



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

The **Times Education Commission** published its final report, calling for an education reset. The report entitled *Bringing out the best: How to transform education and unleash the potential of every child*, makes a number of recommendations for change across the education system, from early years through to university. Its recommendation for a British Baccalaureate at 18 and fewer exams at 16 is the latest contribution to the ongoing debate as to whether the current system of assessment is fit for purpose. However, the government is clear that it is not considering changes, having reformed exams under Michael Gove.

At the **Education Committee** on Wednesday, Minister for HE & FE, **Michelle Donelan** took MPs' questions. In answering she added to the strong feeling that change is on the way for the apprenticeship levy, saying that it could be more flexible to enable employers to spend money in "the right way". Perhaps luckily for the Minister, the **Public Accounts Committee** report on financial sustainability of the higher education in England came later in the week. MPs were very critical of both the OfS and DfE.

Top stories

Times Education Commission [report](#) calls for education reset

- The **Times Education Commission** has [published its final report](#) after a year-long evaluation of Britain's whole education system, conducted by a team of 22 commissioners from across business, education, science, the arts and government.
- The report recommends a 12-point plan for education, which includes:
 - **A British Baccalaureate** offering broader academic and vocational qualifications at 18, and a slimmed-down set of exams at 16.
 - **'Electives premium'** offered for all schools to be spent on activities including drama, music, dance and sport and a National Citizen Service experience for every pupil, with volunteering and outdoor pursuits expeditions to ensure that the co-curricular activities enjoyed by the most advantaged become available to all.
 - **Making the most of tech:** A laptop or tablet for every child, greater use of artificial intelligence in schools, colleges and universities to personalise learning, reduce teacher workload and prepare young people better for future employment.
 - **A reformed Ofsted:** Ofsted should work collaboratively with schools to secure sustained improvement, rather than operating through fear.
 - **A 15-year strategy for education:** The strategy should be drawn up in consultation with business leaders, scientists, local mayors, civic leaders and cultural figures..
- The report has been backed by: former prime ministers Tony Blair and John Major; former education secretaries Justine Greening, Lord Blunkett and Lord Baker; and business leaders; creative industry leaders; and Nobel winning scientists.

Public Accounts Committee publishes report on financial sustainability of higher education in England

- The Committee’s report criticises the Office for Students (OfS) for not making “sufficient progress in getting a grip” on the long-term problems facing the sector. DfE also comes in for criticism for failing to hold OfS properly to account.
- As well as highlighting the impact on long-term financial viability caused a rise in those institutions with in-year deficits, the committee of MPs also called out concerns about the sector’s reliance on income from overseas students.
- Falling student satisfaction was also picked up on, and the DfE was also criticised for failing to predict the ongoing impact of pandemic-related disruption to A levels.

Michele Donelan gives evidence to Education Select Committee

- As part of its regular round of accountability hearings, the Education Committee heard evidence from Michelle Donelan, Minister for HE & FE.
- On access to HE, she told MPs HE access plans would now be more about “getting on, than getting in”. Donelan also said that alternative student finance will be done alongside the new Lifelong Loan Entitlement.
- When asked about the apprenticeship levy, the Minister said it could be more flexible so employers can spend funds in the right way. She also said not to expect flexibilities around the T Level work placements, as they would be “damaging”.

Pearson news

Celebrating Pride Month 2022 Pride Month gives everyone including schools and learners a useful reference point for the much-needed discussions around the issues of equity and inclusion in the LGBT+ community. We are committed to supporting LGBT+ inclusion and to celebrate Pride Month, we would like to share some of our new, free school resources. [Visit our LGBT+ inclusion page for free resources](#)



Pearson tweet of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill – remaining stages
- Commons: Presentation of Private Members' Bills
- Westminster Hall: Infant Mental Health Awareness Week
- WMS: Student Loan Interest Rates Reduction
- WMS: Qualified Teacher Status in England: Overseas Teachers
- Lords: School (Reform of Pupil Selection) Bill [HL] – first reading
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] – committee (2nd Day)
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] – committee (2nd Day) (Continued)
- Lords: Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill [HL] – first reading
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] – committee (3rd Day)
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] – committee (3rd Day) (Continued)
- Lords: Apprenticeship Levy Scheme

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted: Amanda Spielman's speech to the Confederation of School Trusts'
- Ofsted: HMCI commentary: consulting on Ofsted's new area SEND framework
- Ofsted and CQC launch consultation on new inspection framework for SEND provision
- ESFA Update: 15 June 2022
- ESFA: Higher education short courses (updated)
- ESFA: Schools block funding formulae 2022 to 2023
- Ofqual: Subject-level conditions and guidance for new French, German and Spanish GCSEs (consultation outcome)
- Ofqual: GCSE subject-level guidance for French, German and Spanish (statutory guidance)

Schools

- Boost in activities and food pledged to support children
- Education Secretary addresses Confederation of School Trusts Annual Conference
- A guide to new mainstream free school revenue funding: 2022 to 2023
- A guide to new special free school revenue funding: 2022 to 2023
- A guide to new alternative provision free school revenue funding: 2022 to 2023
- Special educational needs in England: January 2022
- Teach First: Businesses and teachers highlight concerns over pandemic's impact on young people's career opportunities
- Children's Commissioner publishes Voices of England's Missing Children report
- Time Education Commission: Final report
- EPI: The teaching workforce after the pandemic
- IFS: Intergenerational income mobility in England and the importance of education
- CFEY: Levelling up tutoring

Further Education & Skills

- [A guide to new 16 to 19 free school revenue funding: 2022 to 2023](#)
- [NFER: Equalising access to apprenticeships](#)
- [Resolution Foundation: Not working: Exploring changing trends in youth worklessness in the UK, from the 1990s to the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- [IFS: Adult education: the past, present and future](#)
- [CITB: Construction Skills Network industry outlook 2022-26](#)

Higher Education

- [Student loan interest rates capped](#)
- [Lifelong Loan Entitlement technology is top of the agenda for Secretary of State's visit to the Student Loans Company](#)
- [SLC: Student loans in England: 2021 to 2022](#)
- [SLC: Student Loans in Wales: 2021 to 2022](#)
- [SLC: Student Loans in Scotland: 2021 to 2022](#)
- [SLC: Student Loans in Northern Ireland: 2021 to 2022](#)
- [OfS: Two thousand new scholarships available to boost digital skills](#)
- [HESA: Higher education graduate outcomes survey UK: 2019 to 2020](#)
- [IFS: Student living cost support cut to lowest level in seven years](#)
- [Complete University Guide: 2023 university rankings](#)
- [Resolution Foundation: Big welcomes and long goodbyes: The impact of demographic change in the 2020s](#)

Scotland

- [Nine in 10 headteachers report progress in closing attainment gap](#)
- [Over 90% of Scottish university leavers in positive destinations](#)
- [National Discussion on education](#)
- [93.2% of school leavers in positive destinations](#)
- [School leaver follow-up destinations](#)

Wales

- [Written Statement: Student loan interest rates](#)
- [Written Statement: Secondary school roll out of the Curriculum for Wales from September 2022](#)
- [Six things you may not know about the new Curriculum for Wales](#)
- ["Radical action needed to create a truly equitable education system for all."](#)
- [Welsh in education workforce plan: impact assessment](#)

Northern Ireland

- [Education Minister launches consultation on delivery of the GTCNI](#)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- Higher Education Statistics Agency: de-designation Closes: 10 July 2022
- Reviews of education, health and care (EHC) plans: proposed timescales Closes: 12 August 2022
- Ofsted/CQC: A new approach to area SEND inspections Closes: 11 September 2022
- Northern Ireland: Consultation on functions currently delivered by the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) Closes: 30 September 2022

Closing consultations

- Children, Young People and Education Committee (Senedd Cymru): Pupil absence Closes: 20 June 2022
- Scotland: Children's Care and Justice Bill - consultation on policy proposals Closes: 22 June 2022

Ongoing consultations

- Office for Students: Consultation on the suitability of Jisc as the designated data body Closes: 27 June 2022
- Scotland: Home education guidance Closes 13 July 2022
- Scottish Government: Education - National Improvement Framework - A consultation on enhanced data collection for improvement Closes: 18 July 2022
- Implementing the direct national funding formula Closes: 9 September 2022
- Scottish Government: School uniforms in Scotland Closes: 14 October 2022

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 20 June

House of Lords

- Schools Bill – committee (4th day)

Lords Committees

- Children and Families Act 2014 Committee

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Schools Exclusions and Alternative Provision

Tuesday 21 June

Public Bill Committees

- Online Safety Bill

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: The future of post-16 qualifications
- APPG for Penal Affairs. Topic: youth justice.

Wednesday 22 June

House of Lords

- Schools Bill – committee (5th day)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Education (AGM and meeting with Children's Minister Will Quince)
- APPG on T Levels (AGM and election)

Thursday 23 June

Public Bill Committees:

- Online Safety Bill

House of Lords

- Oral questions: Lord Touhig (Lab) to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the barriers preventing families with disabled children from adequately receiving support services.