



# Pearson

## Policy Watch

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



### The week in a nutshell

The sign of an approaching Parliamentary recess is a raft of government announcements, and this week has been no different. The Department for Education (DfE) published the latest information on the [reforms to post-16 qualifications](#), and the defunding of qualifications deemed to overlap T Levels (more below). It also [revealed arrangements](#) for the fourth and final year of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) in England, starting in September 2023. The Government announced funding for [school buildings](#) and [local skills](#), and we also saw the ONS publish the latest [NEET estimates](#).

Elsewhere, the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has [published a new report](#) assessing what skills will be needed in the future labour market. The report says that while many occupations will experience greater demand for specialist knowledge and skills, it is transferable skills such as collaboration, communication, problem-solving and decision making that will be vital for powering the economy and individual careers in 2035.

Meanwhile, another [report](#) this week from WorldSkills UK and BAE Systems, in association with the Learning & Work Institute, warned that young people are not entering the manufacturing sector in sufficient numbers to replace workers leaving the industry.

### Top stories

#### DfE publishes update on reforms to post-16 qualifications

- The DfE has [published an update](#) to phase 2 of the reforms to post-16 qualifications at level 3 in England, in which they are removing funding from technical qualifications that overlap with T Levels.
- In a written ministerial statement, Skills Minister Robert Halfon has said they have [published a provisional list of 92 technical qualifications](#) that have been assessed to overlap with wave 3 T Levels: Business and Administration; Engineering and Manufacturing; and Finance and Accounting.
- Alongside the list, the Government has also [published an updated equalities impact assessment](#).

#### DfE launches Local Skills Improvement Fund

- The DfE has [launched a £165m Local Skills Improvement Fund \(LSIF\)](#), which will allow further education providers to renovate facilities with up-to-date equipment, upskill teachers, and deliver new courses.
- Successful applicants will receive funding to invest in a broad range of initiatives that respond to the specific priorities identified in each area's Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP).
- The Fund is available across 2 financial years: £80m in 2023 to 2024 (£40m revenue and £40m capital), and £85m capital in 2024 to 2025.

## DfE publishes latest higher-level learning statistics

- The DfE has published the latest statistics on higher-level learning (i.e. levels 4 to 8) across the further and higher education sectors, including apprenticeships, in the academic year 2021 to 2022.
- The statistics show that there were a total of 1,983,725 English-domiciled higher-level learners across both FE and HE providers in England in 2021/22 – up 1.8% from 2020/21.
- There were 25,975 English-domiciled learners entering Level 4 study in England in 2021/22 (excluding Apprenticeships and institutional credit aims). At this Level, 89.5% were in a technical education route.
- For the 37,800 English-domiciled learners entering Level 5 in England in 2021/22 (excluding Apprenticeships and institutional credit aims), 92.8% were in a technical education route. The most popular subject area for technical education routes at Level 5 was Business and administration (28.1%).

## ONS publishes latest NEET estimates

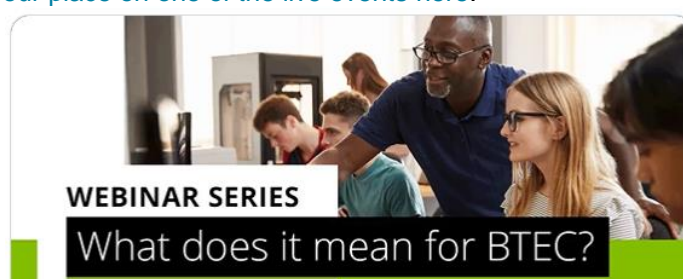
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has [published the latest estimates](#) of young people (aged 16 to 24 years) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), by age and sex, covering January to March 2023.
- There was a decrease in the number of those aged 16 to 24 years and NEET in January to March 2023, with the total currently estimated to be 770,000, down from 788,000 in October to December 2022.
- The percentage of all young people who were NEET in January to March 2023 was estimated at 11.3%, down 0.3 percentage points on the quarter (October to December 2022), but up 0.2 percentage points compared with pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels (October to December 2019).

## Ofqual publishes outcome of level 2 regulatory approach consultation

- Ofqual has [published the outcome and decisions](#) following its consultation on the proposed regulatory approach for level 2 qualifications designed to lead to skilled employment, and level 1 qualifications that are prerequisites to employment in England.
- The aim of this consultation was to provide clarity for awarding organisations about the way in which these qualifications would be regulated and the rules they must meet.
- Ofqual has decided to implement the regulatory approach and Qualification Level Conditions as proposed in the consultation.

## Pearson news

**The 'Post-16 Level 3 Reform – What does it mean for BTEC?'** Our webinars will provide you with the latest information on developments around the reforms at Level 3. Some are sector specific and will provide an opportunity to get your views and insight to help us shape our qualification(s) and support offer in ways that best meet you and your learners' needs. [Book your place on one of the live events here.](#)



## Pearson tweets of the week

**Pearson Edexcel** @PearsonEdexcel · 7h

Beware of exam scammers! At this time of year there are a few people who try and pretend they have exam papers, either to make money or because they think it's funny. Don't fall victim to any scams and report anything of concern to your teachers: [tinyurl.com/y3rthwed](https://tinyurl.com/y3rthwed)



**Pearson BTEC and Apprenticeships** @PearsonBTECAppr · 23h

Pearson offers valuable resources to help students conquer #exam stress and time management. From revision tips to exam hall advice, there's something for every learner. Access and share the free resources here [spr.ly/6012OIRx4](https://spr.ly/6012OIRx4)

#ExamSeason #BTECworks



## Other news

### Parliamentary

- Commons: Safety of School Buildings
- Commons: Student Visas
- WMS: Children's Social Care Update
- WMS: Condition Improvement Fund Update
- WMS: Tutoring Update
- WMS: Level 3 Qualifications Review Update
- WMS: Immigration update
- WMS: Planning for accommodation for looked after children
- WMS: Machinery of Government
- Education Committee: Persistent absence and support for disadvantaged pupils (oral evidence)
- Public Accounts Committee: The condition of school buildings – new inquiry
- Public Services Committee: Implementation of Children's social care strategy unambitious and slow
- Industry and Regulators Committee: Letter from the Rt Hon Minister Halfon on The Higher Education (Registration Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Industry and Regulators Committee: The work of the Office for Students (oral evidence)
- Education for 11-16 Year Olds Committee (oral evidence – session one)
- Education for 11-16 Year Olds Committee (oral evidence – session two)

### Regulatory and funding bodies

- ESFA Update: 24 May 2023
- ESFA: Advanced learner loans funding rules 2023 to 2024 (version 2)
- ESFA: National Tutoring Programme (NTP) allocations for 2023 to 2024 academic year
- Ofqual: Conditions and requirements - Level 2 Technical Occupation Qualifications Qualification Level Conditions
- Ofqual: Regulating level 1 and 2 qualifications designed to lead to employment (Consultation outcome)
- QAA statement on media coverage of Subject Benchmark Statement for Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research

### Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 26 May 2023

- OfS: Prevent monitoring: Summary of 2021-22 accountability and data returns
- OfS: Transnational education: Protecting the interests of students taught abroad
- OfS: Annual TRAC 2021-22: Sector summary and analysis by TRAC peer group
- SLC: Getting disabled students prepared for university or college
- UKRI updates guidance for open access policy

## Schools

- Over £450 million investment to improve school buildings
- Condition Improvement Fund: 2023 to 2024 outcome
- Government to match schools' tutoring costs next year
- National Tutoring Programme: guidance for schools, academic year 2023/24
- National Tutoring Programme calculator tool: 2023 to 2024
- Initial Teacher Training: special schools and alternative provision
- Social integration in schools and colleges
- Schools block national funding formula: split sites funding (updated)
- Government Response to the Final Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- COSMO/Sutton Trust: Research reveals worrying links between poverty, mental health and GCSE grades
- NAHT: Education unions call on government to publish pay recommendation
- Children's Commissioner: Looked after children who are not in school

## Further Education & Skills

- Wave 3 T Levels: overlapping qualifications
- £165 million fund launched to transform local skills
- Applying for funding from the local skills improvement fund
- Further education leadership mentoring programme
- ONS: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: May 2023
- DWP: New peer mentoring programme to help people out of addiction and into work
- WorldSkills UK: UK falling short of excellence in manufacturing
- NFER: The Skills Imperative 2035: An analysis of the demand for skills in the labour market in 2035

## Higher Education

- Higher-level learners in England: 2021 to 2022
- Minister Halfon address at UCAS Admissions Conference 2023
- Changes to student visa route will reduce net migration
- DfE: Studying part-time: perspectives of mature students
- DfE: Mental health and wellbeing practices in higher education
- OfS: One in six students at English universities taught overseas
- OfS: New data on rejected speakers at English universities
- NAO: Support for innovation to deliver net zero
- HEPI: Comparative Study of Higher Education Academic Staff Terms and Conditions

## Scotland

- £9.5 million to support young musicians
- SFC: Scottish universities share in £57m innovation investment
- SFC: Investing in Scotland's Colleges and Universities

## Wales

- Written Statement: Update on the proposed changes to the suite of Regulations under which independent schools in Wales operate
- Proposed changes to the suite of Regulations under which independent schools in Wales operate: integrated impact assessment
- £4m funding boost for further education mental health and wellbeing support
- Education Workforce Council (EWC): impact assessments
- Speech: We do best when we collaborate
- Estyn: School governors play supportive role but need more support, report finds
- Qualifications Wales: Provisional entries for the summer 2023 exam series

## Northern Ireland

- Independent review of special educational needs will drive forward change for children and young people
- Statistical fact sheet: Higher Level Apprenticeships at Higher Education Institutions in NI, 2021/22
- Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey – Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- EANI: New partnership to boost NI Schools' use of Technology
- EA welcome Independent Review of Special Needs
- Teachers invited to take part in CCEA's support survey

## Consultation Watch

### New consultations

- Public Accounts Committee: The condition of school buildings Closes: 6 July 2023
- Welsh Government: Proposed changes to the suite of Regulations under which independent schools in Wales operate Closes: 17 July 2023

### Closing consultations

- Office for Students: Consultation on the approach to publication of results of the National Student Survey Closes: 26 May 2023
- Public Accounts Committee: Improving resettlement support for prison leavers Closes: 28 May 2023
- Chinese and Japanese AS and A levels: proposed subject content Closes: 31 May 2023
- Ofqual: Proposed amendment to the assessment of Chinese and Japanese AS and A levels Closes: 31 May
- Public Accounts Committee: Support for innovation to deliver net zero Closes: 1 June 2023
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: Consultation on a draft handbook for the revised Quality Enhancement Review method for Wales Closes: 2 June 2023

## Ongoing consultations

- [Teachers' Pension Scheme \(TPS\): transitional protection remedy](#) Closes: 4 June 2023
- [Scottish Government: Review of the National Outcomes](#) Closes: 5 June 2023
- [Scottish Government: Prescribing the minimum annual number of learning hours](#) Closes 13 June 2023
- [Qualifications Wales: The Full 14 to 16 Qualifications Offer in Wales](#) Closes: 14 June 2023
- [Welsh Government: Welsh Language Education: white paper](#) Closes: 16 June 2023
- [Welsh Government: Have you say in Summer 2023 exams](#) Closes: 7 July 2023
- [Qualifications Wales: Essential Skills Wales Qualifications Review Survey](#) Closes: 7 July 2023
- [Improving support for children missing education](#) Closes: 20 July 2023
- [Ensuring the resilience of the qualifications system](#) Closes: 2 August 2023

## What's happening in Parliament next week

*Parliament has risen for recess and return on Monday 5 June.*