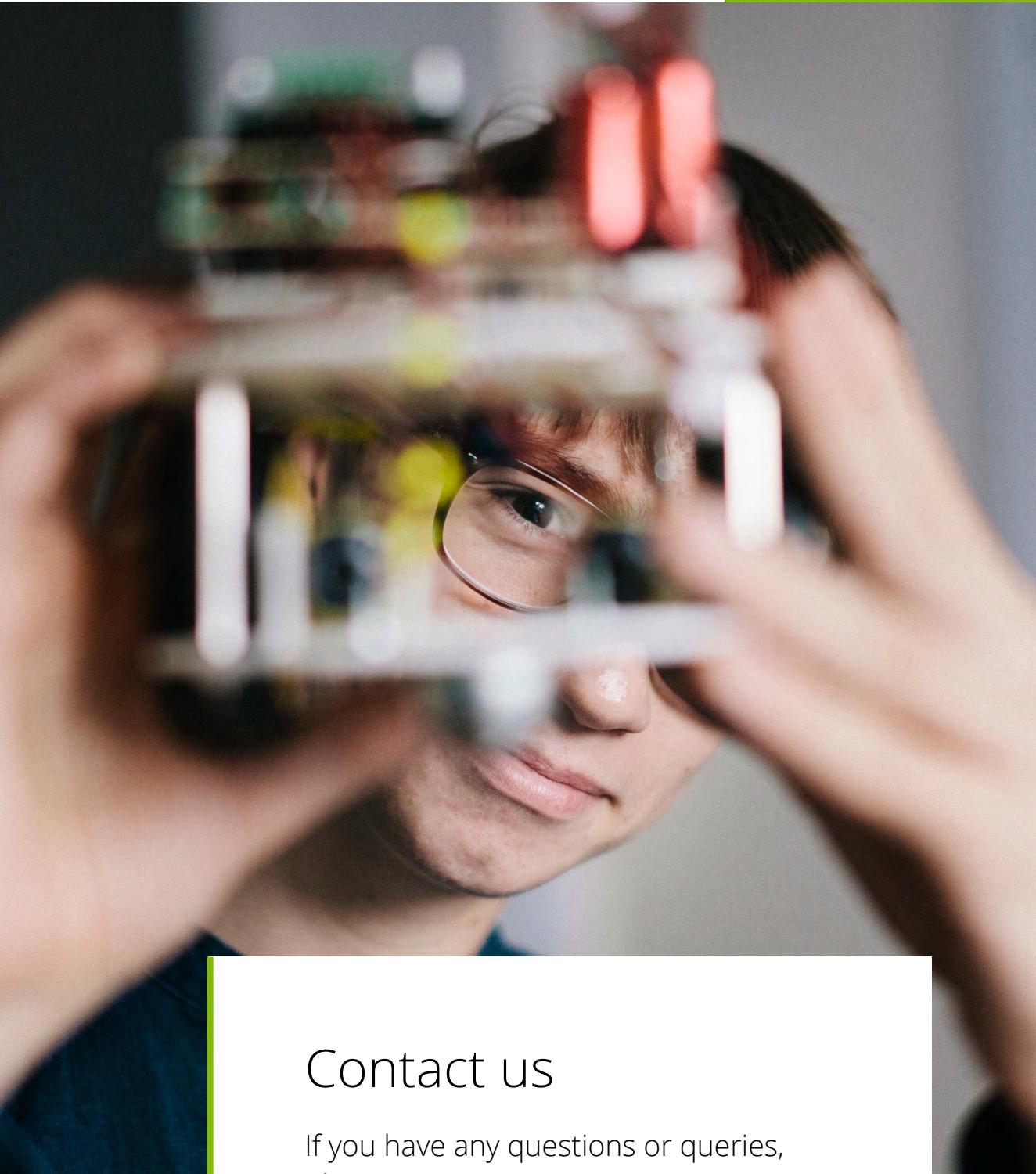


# Other ways to get involved

You can get involved in other ways to influence the post-16 reforms:

- Provide us with a quote sharing your thoughts/ feedback on the impact the reform could have on learner choice and the future talent pipeline and diverse workforce.
- Publish articles/ blogs on the impact via networks and publications.
- Let us know of a former BTEC student in a key job role that we could work with for a case study.





## Contact us

If you have any questions or queries,  
please get in contact at

**[fecentresupport@pearson.com](mailto:fecentresupport@pearson.com)**

**➔ Find out more on our website**