



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

This week **Nadhim Zahawi** announced, during the **Second Reading of the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill**, that the Government's **level 3 reform timetable would be extended by a year**, meaning no funding will be removed from qualifications overlapping with T Levels until 2024 at the earliest. Though this was welcomed, many also felt the extension did not go far enough. During the debate many MPs spoke in favour of retaining high quality Applied General and BTEC qualifications. The Secretary of State also announced relaxations relating to English and maths exist requirements for T Levels, in order to encourage more students to take the new qualifications.

Ofsted is to **accelerate inspections** to consider how schools and colleges are recovering from the pandemic. Chief Inspector, **Amanda Spielman**, in a speech to the AoC, set this policy out. She also highlighted the role Ofsted will be playing in the government's new Local Skills Inspection Plans

And as part of anti-bullying week, Children's Minister **Will Quince** announced funding to support **anti-bullying initiatives** and provided schools with money to promote **pupil wellbeing**.

Top stories

Skills Bill **received second reading**, Zahawi announced changes to T Levels

- The Skills and Post-16 Education Bill received its second reading in the Commons on Monday, providing MPs with their first opportunity to debate the Bill.
- In his opening remarks, Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi told the House that they would be removing the maths and English qualification from the T Level exit requirements, to make them more accessible.
- He also announced that the removal of funding for Applied General and BTEC qualifications would be extended by one year.

DfE **announced support** for schools to tackle bullying and staff wellbeing

- Childrens Minister Will Quince announced that five leading organisations would receive a combined total of over £1m to provide programmes and support to schools and colleges to tackle bullying.
- The Government also announced a new support scheme for school leaders worth £760,000 to promote good wellbeing across pupils, teachers, and school and college staff.
- At the same time, [the new Education Staff Wellbeing Charter](#) was published, setting out commitments from the Government, Ofsted, education unions and charities, to promote the mental health of the workforce.

Ofsted **instructed** to accelerate inspections

- The regulator has been asked by the Government to inspect all schools and FE providers by summer 2025, to give a quicker assessment of how education is recovering from the pandemic.

- Beginning with last term’s inspections, all schools and FE providers will be inspected at least once by summer 2025. The total extra funding for education inspections over the next three financial years, over and above Ofsted’s current spend, is £23.85m.

Amanda Spielman addressed AoC Annual Conference

- Ofsted’s chief inspector spoke at the annual conference of the Association of Colleges, covering the need to accelerate inspections of schools and colleges.
- She also noted her support for assessing “the extent to which colleges have regard to local skills” adding that they’d “had concerns about mismatches in the past between courses that are popular and courses that really open doors.”

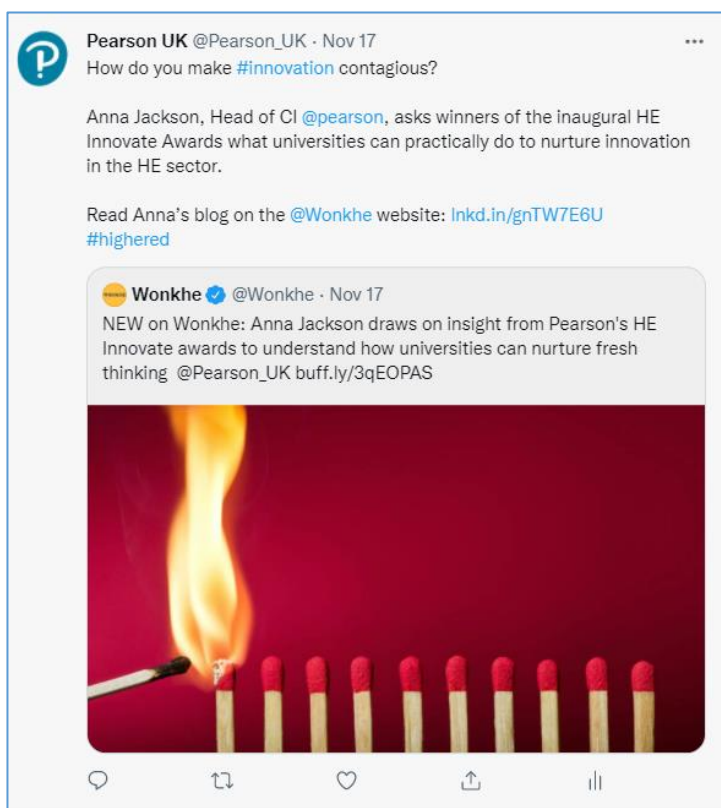
Welsh Government launched the Young Person’s Guarantee

- Economy Minister Vaughan Gething launched the scheme, which will provide everyone under-25 with the offer of work, education, training or self-employment.
- This will include “one simple route” to access the Guarantee via Working Wales – with support and advice available in-person and virtually on apprenticeships, traineeships, courses and careers.

Pearson news

Latest Pearson Global Learner Survey on Climate Change now published This global survey found a “Climate Education Gap” with more than half of people globally (69% in UK) are working to learn more about climate change after not learning enough in school. 75% of people in the UK believe children should start learning about climate change in primary school or earlier. [To read more click here](#)

Pearson tweets of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Debate: Skills and Post-16 Education Bills – second reading (Commons)
- WMS: Contingency arrangements for GCSEs and A/AS levels in 2022
- WMS: Education Staff Wellbeing
- WMS: School Uniform Update
- Oral Question: Levelling Up White Paper
- Oral Question: Professor Kathleen Stock: Resignation
- Legislation: Professional Qualifications Bill [HL]
- Debate: Initial Teacher Training

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted accelerates inspections for schools and further education providers
- Ofsted: Initial teacher education: inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2021
- Ofsted: Amanda Spielman at the 2021 Schools & Academies Show
- Ofsted: Amanda Spielman at the AoC Annual Conference 2021
- ESFA: Dedicated schools grant (DSG) 2021 to 2022
- Ofqual: Access arrangements for GCSE, AS and A Level: 2020 to 2021 academic year
- Ofqual: Dr Jo Saxton speech at Federation of Awarding Bodies conference
- SLC: Advanced Learner Loans Paid in England AY 2020/21, Aug to Jul
- QAA: Creating inclusive subject communities: new QAA advice
- IfATE: Engineering and manufacturing route review report

Scotland

- Principles for in-person teaching in college and university: letter
- In-person teaching in college and university – invite to principals: letter
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advanced Learning Recovery Group minutes - 1 November 2021
- Education Reform: Expert Panel meeting minutes: 4 October 2021

Wales

- Written Statement: The Young Persons Guarantee
- Changes to the law on admission arrangements
- Student Finance Wales Information Notice: eligibility for home fee status and student support for the 2021 to 2022 academic year
- Boost for children's online safety as Welsh Government becomes first government to join IWF

Northern Ireland

- McIlveen welcomes further £5million Education Wellbeing funding

Consultation Watch

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 19 November 2021

Ongoing consultations

- [Reforming how local authority school improvement functions are funded](#) Closes: 26 November 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
- [QAA: Consultation on 13 Subject Benchmark Statements](#) Closes: 09 December 2021
- [NI: Consultation on Deferring School Starting Age](#) Closes 04 January 2022
- [Ofqual: Consultation on designing and developing accessible assessments](#) Closes: 24 January 2022
- [Scotland: Assessment of wellbeing - draft statutory guidance: consultation](#) Closes: 04 February 2022

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 22 November

House of Lords

- Legislation: Education (Environment and Sustainable Citizenship) Bill – committee stage
- Legislation: Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill – committee stage (day 2)

Tuesday 23 November

House of Commons

- Ten Minute Rule Motion: Climate Education (Nadia Whittome, Lab, Nottingham East)

Westminster Hall

- Ofsted inspection of multi-academy trusts (Jonathan Gullis, Con, Stoke-on-Trent North)

Wednesday 24 November

Hours of Lords

- Legislation: Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill – committee stage (day 3)