



# Pearson

## Policy Watch

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



### The week in a nutshell

This week saw the publication of various statistics, guidance, and reports, including ESFA guidance on Early Career Framework reforms. The Education and Skills Funding Agency [published the latest guidance](#) for schools and local authorities on funding to support the national roll-out of the early career framework (ECF) reforms.

Meanwhile, [Schools Week reported](#) that the Government is working to develop a teaching apprenticeship route for non-graduates. The idea has been considered repeatedly by past governments, but this week DfE said it was now "working with the sector and with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to develop a new degree and QTS-awarding apprenticeship in teaching".

### Top stories

#### Government launches STEM careers reengagement initiative

- Government has [launched a new initiative](#) to help people back into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) based careers.
- The STEM ReCharge pilot will provide support and training to technology and engineering returners in the Midlands and the North of England. It will also provide support and training for STEM employers on supportive returner hiring and inclusive recruitment practices.
- The scheme – backed by £150,000 of Government funding - will be run by [Women Returners](#) and [STEM Returners](#), and will target those who have taken lengthy career breaks, for example, to care for others.

#### Lifelong Education Commission publishes report on skills sector staffing crisis

- The Lifelong Education Commission has published a [new report](#) in partnership with the Chartered Institution for Further Education, which argues that the FE and Skills sector is facing a growing crisis in recruiting and retaining staff with both industry expertise and high standards of teaching.
- The report makes recommendations including that DfE should support the sector to attract and retain dual professional teaching staff; that funding should increase to allow teaching pay to compete with the private sector; and that there should be a move away from piecemeal initiatives.

#### ONS publishes latest youth NEET estimates

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has [published the latest estimates](#) of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- There was an increase in the number of young people aged 16 to 24 years who were NEET in October to December 2022, following decreases one year into the pandemic, with the total currently estimated to be 788,000 - up from 724,000 in July to September 2022.
- The percentage of all young people who were NEET in October to December 2022 was estimated at 11.5%, up 0.9 percentage points on the quarter.

## Pearson news

**The Future of Design Education** We're excited to announce plans to drive forward a new, future-focused design and technology (D&T) curriculum that inspires children and young people to become the creative problem solvers of the future. Together with leading organisations and educators, we have started to outline our collective vision for a new design education curriculum that all students will be able to identify with. [Find out more here](#)

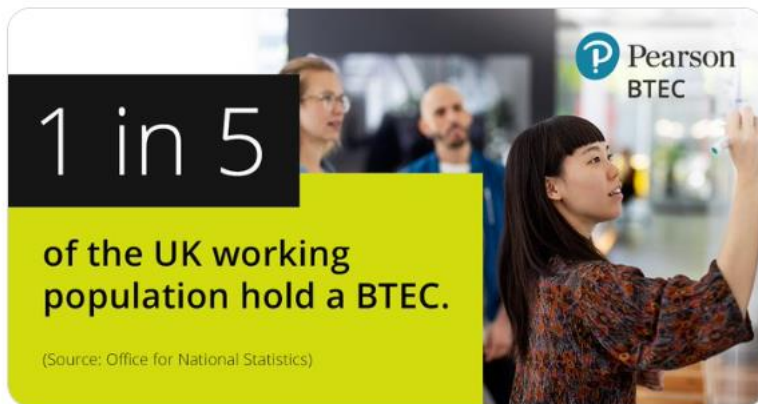
## Pearson tweet of the week

 **Pearson BTEC** @PearsonBTEC · 21h ...

Did you know **1** in **5** of the UK working population hold a BTEC? We are proud to have helped so many learners get into work with the help of our brilliant [#BTEC](#) teachers and partners.

Join the BTEC community today [spr.ly/60163Scf6](https://spr.ly/60163Scf6)

[#BTECworks](#) [#ukedchat](#) [#edchat](#) [#sltchat](#)



## Other news

### Parliamentary

- Commons: School Sport Facilities: Reopening
- Westminster Hall: Childcare: Affordability and Availability
- Westminster Hall: Child Literacy: Disadvantaged Areas
- Lords: Horizon

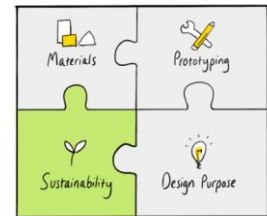
### Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted: Amanda Spielman launches the art and design research review
- Ofsted: Research review series: art and design
- Memorandum of understanding between Ofsted and DfE
- ESFA Update: 22 February 2023
- ESFA: Early career framework (ECF)-based induction year 2 time off timetable conditions of grant
- IfATE: Name change for 'Education and Early Years' occupational route
- QAA announces advisory groups for upcoming Subject Benchmark Statement reviews
- QAA signs Memorandum of Understanding with Ofqual

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## Curriculum Overview



- OfS: Consultation on a new approach to regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English HE
- OfS: Monitoring of capital funding allocated in the financial year 2022-23: Guidance for HE providers
- Advanced Research and Invention Agency framework agreement
- UKRI: New ESRC Executive Chair announced

## Schools

- Parent, pupil and learner panel omnibus surveys for 2022 to 2023
- Disability data collection in schools
- Ofsted: Art should command an important place in every school
- School and college panel: omnibus surveys for 2022 to 2023
- Evidence to the STRB: 2023 pay award for teachers and leaders

## Further Education & Skills

- Skills and UK productivity
- Apprenticeships and traineeships: February 2023
- International labour market information systems assessment
- T Level Professional Development programme: evaluation report
- More women to be supported back into STEM jobs in Government-backed training
- ONS: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: February 2023
- Lifelong Education Commission: Developing Industry-Expert Teaching for Higher Skills

## Higher Education

- Applications for flagship Turing Scheme open
- OfS launches consultation on tackling harassment and sexual misconduct
- HESA: Higher education staff data UK: 2021 to 2022
- HEPI: Where do we go from here? Quality assurance in English higher education
- TASO: New partners to build evidence base in efficacy pilot
- TASO: what works to reduce equality gaps for disabled students
- NCUB: Taskforce launched to tackle barriers to mobility of research staff between universities and businesses
- AGCAS: International Graduate Routes: Narratives from the UK job market

## Scotland

- Improved pay offer for teachers
- Education Scotland: Announcement regarding Scotland's HM Chief Inspector of Education

## Wales

- Oral Statement: Further Education Digital Learning
- £8m boost for digital learning in Further Education
- Regional economic frameworks (updates)
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science: Economy Minister visits University of South Wales to meet the growing numbers of women leaders in science

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## Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey – Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Revised guidance on Personal Education Plans for Children Looked After published

## Consultation Watch

### New consultations

- Use of reasonable force and restrictive practices in schools - Call for evidence Closes: 11 May 2023

### Closing consultations

- APPG for Students: Inquiry into the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on students Closes: 27 February 2023
- Engineering UK: Fit for the future: Growing and sustaining engineering and technology apprenticeships for young people Closes: 27 February 2023
- Public Accounts Committee: Education recovery in schools Closes: 27 February 2023

### Ongoing consultations

- De-designation of QAA as the designated quality body in England Closes: 3 March 2023
- Welsh Government: Changes to school admission appeal arrangements Closes: 8 March 2023
- HM Treasury: R&D Tax Reliefs Review: Consultation on a single scheme Closes: 13 March 2023
- Consultation on regulating level 1 and 2 qualifications designed to lead to employment Closes: 20 March
- Adoption support agencies: proposed regulation changes Closes: 20 March 2023
- Quality Assurance Agency: Revised Subject Benchmark Statement for English Closes: 20 March 2023

## What's happening in Parliament next week

### Monday 27 February

#### *House of Commons*

- Education Oral Questions
- Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill – second reading

### Tuesday 28 February

#### *Westminster Hall*

- Police training entry routes (Dr Kieran Mullan, Con, Crewe and Nantwich)

#### *Commons Committees*

- Education Committee: Child exploitation and county lines
- Foreign Affairs Committee: UK universities' engagement with autocracies

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## Thursday 2 March

### *House of Lords*

- Oral question: Progress of the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA) in terms of employees recruited and funds disbursed to support research and invention (Lord Fox, LD)

## Friday 3 March

### *House of Commons*

- Dyslexia Screening and Teacher Training Bill: Adjourned debate on Second Reading [2 December] (Matt Hancock, Ind, West Suffolk)