



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

As the Conservative Party leadership contest continues, this week saw confirmation of the Department for Education's new ministerial team has now been confirmed. Supporting **James Cleverly** is **Brendan Clarke-Smith** as Minister for Children and Families, **Will Quince** as Minister for School Standards, **Andrea Jenkyns** as Minister for Skills, Further and Higher Education, and **Baroness Barran** as Lords Minister/Minister for the School System. Like all ministers appointed over the past week, the team is working in a caretaker capacity in order to keep Government business functioning during this interim period. A new administration is due to be formed with the announcement of the new Prime Minister in early September.

The world of education policy has not come to a standstill despite the political turmoil, with **Ofqual** publishing a number of reports, including research into Teacher Assessed Grades, **UCAS figures** showing a record number of disadvantaged students applying for university, the continuation of the passage of the **Schools Bill**, and the **Education Committee** latest evidence session on the [future of post-16 qualifications](#).

Top stories

Schools Bill report stage begins in the House of Lords

- On Tuesday, the [Schools Bill faced day one of its Lords report stage](#), where Peers voted on amendments 30 and 58. The amendments regarded ensuring religion and worldviews education and extending free school lunches respectively. Neither were passed.
- The DfE [has rolled back on some parts of the Bill](#) following rebellion within the Lords over a perceived Government power grab.
- The Government has pledged to bring back new provisions later this year, [following the new regulatory review](#) which is due to conclude "by the end of 2022".

Ofqual reports published on experiences of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

- This week Ofqual published [two reports](#) on student and teacher experiences of TAGs in summer 2021. The research - carried out with 1824 teachers and 564 students across surveys and interviews – found that 57% of students said too much time was spent on assessments, most assessments were taken under exam-like conditions, and 4 to 6 pieces of evidence were used.
- The research showed a high level of teacher confidence in the accuracy of the TAGs awarded (median rating of 90/100), as well as in their impartiality (median rating of 95/100). However according to the report, the majority "had no desire to undertake TAGs in this form again".
- There was also little confidence in consistency across centres, with only 21 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing that they will have been judged fairly in comparison to students in other centres. The research confirmed that "schools and colleges took different approaches to setting and marking assessments and deciding on grades".

Ofsted publishes updated inspection handbooks for September 2022

- Ofsted published [new inspection handbooks](#) for all of its education remits ahead of the new academic year.
- Key changes include incorporating temporary COVID-19 measures into the main sections of the handbooks, removing transitional arrangements for the education inspection framework, and renaming inspection types.
- The changes also include setting out how Ofsted will enhance its full inspections of FE colleges, sixth form colleges and designated institutions from September 2022, and some structural changes to the early years inspection handbook.

Ofsted's Annual Report and Accounts published

- Ofsted published its [Annual Report and Accounts](#), setting out its performance and financial statements for the last financial year.
- The report is largely positive, stating that respondents to provider feedback surveys “were positive about their inspection and the results were the same as or better than before the pandemic.”
- It also highlights how Ofsted, like the rest of the Civil Service, has been asked by the Government to draw up proposals for headcount reduction.

Latest round of Schools Rebuilding Programme participants announced

- In his first announcement as Secretary of State, James Cleverly [published the third set of schools](#) prioritised for the **School Rebuilding Programme**. These schools will receive rebuilds and refurbishments in 2022-23.
- 61 schools – including primary, secondary, and special schools – will undergo modernisation work and the creation of facilities including sports halls, music rooms and science labs. The new buildings will be net-zero carbon in operation.

NHS employers: NHS will miss out on recruiting thousands of nurses every year if BTECs go

- NHS Employers has [written to the education secretary](#), James Cleverly, highlighting “serious concerns” about the government’s Level 3 review, which it fears will exacerbate the health service’s staffing problems.
- Danny Mortimer, chief executive, outlined that a fifth of those studying for a nursing degree had studied a health and social care BTEC. He described the BTEC as an “effective pathway to nurse training for a significant number of people”.

Pearson news

Next Steps: What is the experience of disabled students in education?

UCAS, in collaboration with Pearson, published a piece of research which provides new insight into disabled students in education, and for the first time, examines each impairment category and how disability intersects with other personal characteristics to understand the patterns and preferences – and whether there are hidden challenges. The report explores both disabled students’ experiences of education to date and their excitements and worries about progressing to higher education. [Read the report](#)



Pearson tweets of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Careers in STEM Subjects: Women and Girls (Women and Equalities Oral Questions)
- Commons: Schools Bill – petition debate
- Westminster Hall: Free School Meals: Eligibility
- Westminster Hall: Careers Guidance in Schools
- WMS: School Rebuilding Programme
- Lords: Child Vulnerability (Public Services Committee Report)
- Lords: Schools: Financial Education
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] (part 1)
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] (part 2)
- Public Accounts Committee: Secure training centres and secure schools – Final report
- Will Quince MP, Minister of State (Minister for School Standards)
- Brendan Clarke-Smith MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Children and Families)
- Andrea Jenkyns MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Skills, Further and Higher Education)

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted: Changes to inspection handbooks for September 2022
- Ofsted: Responses to post-inspection surveys: inspections and visits between 2021-22
- Ofsted: Ofsted corporate annual report and accounts 2021-22
- Ofsted: School inspections: statistical commentaries 2021-22
- ESFA Update: 13 July 2022
- Ofqual: Ofqual annual report 2021 to 2022
- Ofqual: An investigation of inter-subject comparability in GCSEs and A levels in summer 2021
- Ofqual: Teacher assessed grades in summer 2021: interviews and surveys

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- Ofqual: Teacher assessed grades in 2021 - student and teacher experiences
- OfS: Prevent monitoring: Summary of 2020-21 accountability and data returns
- OfS: Recurrent funding for 2022-23
- OfS: Terms and conditions of funding for 2022-23
- OfS: Mind the Gap: Improving student mental health support through HE and NHS partnerships
- UKRI: Research England £8 billion investment in England's universities

Schools

- Schools across the country to receive state of the art refurbishments
- School rebuilding programme: third set of 61 schools
- National pupil projections: July 2022
- Pupil moves during secondary school
- Teacher and leader development: ECF and NPQs
- Revised behaviour in schools guidance and suspension and permanent exclusions guidance (Consultation outcome)
- Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff 2022
- Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022
- Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement - guidance 2022
- Public Accounts Committee: Delays to secure schools condemn vulnerable children to unsafe conditions, say MPs

Further Education & Skills

- National Audit Office: Developing workforce skills for a strong economy
- Mayor's plan to help 400,000 more Londoners get the skills they need
- LGA: One million people lost from jobs market could return if schemes are run locally

Higher Education

- Student loan forecasts, England: 2021 to 2022
- UCAS: Record applications from disadvantaged students to higher education
- OfS: Universities and NHS mental health services link up to close gaps in student support
- Hepi: Why University Governors Should Do More to Protect Academic Quality – report
- Hepi: BTEC cull? Unpalatable impacts for Health & Social Care and Engineering progression

Scotland

- Young Person's Guarantee: interim measures
- Inspection of early learning and childcare and school age childcare services: consultation

Wales

- Plans for 23 new Welsh-medium primary schools to be created
- Oral Statement: Young Person's Guarantee - ensuring a better future for our young people
- Oral Statement: 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plans

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- Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) pilot in schools: final report
- Scoping study for the evaluation of the curriculum and assessment reforms in Wales: government response
- Anti-racism in the further education sector in Wales: scoping study

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- Office for Students: Consultation on specialist provider funding method Closes: 5 September 2022
- Work and Pensions Committee: Plan for Jobs and employment support Closes: 16 September 2022
- Suicide prevention strategy and action plan drafts: consultation Closes: 23 August 2022
- Scotland: Inspection of early learning and childcare and school age childcare services in Scotland Closes: 28 October 2022

Closing consultations

- Scottish Government: Education - National Improvement Framework - A consultation on enhanced data collection for improvement Closes: 18 July 2022
- Appropriate body reform and induction assessment Closes: 21 July 2022

Ongoing consultations

- Access to schools for education and training providers Closes: 25 July 2022
- School registers and national threshold for legal intervention Closes: 29 July 2022
- Ofqual: Regulating alternative academic and alternative technical qualifications at level 3 Closes: 10 August
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Higher Education: Post-16 consultation Closes: 10 August 2022
- Childcare: regulatory changes Closes: 10 August 2022
- Reviews of education, health and care (EHC) plans: proposed timescales Closes: 12 August 2022
- Implementing the direct national funding formula Closes: 9 September 2022
- Ofsted/CQC: A new approach to area SEND inspections Closes: 11 September 2022
- Early years funding formulae Closes: 16 September 2022
- Northern Ireland: Consultation on functions currently delivered by the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) Closes: 30 September 2022
- Scottish Government: Physical intervention in schools guidance consultation Closes: 25 October 2022

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 11 July

Westminster Hall

- e-petition 592642, relating to BTEC qualifications (Marsha De Cordova, Lab, Battersea)

House of Lords

- Schools Bill – Report Stage (Day 2)

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All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Global Education

Tuesday 12 July

Westminster Hall

- Impact of the UK's departure from the EU on language schools in the UK (Rupa Huq, Lab, Ealing Central and Acton)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Schools, Learning and Assessment: Inaugural meeting.
- APPG on Penal Affairs. Topic: Prison education and young offenders.

Wednesday 13 July

Commons Committees

- Science and Technology Committee: Pre-appointment hearing: Research England Executive Chair
- Women and Equalities Committee: Attitudes towards women and girls in educational settings

House of Lords

- Schools Bill – third reading

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG on Young Carers. Inaugural.
- APPG for Education. AGM.
- APPG for Ed Tech. AGM.
- APPG for Street Children. Topic: Inquiry into child labour.

Parliament will rise to summer recess at the end of business on Thursday 21 July.

It will return on Monday 5 September.