



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

Details of the new **Schools Bill** were revealed ahead of Tuesday's Queen's Speech. The content provided few surprises given it provides a legislative footing for plans announced in the recent Schools White Paper. As with the White Paper, the Bill plans has been criticised by some, including Labour and teaching unions, for omissions including post-pandemic learning recovery.

Ministers finally published the list of post 16 **level 3 qualifications to be defunded** in favour on T Levels. 160 qualifications were named. There is an appeals process with awarding bodies having until July to make a case. There were those, like the UCU, who were quick to point out the potential impact defunding could have on widening participation in HE.

In Parliament, the **Public Accounts Committee** quizzed DfE officials, including the Permanent Secretary, Susan Acland-Hood, over the SEND review, the Schools White paper, and the National Tutoring Programme. And the Prime Minister has asked **Matt Warman MP** (Con, Boston and Skegness), a former whip and former digital minister, to lead a review into how the government can best support a thriving future UK labour market.

Finally, **Pearson** published the latest paper in the Spotlight Policy Series. **Spotlight on Onscreen Assessment** explores the benefits of a shift online, the barriers faced, and how we might get there.

Top stories

Schools Bill begins its passage through Parliament

- The new Schools Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech, has received its First Reading in the House of Lords. This does not involve a debate. The Bill's Second Reading – the first opportunity for parliamentarians to scrutinise the Bill – has been scheduled for 23 May 2022.
- The Bill follows the recent White Paper and its sections covers: Academies; School and local education funding; School attendance; Independent educational institutions.
- Labour criticised the Bill for having “No plan to support pandemic recovery, no plan to improve teaching standards, no plan to deliver the broad education that employers, parents and young people are calling for.”

Government publishes list of Level 3 quals to be de-funded for T Levels

- The Minister for Skills, Alex Burghart, has [published a written statement](#) announcing the next stage of the Government's reforms to post-16 qualifications at Level 3 in England.
- DfE has published [the provisional list of 160 qualifications that overlap with T Levels](#) in waves 1 and 2 and will have funding approval at 16-19 withdrawn for new starts from 1 August 2024.
- Awarding organisations and employers can appeal against the decisions and have until July to do so.

- In Autumn 2022, the Government will publish details of the process which Awarding Organisations will need to follow for every qualification to be approved for funding. Ofqual recently consulted on the regulation of these qualifications.
- Read the [Pearson response to the announcement](#).

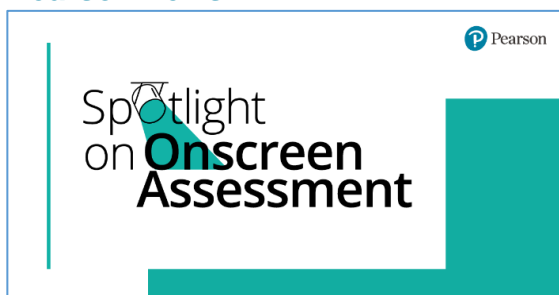
Department for Education publishes additional LEO data

- The data published as part of the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset, provides new details to see what industry graduates were working in at one, three, five and 10 years after graduation.
- By joining SIC (UK Standard Industrial Classification) codes with LEO data published in March, the DfE has created a dashboard which allows the sector to view more on graduate outcomes, while also supporting the aims of the Unit for Future Skills.

OfS: Unis mustn't normalise post-pandemic grade inflation

- The **Office for Students** (OfS) has [warned universities and colleges](#) to “steer clear of normalising post-pandemic grade inflation”, as figures published find more than half of first-class degrees awarded in 2020/21 cannot be explained when compared to students’ attainment a decade ago.
- The report analyses degrees awarded to students between 2010-11 and 2020-21, with data presented at a sector, subject and individual university and college level.
- In 2010-11, 15.7% of students were awarded first class honours. The proportion of students awarded the top grade has more than doubled, reaching 37.9% in 2020-21.

Pearson news



Spotlight on Onscreen Assessment The latest paper in our Spotlight Policy Series has been published. Spotlight on Onscreen Assessment explores some of the big questions ahead for the sector: how do we facilitate change? What are the big opportunities? And what are the barriers? To find out more, [click here](#).

Pearson tweet of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Schools Bill [HL]
- Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill – updated impact assessment for carry-over
- Queen's Speech 2022
- Commons: Debate on the Address
- Commons: Preventing Crime and Delivering Justice (day 1 of 5)
- Commons: Fairness at Work and Power in Communities (day 2 of 5)
- WMS: Level 3 Qualifications Review
- Lords: Queen's Speech
- Lords: Queen's Speech (day 1 of 5)
- Lords: Queen's Speech (day 2 of 5)

Regulatory and funding bodies

- New Ofqual guidance on making assessments accessible for students
- Ofqual: Consultation on designing and developing accessible assessments (Consultation outcome)
- Ofqual: Lifelong Loan Entitlement and Higher Education reform consultation response
- Ofqual: Subject content and assessment arrangements 2022 to 2023
- Ofqual: Letter to heads ahead of the start of GCSE, AS and A level exams, May 2022
- ESFA Update: 11 May 2022
- ESFA: Apprenticeship training provider accountability framework 2021 to 2022 (updated)
- Ofsted: Review of Ofsted's statistical publications
- Office for Students: Analysis of degree classifications over time: Changes in graduate attainment from 2010-11 to 2020-21
- QAA: Access to HE grading scheme review – feedback survey launched
- QAA publishes latest resources in supporting successful student transitions project
- IfATE: Phase one of apprenticeship quality assurance transition concludes
- UKRI: Results of Research Excellence Framework are published

Schools

- New Schools Bill to boost education standards across the country
- Schools Bill: policy statements
- School capital funding allocations for the 2022 to 2023 financial year
- Teacher bonuses and funding for schools to level up education
- Levelling up premium payments for teachers
- Condition Improvement Fund: 2022 to 2023 outcome
- Education, health and care plans: England 2022 (Statistics)
- Increased mental health support for children and young people
- Transforming children and young people's mental health provision
- Senior mental health lead training
- Monthly statistics on initial teacher training (ITT) recruitment
- NHS fast tracks mental health support for millions of pupils

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 13 May 2022

- ONS: The education and social care background of young people who interacted with the criminal justice system: May 2022
- FFT Datalab: Repeat suspensions and exclusions during compulsory schooling
- Financial Education for Young People APPG Inquiry

Further Education & Skills

- T Level rollout takes next steps
- Qualifications that overlap with T Levels
- Review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 in England (Guidance for AOs and providers)
- 16 to 19 learners' experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic (Research)
- Apprenticeships and traineeships: May 2022 (Statistics)
- Green jobs delivery steps up a gear
- Matt Warman to lead review into the future of work
- Edge Foundation: Skills shortages in the UK economy, May 2022

Higher Education

- OfS: Universities must not allow a 'decade of grade inflation to be baked into the system'
- OfS: TASO to lead work to develop 'what works' resources of student mental health support
- OfS: John Blake speaks at Wonkhe Access All Areas event
- Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO): Graduate Industry, Tax year 2018-19

Scotland

- Adult learning strategy 2022 to 2027
- Removing barriers to employment
- Education - National Improvement Framework - enhanced data collection: consultation

Wales

- Post-16 planning and funding framework: programmes directory 2022 to 2023
- Changes to current school assessment arrangements and local authority prospectus (Consultation outcome)
- Mandatory reporting of online National Reading and Numeracy Test results (Consultation outcome)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- Children, Young People and Education Committee (Senedd Cymru): Pupil absence Closes: 20 June 2022
- Scottish Government: Education - National Improvement Framework - A consultation on enhanced data collection for improvement Closes: 18 July 2022

Closing consultations

- Office for Students: Working in partnership to improve international student integration and experience Closes: 16 May 2022

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 13 May 2022

- [Wales: Subordinate legislation under the Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) Closes: 17 May
- [Free early education for 2-year-olds with no recourse to public funds \(NRPF\)](#) Closes 20 May 2022

Ongoing consultations

- [Public Accounts Committee: Secure training centres and secure schools](#) Closes: 23 May 2022
- [Wales: New registration categories for the Education Workforce Council](#) Closes: 24 May 2022
- [Supporting schools that are not making necessary improvements](#) Closes 28 May 2022
- [SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time](#) Closes 29 May 2022
- [Scotland: Children's Care and Justice Bill - consultation on policy proposals](#) Closes: 22 June 2022
- [Changes to the MCA Code of Practice and implementation of the LPS](#) Closes: 7 July 2022
- [Scotland: Home education guidance](#) Closes 13 July 2022

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 16 May

House of Commons

- Queen's Speech Debate: Making Britain the best place to grow up and grow old

House of Lords

- Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Lib Dem) to ask Her Majesty's Government who they are consulting on the content of the new model history curriculum.
- Debate on the Address: Economy, energy and the environment

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Children's Media and the Arts. AGM.

Tuesday 17 May

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: The future of post-16 qualifications

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Schools Food. AGM
- APPG for International Students. AGM

Wednesday 18 May

House of Commons

- Queen's Speech Debate: Achieving economic growth

Commons Committee

- Science and Technology Committee: Diversity and inclusion in STEM
- Women and Equalities Committee: Racial harassment and discrimination in higher education (One-off session)

Lords Committees

- Public Service Committee: Designing a public services workforce fit for the future

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG on a Fit and Healthy Childhood. Inaugural and election.

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 13 May 2022

Thursday 19 May

Commons Committees

- Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee: The work of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (with DCMS Secretary Nadine Dorries)

House of Lords

- The Lord Bishop of London (Bishop) to ask Her Majesty's Government what metrics will inform their annual Levelling Up report.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Art, Craft and Design in Education. AGM.