



# Pearson

## Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in November 2017



### Main talking points

Budget month of course but plenty more besides including: reports on assessment, computer science and exam data for schools; World Skills, the Colleges' Conference and Skills Summit for the FE sector; and skills, fees and 2017 uni data for HE. All topped off by two significant reports at the end of the month on Industrial Strategy and Social Mobility respectively.

### Key headlines from the month

- KS2. Drop in requests for re-marks for this year's test
- GCSE Computer science. Ofqual consults on changes to non-exam assessment task
- Languages. British Council calls for a big push on foreign language provision
- Maths. Budget pledges more money for both pre and post 16 provision and training
- Lesson observations. Latest research fails to justify
- Terror attacks. Counter Terrorism Office and PSHE Association launch new safety teaching packs
- Teacher recruitment. DfE takes over function from NCTL
- 16-19. Sixth form colleges report impact of long-term cuts
- T levels. Government launches design consultation and offers Budget support
- ESFA. New Chief Exec takes up the reins
- Social Mobility. Commission publishes fairly bleak annual prognosis
- Industrial Strategy. Government sets out its vision for the future
- Engineering. Government makes 2018 Year of Engineering
- Institutes of Technology. Government launches long awaited Prospectus
- Institute for Apprenticeships. Chief Exec and route panels announced
- Apprenticeships provision. Education Committee announces new inquiry
- Skills partners. DfE outlines new statements of action with employers
- TEF subject pilots. HEFCE announces pilot participants
- Uni entry 2017. UCAS starts to publish data on this year's entry trends and other data
- Student loans. Panorama exposes cases of fraud
- Name blind admissions. UCAS reports on progress

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## Reports/Publications of the month (in order of publication)

- **Industrial Strategy Commission Report.** The Commission publishes its final report proposing a new framework and set of structures for industrial strategy focused around six strategic goals
- **The Economic Impact of Russell Group universities.** The Russell Group publishes commissioned research showing how much such universities contribute to the UK economy and society
- **Improving maths in Key stages 2 and 3.** The Education Endowment Foundation examines the evidence and comes up with a number of recommendations including knowing your times tables
- **Industrial Strategy.** Lord Heseltine offers his thoughts in a response Paper to government setting out eight steps for transforming government, communities and systems around wealth creation
- **Safeguarding in English schools.** The House of Commons Library offers a new briefing Paper setting out where responsibilities and accountabilities lie under legislation in this area
- **Support our Sixth-formers.** The Sixth Form Colleges Association publishes its funding impact survey showing many schools and colleges struggling to provide the courses and support needed
- **Review of the Industry Training Boards (ITBs.)** The government publishes an update following an earlier review of the Boards calling for further development work and indicating further monitoring
- **Cross-subsidies from teaching to research.** The HE Policy Institute (HEPI) highlights the extent to which funding from teaching and international students is being used to support research
- **Education and Training Statistics for the UK for 2017.** The government publishes the latest set of facts and figures covering school, training, qualifications and funding
- **Computing education in UK schools.** The Royal Society highlights concerns about the subject in a new report and calls for a significant increase in funding, training and support over the next five years
- **Teacher observation.** The Education Endowment Foundation publish the results of a commissioned survey into structured observations in English and maths finding it has little impact on exam results
- **Apprenticeships Inquiry.** The Education and BEIS Committees publish the government's response to its earlier apprenticeships inquiry showing the government keen to press on pretty much as before
- **Teaching excellence: the student perspective.** The consortium of student unions reports back on its recent survey of student views on the Teaching Excellence Framework with some interesting views
- **Ofsted consultation on FE providers judged to require improvement.** Ofsted calls for views on its proposal to shift to a subsequent single monitoring visit + report rather than series of visits
- **Languages for the Future.** The British Council calls for a combined effort to improve language skills in schools particularly in the top five languages thought to be important for engagement post Brexit
- **Creating the ideal school.** The RSA launches a major new campaign to help schools focus on the joys and benefits of learning rather than on performance and accountability measures
- **Fairer Fees.** The Sutton Trust considers ways to make the system fairer by for example restoring maintenance grants, using means-tested fees and increasing teaching grants
- **Free Schools in England.** The Education Policy Institute assesses progress so far and notes that while Free Schools are meeting some needs, the jury's still out on the overall success of the scheme

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- **Fixing the Broken Market in part-time study.** The Open University highlights the collapse in p/t provision and suggests a number of ways to restore it including fee top ups, tax credits and vouchers
- **Minimising the risks of unconscious bias in university admissions.** UCAS reports on how volunteer universities have found working with 'name blind' admissions and future steps needed
- **ESFA Framework.** The Education and Skills Funding Agency outlines how it'll work with the DfE
- **Tech know-how.** BT and Accenture report on the benefits of training up young people, especially the most disadvantaged, with effective digital skills
- **The Culture of Engineering in Schools.** The Institution of Mechanical Engineers raises concerns about a lack of attention being paid to engineering in secondary schools
- **Our Plan for HE.** The Edge Foundation publishes its thoughts on higher education, claiming that many degrees offer poor value for money and calling for the system to be more employer-focused
- **Shaping the qualifications landscape.** Ofqual publishes a series of reports on applied and technical qualifications as part of an update on the changing qualification landscape
- **Collaborative problem solving results.** The OECD publishes the results of the first global exercise is assessing collaborative problem solving with UK teenagers coming in at 15<sup>th</sup> out of 50+ countries
- **Autumn Budget 2017.** The Treasury publishes the full set of Budget documents
- **Technical education and apprenticeships awareness in schools.** The government outlines arrangements for colleges and training providers to come in and talk options with YR 8-13 pupils
- **Industrial Strategy.** The government brings together its plans for future economic growth in the form of an extensive White Paper built around five foundations of productivity and four Grand Challenges
- **Future of Skills and Lifelong Learning.** The Government Office for Science outlines five skill areas critical for the future including literacy and numeracy, and employability
- **The Right Skills.** The British Academy publishes its first ever research into the employment prospects and skills of arts and humanities graduates finding many have just the sorts of skills employers seek
- **Effective practice in English and maths GCSE resits.** The DfE publishes findings from commissioned research from over 40 colleges with plenty of useful tips and guidance
- **Social Mobility Annual Report.** The Social Mobility Commission highlights a deep divide in some regions across the country as it publishes its latest annual report
- **Intervention policy and the role of the FE Commissioner.** The DfE outlines how the extended role of the FE Commissioner is to operate particularly in terms of interventions and guidance
- **Testing the Water.** The think tank LKMco and Pearson publish their summary report on assessment bringing together views from across the spectrum and calling for better prof support and training
- **Bold beginnings.** Ofsted reports on its recent review of Reception provision finding most schools preparing children well especially in reading but less so in maths
- **Better Apprenticeships.** The Sutton Trust reports on access, opportunity and quality in apprenticeships suggesting much of this is being hindered by current arrangements
- **Changes to statistical reporting of inspection outcomes.** Ofsted calls for views on some proposed changes to the ways in which some data is reported

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- **Institutes of Technology Prospectus.** The government outlines the criteria for bids in its new Prospectus with the first Institutes due to be confirmed in 2018 and opened in 2019
- **Implementation of T levels.** The government launches its next stage consultation on the design, development and implementation of T levels from 2020

## Speeches of the month

- Nick Gibb's **2 November FASNA speech** lauds government school reforms for helping raise standards, improve accountability, increase funding and extend autonomy
- Theresa May's **6 November CBI Conference speech** argues that the government's new Industrial Strategy will help set a new, more confident post-Brexit vision for the country
- Jeremy Corbyn's **6 November CBI Conference speech** calls for things to change, argues for a big push on productivity and promises a future Labour government would invest heavily in R/D
- Anne Milton's **7 November careers speech** spells out the core components of the government's forthcoming careers strategy
- Anne Milton's **14 November AoC speech** sets out three new ways in which FE and government can work together to deliver the skills training needed in the future
- Jeremy Corbyn's **14 November AoC speech** praises the work of the FE sector and outlines the Labour Party's lifelong learning model of a National Education Service for all
- Amanda Spielman's **14 November AoC speech** acknowledges some of the challenges faced by the sector and outlines changes to inspection procedures especially for new apprenticeship providers
- Matt Hancock's **15 November Digital Summit speech** outlines what progress the government has made in meeting each of the seven pillars of its Digital Strategy
- Nick Gibb's **16 November National Association of School Business Managers Conference speech** highlights the importance of school efficiency and the role of school managers in this
- Phillip Hammond's **22 November Autumn Budget speech** last an hour, has three jokes, some challenging economic forecasts and a number of measures for the world of education and skills
- Amanda Spielman's **25 November Ark speech** outlines the importance Ofsted attaches to a balanced curriculum and to recognizing the role of wider school management teams
- Justine Greening's **30 November Skills Summit speech** sets out how the government is aiming to tackle the skills issue and calls on employers to work with them

## Quotes of the month

- "In this Budget, we express our resolve to look forwards not backwards" – the Chancellor sets out his stall at the start of his Budget speech
- "Parents and teachers will be deeply disappointed" – the National Education Union reacts to the Budget announcements
- "We have studied previous attempts at industrial strategy which have had successes as well as failures" – the government claims to have done its homework in launching another strategy

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- “There is a fracture line running deep through our labour and housing markets and our education system. Those on the wrong side of this divide are losing out and falling behind” – the Social Mobility Commission issues a stark warning
- “There’s a touch of the Wild West about it” – HE Policy Institute Director Nick Hillman on the ratcheting up of marketing claims between universities
- A future Labour government will start by properly funding existing colleges so that they can deliver T levels and other qualifications” - Jeremy Corbyn addresses funding issues at the AoC Conference
- “It’s not FE’s fault that GCSE retakes don’t work” – AELP chief exec Mark Dawe renews calls for functional skills
- “All post-16 pupils should study a vocational course” – Tony Little, former head of Eton, calls for a balanced diet
- “We now need to put rocket boosters under the programme in areas where there are not enough good schools” – Toby Young reacts to the Education Policy Institute report on Free Schools
- “Patchy and fragile” – the Royal Society assesses the state of computing education in UK schools
- “I want to educate 10 year olds so that when they are on an online game they know the difference between real money and pretend money” – money saving expert Martin Lewis commits to help schools with personal finance textbooks
- “I think that mathematics is a beautiful subject, an expression of the ingenuity of humanity to find patterns and order in the real world” – former University Challenge captain Bobby Seagull finds beauty in maths

## Word or phrase of the month

- ‘JOMO.’ The Joy of Missing Out, a digital detox model that some schools are apparently trying out

## Steve Besley

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