



# Pearson

## Policy Watch

Your guide to what's happening in the world of education



### The week in a nutshell

It's been a week full of big announcements, as ministers have one eye on the impending summer recess. The long-awaited response to the Higher Technical Education consultation was published, confirming the introduction of kitemarked higher technical qualifications. Ministers also outlined how they plan to strengthen relationships with colleges following Dame Mary Ney's review of financial oversight in the sector. These form an important part of the picture the Secretary of State set out in his further education speech last week. We've also been given an insight into student experiences of higher education during the lockdown. The National Student Survey reported satisfaction holding up and research by Wonke & Pearson found a mixed picture when it comes to online delivery.

### Top stories

**DfE has published its [plans for the reform of Higher Technical Education \(HTE\) in England](#). This follows a [consultation](#) last year.**

- This will include the introduction of newly approved higher technical qualifications (HTQs) from September 2022 supported by a government-backed brand and quality mark.
- The Government will also undertake a public awareness campaign to promote HTE.
- Responses: [UUK](#); [Guild HE](#)

**The Education Select Committee has [released its report: \*Getting the grades they've earned: Covid-19: the cancellation of exams and 'calculated' grades\*](#).**

- The primary concern is that pupils could miss out on the exam result they deserve as the awarding and moderating system is at risk of inaccuracy and bias against young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The appeal and standardisation systems set out by Ofqual are identified as the main obstacles to fairness.
- The report commented on the lack of post-16 "catch-up" funding which the committee agrees should be extended.

**Government has [pledged to form stronger relationships with colleges following Dame Mary Ney's Independent Review in to the financial oversight of colleges which was published colleges](#).**

- Recommendations include strengthened alignment between FE Commissioner and ESFA, new whistle-blowing requirements for colleges, strengthened transparency and a new College Collaboration Fund round.
- Further changes will be announced as part of the FE White Paper after the summer.

The Government has **announced a support scheme for universities facing severe financial difficulties** as a result of the coronavirus. English HEIs will be able to apply for support, through a new restructuring regime.

- As a condition for taking part in the scheme, HEIs will be required to make changes that meet wider Government objectives. This could include delivering high quality courses with strong graduate outcomes, and improving their qualifications offer.
- An independently chaired Higher Education Restructuring Regime Board will be established and financial support will be in the form of repayable loans

## Pearson news

**HE student COVID-19 research** Pearson has partnered with Wonkhe to look into the student experience through and after Covid-19. To check out the research [click here](#)

## Pearson tweet of the week



## Other news

### Parliament

- Michelle Donelan, HE Minister, provides evidence to Education Select Committee inquiry
- Education Select Committee write to Children and Families Minister about impact of COVID-19 on young people with SEND
- Written Ministerial Statement: Independent Review of College Financial Oversight
- Written Ministerial Statement: Higher Technical Education Reform

## Regulators & inspectorates

- Ofsted annual report 2019/20
- Ofsted: Annual parents Survey 2020 (YouGov)

- Ofsted: Revisions to post-inspection and complaints-handling arrangements

## Schools

- Education Development Trust (EDT) published independent report on school-led projects aimed at reducing teacher workload

## Further Education

- IFATE confirms EPA special measures to remain until January 2021
- AoC response to Independent Review into the financial oversight of colleges
- DfE publishes latest FE & skills data

## Higher Education

- National Student Survey 2020 published – student satisfaction remains stable. 83% satisfied with course

## Scotland

- Scottish Government: Planning for re-opening schools safely

## Wales

- Welsh Government: updated guidance to support schools prior to the return of all pupils in September

## Consultation watch

- Consultations closing:
  - Ofqual: Proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021. [Closes: 16 July](#)
- New consultations:
  - ESRC: Review of the PhD in the Social Sciences. Closes: 16 September
- Consultation outcomes:
  - DfE: Improving higher technical education (Consultation ran July 2019 to Sept 2019)
  - DfE: Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2020 (Withdrawn)

## What's happening in Parliament next week

- **Monday 20 July:** House of Lords (oral question) Ensuring young people leaving school in this academic year are prepared for work in a post-COVID-19 environment - Lord Aberdare
- **Tuesday 21 July:** House of Lords (oral question) Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social mobility - Baroness Massey of Darwen
- **Wednesday 22 July:** [House of Commons – Summer recess begins \(ends 1 September\)](#)
- **Wednesday 22 July:** [Education Select Committee hearing](#)
- **Wednesday 22 July:** House of Lords (oral question) Teaching of arts and other creative subjects in online and in classrooms, classrooms, as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted - The Earl of Clancarty