



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

In a relatively quiet week for education policy as activity winds down for recess, the Petitions Committee held a debate on BTEC qualifications after the *Protect Student Choice* campaign's petition received more than 108,000 signatures. The debate featured arguments in favour of BTECs and applied general qualifications from MPs across the political spectrum. It will be interesting to see whether the new Prime Minister and their team of ministers will consider the weight of public and political support for choice at age 16.

Also this week, Ofsted published its summer 2022 briefings on COVID-19 impact and recovery, DfE put out an evaluation of the free level 3 course offer, provisional school funding allocations were announced by Will Quince MP, and initial funding allocations were set out for the [National Tutoring Programme](#). Meanwhile, a [teacher pay increase](#) of 5-8.9 per cent was announced, which was criticised by unions and industry bodies as a real-terms pay cut.

The [Schools Bill](#) has now completed report stage in the House of Lords, with its Third Reading scheduled for 14 September. Whether the Bill is retained by an incoming ministerial team is up for debate, especially given the changes already made to the draft legislation following opposition in the House of Lords.

Top stories

Debate held in response to Protect Student Choice BTEC petition

- On Monday, the Petitions Committee held a [debate on BTEC qualifications](#). 17 MPs from across the three main English parties spoke in support of BTECs. They highlighted numerous local case studies and benefits of these qualifications, including social mobility and choice for students.
- They also highlighted concerns around Government plans to defund BTECs in order to make way for T Levels, including, amongst others, the rushed process, lack of transparency and issues around work placements.
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education Andrea Jenkyns MP, who studied a BTEC, reiterated the government's current policy direction.

Ofsted publishes new reports on pandemic impact and education recovery efforts

- As part of its ongoing research series, this week Ofsted published its latest briefings covering [Early Years](#), [Schools](#), and [FE and Skills provider](#) inspections conducted in the 2022 summer term.
- Continuing issues included slower development and lower attainment than pre-pandemic levels, staff recruitment and retention issues across the board, lower participation in early years and FE level education, and evidence of more anxiety around exams.
- However, improvements have been identified in terms of attendance, behaviour and providers' efforts to recover from the pandemic's effects. Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman described providers as responding with "creativity and resilience".

School funding allocations confirmed through the National Funding Formulae

- On Tuesday, School Standards Minister Will Quince published a [written statement](#) announcing [provisional funding allocations](#) for 2023-24.
- Overall core schools funding is set to increase by £1.5bn on the previous year, with a 5 per cent funding increase per head for the high needs 2-18 population, and a 1.9 per cent increase per pupil for mainstream schools. The statement also notes that funding for disadvantaged pupils will see greater increases.
- The confirmed allocations will be published in December, based on the latest pupil data.

DfE launches new consultation on FE funding and accountability system implementation

- On Thursday the DfE launched a new [consultation](#) to gather opinions on its proposals for implementing the new further education funding and accountability system.
- It follows a consultation last year regarding reforms to the adult skills funding system and the FE accountability system. They now want to know how to take these reforms forward.
- The consultation is open until 21 September.

DfE: Evaluation of the level 3 free courses for jobs offer

- The **Department for Education** has published a report on the [findings from an independent evaluation](#) of the level 3 free courses for jobs offer and the impact it has had on adult learners and providers.
- Almost three quarters (74%) of surveyed learners say they would have been very unlikely, or slightly less likely, to have begun their L3 course had it not been free. They say they would not have been able to fund the course themselves, most typically due to: unemployment, low income, childcare costs, family commitments, or ineligibility for learner loans.
- Around two thirds (64%) of surveyed providers agree that the Free Courses for Jobs offer has enabled their institution to deliver more remote live classes/study groups, or to employ more staff to deliver adult L3 courses (63%).
- Transitioning between levels is a notable concern for some providers, as applicants are often unemployed or come from more deprived areas and cannot readily afford the cost of L1 or L2 courses. One quarter (25%) of learners agree they would have benefitted from prior learning before starting their course – most commonly centring on subject specific knowledge – while just over three in five (61%) disagree.

Pearson news

The Launch of the Pearson sponsored -The Olympic Mindset Podcast

The Olympic Mindset Podcast takes life lessons from Olympians and applies them to our everyday lives. Discussion topics cover the trials and tribulations of athletes, educators, and business execs to unpick the principles of a resilient, compassionate and ambitious mindset. Shining a light on wellbeing, overcoming anxiety, imposter syndrome and how to surround yourself with positive influences.



The Olympic Mindset aims to equip you with the skills necessary to protect and empower yourself and explores lessons in leadership and life. It is available on Spotify, apple podcasts and google podcast.

www.theolympicmindsetpodcast.com

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 22 July 2022

Pearson tweets of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Westminster Hall: BTEC Qualifications
- WMS: Academy Trust and Local Government Pension
- WMS: Further Education Funding and Accountability: Consultation
- WMS: Department for Education Update
- WMS: Schools, High Needs and Central School Services: Provisional Funding Allocations 2023-24
- WMS: National Tutoring Programme: Performance Data
- WMS: Health Update
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] – report (2nd day) (part 1)
- Lords: Schools Bill [HL] – report (2nd day) (part 2)
- Timetable for election of Chair of Science and Technology Committee announced
- Commons Science and Technology Committee: Pre-appointment hearing for the Executive Chair of Research England
- Lords Science and Technology Committee: People and skills in UK STEM – inquiry launched

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted: Education providers resilient as COVID challenges continue
- ESFA Update: 20 July 2022
- ESFA: National Tutoring Programme (NTP) allocations for 2022 to 2023 academic year
- ESFA: Pre-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2023 to 2024
- ESFA: Funding guidance for young people: subcontracting controls (Updated)
- ESFA: High needs: allocated place numbers (Updated)
- Ofqual: Equalities report 2021 to 2022
- IfATE: New Medical Doctor Degree Apprenticeship launched
- IfATE: Have your say on the future of legal, finance and accounting skills training
- OfS: Maintaining the credibility of degrees
- OfS: Northeastern University - London becomes first new university under OfS powers

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- OfS: Designated quality body – OfS response to QAA statement
- QAA demits DQB status to focus on sector and students in England
- UKRI publishes annual report
- UKRI welcomes independent review report
- Progress on UKRI’s draft EDI strategy

Schools

- Statement for local authorities, schools and admission authorities on the admission of summer-born children to school, from Baroness Barran, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
- Academy transfers and funding 2021 to 2022
- School Teachers’ Review Body 32nd report: 2022
- Government delivers rises to teachers’ salaries
- National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2023 to 2024
- Two million courses started through the National Tutoring Programme
- National Tutoring Programme: courses started and schools participating up to June 2022
- Ofsted: Education recovery in schools: summer 2022
- Children’s Social Care National Implementation Board
- DHSC: Parents urged to help their kids get active over the summer holidays with the 10 Minute Shake Up

Further Education & Skills

- Reforms to further education (FE) funding and accountability (Consultation outcome)
- Review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 in England: impact assessment (Revised)
- T Levels capital fund: wave 4 – successful applications
- Evaluation of the level 3 free courses for jobs offer
- Apprenticeships and traineeships: July 2022
- Further education and skills: July 2022
- Ofsted: Education recovery in further education and skills providers: summer 2022

Higher Education

- Independent review of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI): final report and recommendations
- Government publishes proposals for package of transitional measures to support research and innovation sector affected by Horizon Europe delays
- New OfS Insight brief examines grade inflation in English higher education
- Innovation heavyweights appointed to lead new Advanced Research and Invention Agency
- HEPI: Universities ‘should do more to prevent student homelessness’

Wales

- Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)
- Independent Welsh Pay Review Body: fourth report 2022
- Written Statement: Report and recommendations from the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body (IWPRB)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- [Implementing a new FE funding and accountability system](#) Closes: 21 September 2022
- [Ofqual: Updates to the End-Point Assessment Qualification Level Guidance](#) Closes: 11 October 2022
- [Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education: Legal, Finance and Accounting Route Review](#) Closes: 30 September 2022
- [Science and Technology Committee \(Lords\): People and skills in UK STEM](#) Closes: 6 September 2022

Closing 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

Ongoing consultations

- [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
- [Reviews of education, health and care \(EHC\) plans: proposed timescales](#) Closes: 12 August 2022
- [Office for Students: Consultation on specialist provider funding method](#) Closes: 5 September 2022
- [Implementing the direct national funding formula](#) Closes: 9 September 2022
- [Ofsted/CQC: A new approach to area SEND inspections](#) Closes: 11 September 2022
- [Work and Pensions Committee: Plan for Jobs and employment support](#) Closes: 16 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: School uniforms in Scotland](#) Closes: 14 October 2022
- [Scotland: Inspection of early learning and childcare and school age childcare services in Scotland](#) Closes: 28 October 2022
- [Scottish Government: Physical intervention in schools guidance consultation](#) Closes: 25 October 2022

What's happening in Parliament next week

Parliament has risen for summer recess and will return on Monday 5 September.