The week in a nutshell
The top story of the past fortnight was the appointment of a new DfE ministerial team, with Gillian Keegan becoming the fifth Education Secretary in four months. Joining her in the Education Department are veteran Schools Minister Nick Gibb, former Chair of the Education Select Committee Robert Halfon, existing Minister for the School and College system Baroness Barran, and Sunak supporter Claire Coutinho.

Separately, Andrew Lewer has joined the Education Select Committee, whilst a new Chair will need to be elected following Halfon’s ministerial appointment. So far Robin Walker, Jonathan Gullis and David Simmonds have announced their candidacy, with more expected to follow.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government has launched a consultation as part of an independent review of qualifications and assessment announced by Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville in October 2021. The consultation closes on 16 December.

Elsewhere the Independent Commission on Assessment in Primary Education (ICAPE) has recommended that Year 6 SATs should be phased out.

Top stories
Oak National Academy: business case is published as open procurement begins
- On Wednesday, Oak’s open procurement launched, with £8m of investment available for schools and education organisations to share and develop curriculum packages to support teachers’ workload and curriculum development
- Oak state that they “will be entirely optional, adaptable, free and created independently of DfE.” They will start to be released from Sept 2023, with full packages available by Sept 2024
- Oak’s content will initially be on an open non-commercial UK licence, but this will be under review.
- Meanwhile, the DfE published the business case for Oak National Academy receiving public funding. It suggests the overall cost estimate for the preferred model of an ALB is £42.5m, covering up to and including financial year 2024-25. You can read the full business case here.

The Labour Council of Skills Advisors publishes final report
- After its launch in November 2021, the Labour Council of Skills Advisors – chaired by former Education Secretary Lord David Blunkett – has published its final report.
- The report is intended to inform the party’s immediate policy development ahead of the next General Election.
- It makes 21 key recommendations, including establishing a National Skills Taskforce, the devolution of skills policy decision making and spending, a shakeup of the careers service, and more collaboration between stakeholders of all types and levels. The full report is available here.
ESFA publishes funding allocations for 2022/23

- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published funding values for colleges, training organisations and employers with an adult education budget, apprenticeship, advanced learner loan or traineeship contract, as well as allocation data for 16 to 19 institutions, for 2022/23. The main changes include:
  - Increased national funding rates; T Level funding rate; programme cost weightings for 5 subject areas; disadvantage block 1 and 2 rates; and the uplift for high value courses premium.
  - Capacity and delivery funding rate has been reduced to £160 per qualifying student for both level 2 and level 3 students.
  - Reverted to calculating the retention factor from data following an alternative approach for 2021 to 2022 allocations. The funding rates and formula guidance provides further information.

Ofsted and DfE publish findings from evaluations of the National Tutoring Programme

- The Department for Education has published findings from the independent evaluation of the second year of the National Tutoring Programme for the 2021 to 2022 academic year.
- It found that school leaders wanted control over the delivery of tutoring, along with positive perceptions of all three NTP routes’ impact. It also found the need for external tutors and for the monitoring or the effect of reduced NTP subsidies, as well as for funding to be made available to management and administration in light of increased workload for senior leaders.
- Meanwhile, Ofsted published an independent review of tutoring in schools and 16 to 19 providers. Its wide-ranging findings found strong tutoring in the majority of schools visited, as well as issues including poor planning, a reluctance to extend the school day, recruitment challenges, and poor evaluation of its impact by schools.

Ofsted publishes interim report on T Levels

- Ofsted has published an interim report evaluating the quality of the new T Level courses, in which they found that providers are working hard to ensure the new qualification is delivered successfully, but that the first providers to offer them have faced some challenges. A full report will be published in 2023. Main findings include:
  - Despite information about T Level expectations, not all learners felt prepared for how much work they had to do for a T Level course, and although some teachers were well prepared, many did not receive comprehensive training, and some did not have access to resources.
  - Providers that were more effective had already used the flexibility to their students’ advantage, and learners were appreciative of the teaching quality.
  - The more effective T Level curriculums were developed by providers in collaboration with employers, but many learners were experiencing delays to their industry placements.

Pearson news

Sustainability and schools free webinar How can we build more sustainable and eco-friendly schools? Join our free webinar at 4pm on Thursday 24th November!

We’ll be bringing together experts and educators to explore how the sector can overcome time and budget pressures to help ensure meaningful and manageable climate action. Register now
Pearson tweets of the week

Other news

Parliamentary

- Westminster Hall: Religious Education in Modern Britain
- Westminster Hall: International Students: Contribution to the UK
- Lords: Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill – committee (1st day)
- Lords: Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill – committee (2nd day)
- Lords: Education: Philosophy
- Lords: Schools: Resources
- WMS: Cabinet Committees
- List of Cabinet Committees (updated)
- Chair nominations open for Education Committee
- DCMS Committee: Reimagining where we live: cultural placemaking and the levelling up agenda
- PACAC: Governing England

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted: 'Now the whole school is reading': supporting struggling readers in secondary school
- Ofsted: Data on early career framework and national professional qualification lead provider monitoring visits
- Ofsted: Amanda Spielman's speech at the 2022 National Children and Adult Services conference
- ESFA Update: 2 November 2022
- ESFA: Common themes arising from ESFA's assurance work in 2021 to 2022
- IfATE: 2022 – Apprentice Panel Survey
- QAA: Meet the Student Strategic Advisory Committee for 2022-23
- QAA: Building a learning community through interdisciplinary collaboration
- QAA: Have your say on the Access to HE Diploma
- OfS: Consultation on Data Futures and data collection: Update on response to parts two and three
• UKRI: Update to UKRI full economic cost grant and training grant terms and conditions

Schools
• DfE: Oak National Academy business case
• Ofsted: Reading should be explicitly taught even in secondary schools
• Commission on Young Lives publishes its final report
• UCL: Year 6 SATs and other government tests should be removed from primary assessment
• ADCS: Thematic report on children’s mental health

Further Education & Skills
• DCMS Committee calls for urgent financial support and new regional funding focus to level up country through culture
• PACAC: System of government in England in need of serious overhaul, say MPs
• IfATE: Major survey shows apprentices happier with SMEs
• MakeUK: Digital Adoption: The missing link in productivity growth

Higher Education
• New Business Secretary announces £95 million funding for super-materials of the future to boost UK growth
• OfS: Update on OfS data collection
• Sutton Trust: Having a working-class accent does not mean that somebody is less capable
• HEPI: New HEPI report addresses the ‘research leadership vacuum’ in UK higher education
• British Medical Association: Elusive inclusivity

Scotland
• Supporting children and families
• Access to counsellors in secondary schools and children and young people’s community mental health services: summary report - July to December 2021
• Estranged students: university data 2020-21
• Attainment Scotland Fund - 2022 to 2026: evaluation strategy

Consultation Watch

New consultations
• Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: Consultation on proposals for changes to the Access to HE Diploma Specification Closes: 13 December 2022

Closing consultations
• Public Accounts Committee: Supporting vulnerable adolescents Closes: 7 November 2022
• Office for Students: Proposed new name for Newman University Closes: 10 November 2022
• Office for Students: Consultation on a new approach to regulating equality of opportunity in English higher education Closes: 10 November 2022

Ongoing consultations

• NI Executive: Department of Education’s Draft 2023-2028 Corporate Plan Closes: 15 November 2022
• Scottish Government: Professor Hayward's Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment Closes: 16 December 2022
• Scottish Government: Skills delivery independent review call for evidence Closes: 23 December 2022

What’s happening in Parliament next week

Monday 7 November

House of Lords

• The Lord Bishop of Durham (Bishops) to ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Children’s Commissioner for England Family and its protective effect: Part 1 of the Independent Family Review, published on 1 September; and in particular, what assessment they have made of the definition of the ‘protective effect’ and its implications for future policy.
• Lord Vaizey of Didcot (Con) to ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of funding for Oak National Academy on the education technology market in England.

Tuesday 8 November

Westminster Hall

• Temporary recovery visa for industries experiencing labour and skills shortages (Tim Farron, Lib Dem, Westmorland and Lonsdale)

Commons Committees

• Education Committee: The future of post-16 qualifications

Lords Committees

• Science and Technology Committee: People and skills in UK science, technology, engineering and mathematics (with education minister Robert Halfon)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

• APPG for Apprenticeships

Wednesday 9 November

House of Lords

• Debate: National Plan for Music Education (Baroness Fleet, Con)

Parliament will rise for recess at the end of business on Wednesday 9 November, and return on Monday 14 November.