



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

Earlier this year the government set out its plans for skills development in its *Skills for Jobs White Paper*. This week has seen further moves on some of the key policies included within it. The **OfS** has begun a competition for providers to join a trial to develop **Higher Education short courses**. These courses will support the ambitions of the **Lifelong Loan Entitlement**. In addition, £50m of capital funding was announced to support T Levels and the **ESFA** published the list of qualifications that will have funding withdrawn next year.

As people prepare for the return to education after the summer break, there has been much comment around COVID testing plans – not least by the **Labour Party and Unions**. Staying with the pandemic, the **Health Foundation** published its findings on its impact on young people's health and wellbeing.

And please do take the time to take part in our back to school **survey**. Further details can be found below.

Top stories

DfE and OfS announce Higher Education Short Course competition trial

- The Department for Education, via the Office for Students, are inviting providers to bid for funding to develop short courses that offer prospective students the opportunity to take short courses.
- The competition will offer up to 20 providers the chance to participate in the trial, which is part of the Government's overall proposals to encourage lifelong learning through the Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE)
- Providers can bid for up to £100,000 of a total £2m pot of funding.

ESFA publish final list of qualifications to have funding withdrawn in 2022

- The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published the final list of qualifications with low and no publicly funded enrolments where they will remove funding approval from 1 August 2022.
- The first stage of the consultation on [the review of post 16 qualifications at level 3 and below](#) set out the Department for Education's intention to remove approval for funding of qualifications with low and no publicly funded enrolments.

ONS publish latest statistics on young people NEET

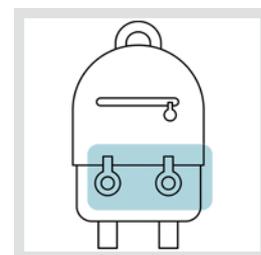
- Latest estimates show there were 631,000 young people in the UK who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in April to June 2021, around 9.3% of all young people.
- This was a record low, and down by 104,000 compared with January to March 2021.
- There were an estimated 290,000 women aged 16 to 24 years who were NEET in April to June 2021, a record low.
- Of all young people in the UK who were NEET in April to June 2021, an estimated 44.4% were looking for, and available for work and therefore classified as unemployed; the remainder were either not looking for work and/or not available for work and were classified as economically inactive.

The Health Foundation [share findings](#) on young people's prospects and wellbeing during the pandemic

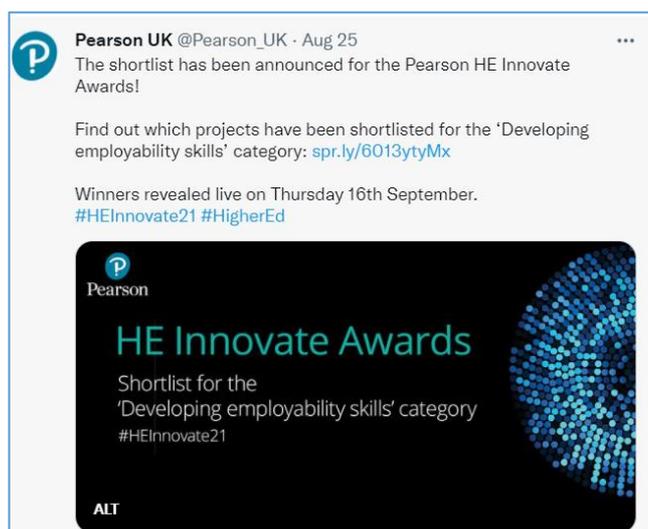
- A survey of over 2,000 young people in the UK reveals the extent to which young people feel their employment prospects and mental health have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.
- 86% said the pandemic had negatively impacted their opportunity to achieve the right skills and qualifications for their chosen career.
- 86% also felt that it had impacted their ability to develop the right relationships and networking opportunities to help enter or progress in the working environment.
- 35% felt that it would be difficult to find secure work that is fairly paid and has scope for career growth and development in the next six months.

Pearson news

Have your say... As the return to school beckons, we're asking educators and families how they're feeling about the new year and what they're looking forward to most. We'd love to hear your thoughts in our short survey and use them to shape support for schools across the UK in making the most of learning throughout September and beyond. The closing date for the survey is Sunday 29 August, and we'll update you with how your feedback has helped in future Policy Watch bulletins. [Share your thoughts in our survey](#)



Pearson tweets of the week



Other news

Regulatory and funding bodies

- QAA announces next deputy CEO
- ESFA: Get help with technology programme: conditions of internet access support grants
- Ofqual: Over 1,300 penalties issued over VTQ awards

Schools

- Department for Education: Reintroduces remote learning duty on schools for 2021-22
- Department for Education: Introducing international qualified teacher status (iQTS) consultation outcome
- Department for Education: 'Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers advice' new consultation

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Week ending Friday 27 August 2021

- HEPI: ‘Systemic bias against boys’? Unexplained differences in Teacher Assessed Grades between boys and girls in this year’s A level results
- NAHT on potential staggered start to term for secondary schools due to Covid testing requirements
- Labour Party: condemns Williamson’s “staggering disregard” for families as government creates renewed confusion around school return
- NAHT: comments on government announcement of CO2 monitors for schools
- NAHT: comments on vaccinations for young teens
- Teach First calls for funding to reduce teachers’ timetables in schools serving disadvantaged communities

Further Education & Skills

- Department for Education: £50 million to deliver world-class facilities for T Level students
- UKRI: £24m funding for industrial studentships

Higher Education

- University Alliance responds to DfE’s Initial Teacher Training Market Review consultation

Scotland

- Scottish Government: Embedding race equality in schools
- Scottish Government: Investment in North East workers
- Scottish Government announce policy programme for recovery

Wales

- Welsh Government: Support will help newly qualified teachers into new roles

Northern Ireland

- Department for the Economy: Public appointment competition for CITB North Ireland board members

Consultation Watch

New Consultations

- Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers’ advice Closes 19 October

Ongoing Consultations

- The National Skills Fund Closes: 17 September
- Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula Closes: 30 September
- Reforms to Further Education funding and accountability Closes: 7 October
- Prioritising schools for the School Rebuilding Programme Closes: 8 October

What’s happening in Parliament next week

Parliament has now risen for recess and will return on Monday 6 September 2021.

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