



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

Ahead of next week's Budget and Spending Review, **Michelle Donelan** set out higher education student finance arrangements for the 2022/23. As already announced, tuition fees will remain at £9250. All eyes, however, will be on the Chancellor next week and the expected details on the future of higher education funding. Will we finally get a full response to Sir Philip Augar's review, which reported back in 2019?

The **Skills and Post-16 Education Bill** is nearing the end of its passage through the House of Lords. Once again, the government suffered a number of defeats as peers made several amendments to the Bill. However, given the government's majority in the Commons, expect these to be reversed by MPs.

The **Education Policy Institute** has published a report on the impact of the pandemic on pupils and their learning. It suggests that this could have a significant impact on the government's plans to "level up", especially in the north and midlands. And the **Institute for Employment Studies** has put out a report into transforming jobs and skills for young people post-pandemic.

There were also changes to the **Education Committee** with Miriam Cates and Brendan Clarke-Smith replacing David Johnston and David Simmonds (all Conservative).

Top stories

Donelan announces tuition fee cap will remain in place

- Tuition fees will be frozen for the 22/23 academic year at the same levels as 21/22, meaning the maximum fee level for a standard full-time course will remain £9,250.
- Maintenance loans will see an increase by forecast inflation of 2.3%, including for DSA. The same increase will be applied to postgraduate loans.
- Home fee status has also been extended to some categories of individuals, including those relocated from Afghanistan and family members of all persons settled in the UK with 3 years' residence.

EPI publishes analysis of education recovery and resilience in England

- The new report reveals a significant impact of the pandemic on learning, with pupils facing likely lost earnings of at least £16,000 each, rising to £46,000 in a worst-case scenario.
- They argue the PMs levelling up agenda is "under serious threat" from large pupil learning losses in parts of the North and the Midlands. They call for a £13.5bn funding package to reverse the damage done.
- Research have also identified several risks to the delivery of the National Tutoring Programme.

PAC finds school funding changes have hit deprived areas hardest

- The Committee’s report says the DfE failed to take enough account of the impact of its decisions on individual schools and their pupils” when it announced changes to the school funding system, with the adverse impacts falling “disproportionately on deprived local areas and schools”.
- There is a lack of urgency in DfE’s approach to making improvements to the school system. Delivery of a number of initiatives has slipped with DfE “unwilling or unable” to commit to revised timetables. “While the Department drags its feet, more and more children with special educational needs and disabilities are progressing through the school system without the support they need.” The ongoing delays publishing the SEND review announced two years ago are “unacceptable”.

Key role for green education and skills in new Net Zero Strategy

- Commitments include reforming the skills system so that training providers, employers and learners are incentivised and equipped to play their part in delivering the transition to net zero – including by legislating for skills required for jobs that support action on climate change and other environmental goals to be considered in the development of new local skills improvement plans.
- It also places an important role on the Lifetime Skills Guarantee for helping the UK move toward Net Zero.
- The Government also pledge to introduce a sustainability and climate change strategy for education and children’s services.

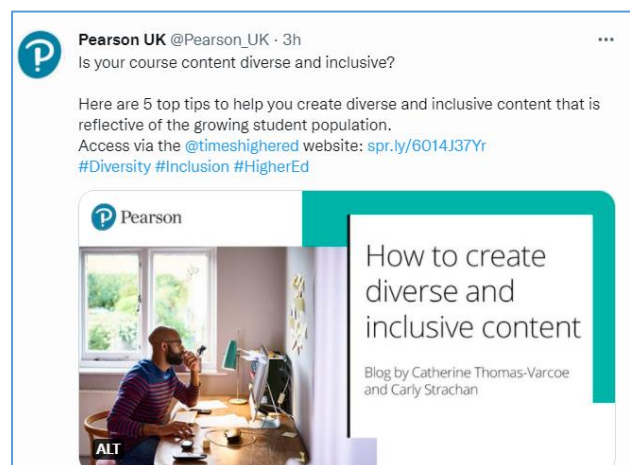
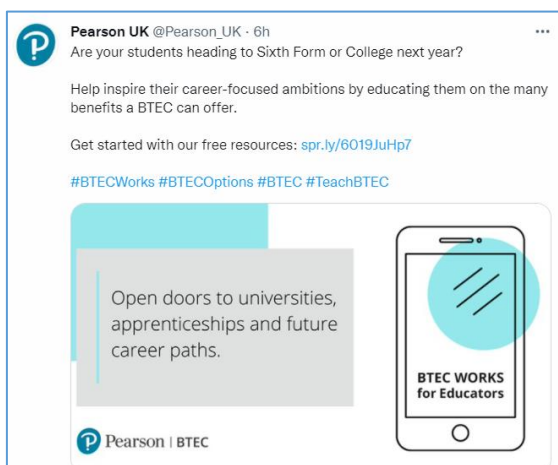
IES publishes report on transforming jobs and skills for young people after the pandemic

- The report identifies significant regional disparities in access to jobs, a shrinking youth labour market, and evidence of an “unequal recovery”.
- They recommend investment in a low-carbon economy in the medium term as a means of generating “future-proof” jobs and increasing opportunity.
- Other recommendations include a meaningful ‘Opportunity Guarantee’, a commitment to ‘Universal Youth Support’, and establishing new local youth employment and skills board, among others.

Pearson news

Education recovery and resilience in England We are pleased to support the Education Policy Institute’s important work and research into education recovery, to help understand what schools need as they emerge from the pandemic. The phase two research report is [out now](#).

Pearson tweets of the week



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Week ending Friday 22 October 2021

Other news

Parliamentary

- Department for Education: Care leavers and disadvantaged pupils to benefit from £126 million investment in new laptops and tablets
- Attendance in education and early years during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Left behind white pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds: response to the select committee report

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Office for Students: OfS sets out funding proposals for world-leading specialist providers
- ESFA: National Apprenticeship Awards 2021 regional winners announced
- ESFA Update: 20 October 2021
- ESFA: Industry placements: capacity and delivery fund (CDF) for providers delivering in the 2022 to 2023 academic year
- ESFA: 16 to 19 allocation data: 2021 to 2022 academic year
- ESFA: Funding allocations to training providers: 2021 to 2022

Schools

- ONS: Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn and spring terms
- DfE: Key stage 4 destination measures
- ONS: Secondary school performance tables in England: 2020 to 2021
- GSR: Young people's experiences of careers information, advice and guidance

Further Education & Skills

- DfE: Higher-level learners in England: 2018 to 2019
- DfE: 16-18 destination measures
- ONS: School and college performance tables in England: 2020 to 2021
- DfE: Skills Bootcamps wave 1: process evaluation

Higher Education

- DfE: Progression to higher education or training
- HEPI: New report says R&D spending should focus on the regions as part of 'levelling up'

Scotland

- Scottish Government: COVID-19 safety in schools

Wales

- Welsh Government: Initial Teacher Education Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Recruitment plan
- Further education institutions: allocations 2021 to 2022
- Written Statement: Update on progress of the recommendations in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group

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- [Post-16 local authority: adult learning funding allocations 2021 to 2022](#)
- [Post-16 local authority: sixth form funding allocations 2021 to 2022](#)

Consultation Watch

Ongoing Consultations

- [Assessment arrangements: Welsh Government](#) Closes: 31 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

Closing consultations

- [Home fee status for students from the Crown Dependencies](#) Closes: 25 October 2021

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 25 October

Westminster Hall

- 4:30pm: University tuition fees (Tom Hunter, Con, Ipswich)

House of Lords

- Oral questions: Ensuring music and the arts are the heart of education in England
- Legislation: Skills and Post-16 Education Bill – Third Reading

Wednesday 27 October

House of Commons

- After PMQs: Budget Statement

Westminster Hall

- 9:30am: Inclusion of sustainability and climate change in the national curriculum (Nadia Whittome, Lab, Nottingham East)

General Committee

- Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Bill – Debate

Select Committee

- 9:30am: Education Committee – Universities and the pandemic