



# Pearson

## Policy Watch

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



### The week in a nutshell

This week saw an impassioned Report Stage debate as members of the House of Lords continued their scrutiny of the **Skills and Post-16 Education Bill**. Former ministers, **Lord Baker, Lord Blunkett, and Lord Willetts** spoke in favour of retaining a broader qualification choice at age 16 and warned of the impact of the proposed reforms at level 3 (as they currently stand). Peers voted to amend the Bill to ensure students can take two BTEC (or similar qualifications) and a longer-term (4 year) timetable for removal of funding for any qualifications. The Bill will pass to MPs later this year where the Lords' amendments will be debated.

**118 cross party parliamentarians** signed a letter to Secretary of State, Nadhim Zahawi urging him to “make an early assessment” of the planned reform of level 3 qualifications and asks for an assurance that “students will continue to have the choice to study a wide range of applied general qualifications in the future”.

As part of the government's plans to reskill adults, it has **announced 65 short and modular courses** to be delivered through Institutes of Technology as part of a new pilot. The STEM courses will be free to learners and are funded through the **National Skills Fund**.

### Top stories

#### Nadhim Zahawi speaks at NAHT Annual Conference

- Reaffirmed the Government's commitment to improving early years services for those first, critical 1001 days of a child's life, championing family hubs, and helping parents provide the best home-learning environment for their children.
- Committed to rolling out a suite of National Professional Qualifications – supporting teachers and leaders right across the country as part of a fundamental overhaul teachers are trained.

#### 118 parliamentarians sign a letter to Nadhim Zahawi calling for rethink on level 3 reforms

- MPs and Lords have written to the Secretary of State asking him to “recalibrate” the government's “disastrous” plans to scrap proven qualifications, such as a number of BTECs, as part of the level 3 review.
- The letter gained cross party support with 89 signatories from Labour, 18 from the Conservatives, eight Liberal Democrats, two independents and one Green.

#### Department for announces new trainee teachers can get bursaries of up to £24,000

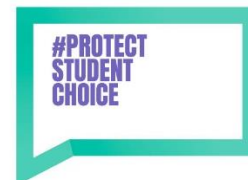
- Graduates applying to train as teachers in high-demand subjects will receive bursaries under Government plans to recruit and retain world-class teachers .
- Existing teachers and school leaders will also be able to access free qualifications including managing behaviour, developing other teachers and being a great head teacher.

## Department for Education announces that thousands more adults will benefit from new technical skills

- Free courses will help working age adults to upskill or retrain in STEM subjects.
- These courses will be offered via the Institutes of Technology (IoT) that the government announced in August with priority for places on the courses being given to those employed locally to the IoT.

## Pearson news

**#ProtectStudentChoice campaign** The campaign focuses on the Department for Education's review of post-16 qualifications at Level 3, which puts government funding at risk for many applied general qualifications, such as BTECs. It includes organisations that represent staff and students in schools, colleges and universities. The group has launched a petition to reverse the plan to remove funding for BTEC qualifications. **The petition can be found here.**



**Pearson Education New Chair** We have, this week, appointed Mary Curnock Cook CBE to the position of chair of Pearson Education Ltd. From 2010-2017, Mary was Chief Executive of UCAS. Earlier in her career she held executive and non-executive positions in the education, hospitality, food and biotech sectors.

## Pearson tweets of the week



## Other news

### Parliamentary

- Skills and Post-16 Education Bill – Lords Report Stage
- Lords Oral Question – Schools examination assessments, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
- 118 parliamentarians sign letter to Nadhim Zahawi to protect student choice at level 3
- Nadhim Zahawi's speech at the NAHT conference
- Department for Education: Widening participation in higher education: 2021
- Birbalsingh to be appointed as chair of Social Mobility Commission

### Schools

- LGA: Make school-based counselling available to all children to tackle rising child mental health issues

- UCL: Covid crisis reveals how schools are ‘propping up a failing welfare state’

## Further Education & Skills

- City and Guilds of London Institute: Re-skilling for the future – where are we now?
- AoC: Key amendments secured in Skills Bill debate in House Of Lords
- Skills for Care: 'The State of the adult social care sector and workforce in England' report published
- NHS Providers: Response to new Skills for Care report

## Higher Education

- Higher Education Policy Institute: International students need more relevant careers support if UK is to remain a destination of choice
- Student Loans Company: Student Loans Company pays Maintenance Loan support to a record number of students

## Wales

- NASUWT: More time needed for Welsh schools to implement major curriculum and qualification reforms

## Consultation Watch

### Ongoing Consultations

- Assessment arrangements: Welsh Government Closes: 31 October 2021
- Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers advice Closes 19 October 2021
- Education reform consultation on behalf of Professor Ken Muir, University of the West of Scotland and Independent Advisor to the Scottish Government Closes: 26 November 2021

## What's happening in Parliament next week

*The House of Commons returns from Recess on Monday 18 October.*

### Monday 18 October

*House of Lords*

- Skills and Post-16 Education Bill [HL] Report (day 2) [Baroness Barran]

### Friday 22 October

*House of Commons*

- Education Employment (Accompaniment to Hearings) Bill: Second Reading Member in Charge: Brendan Clarke-Smith
- Wellbeing of Future Generations (No. 2) Bill: Second Reading Member in Charge: Simon Fell

### Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 24 September 2021