The week in a nutshell

There has been a lot going on this week, with publications and data drops as the government approaches the Easter recess. This included a policy paper from DfE on AI in education, schools capital announcements, and support for disadvantaged pupils (more in Top Stories).

In Parliament, Skills Minister announced that the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) will be officially removed as the designated quality body (DQB) from 1 April 2023. And the Lords Committee on Education for 11-16 year olds hold another evidence session, hearing from Pearson, Cambridge Assessment, AlphaPlus and the University of Oxford on the current assessment system and alternatives for the future.

In Scotland we witnessed a new First Minister, Humza Yousaf, announced, followed by his new Cabinet including Jenny Gilruth MSP as the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. In Wales, proposals were published to enable all pupils in Wales to become confident Welsh speakers by 2050.

Meanwhile, UCAS released new figures suggesting that there could be up to a million higher education applicants in a single year in 2030, up from more than three quarters of a million in 2022.

Policy Watch will take a break and return 21st April

Top stories

DfE publishes AI in education policy paper and new school technology measures

- The Department for Education (DfE) has published a policy paper setting out its position on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), including large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT or Google Bard, in the education sector. Its key points include that:
  - Public access to generative AI poses opportunities and challenges for the education sector.
  - When used appropriately, technology (including generative AI), has the potential to reduce workload across the education sector.
  - Schools, colleges and universities, as well as awarding organisations need to continue to take reasonable steps where applicable to prevent malpractice involving use of generative AI and other emerging technologies.
  - The education sector must continue to protect its data, resources, staff and pupils, by: not entering personal and sensitive data into generative AI tools; strengthening cyber security, and continuing to protect students from harmful content online.
  - The DfE also announced further support to ensure schools have a safe, secure and reliable foundation in place before they can consider using more powerful technology, outlined here.
DfE publishes update to T Level overlap qualifications list

- The DfE has published a written ministerial statement announcing that they have published an update to the final list of qualifications that overlap with wave 1 and 2 T Levels, to include qualifications that overlap with Health and Science T Levels.
- The update adds 28 qualifications to the list which will have 16-19 funding removed from 1 August 2024.

DfE announces package of measures to “level up opportunities for the most disadvantaged pupils”

- The Government has announced a package of measures designed to support disadvantaged students.
- The measures include £42m of funding granted to Priority Education Investment Areas (PEIAs). The PIEAs are 24 areas of the country with high level of disadvantaged pupils, as well as low education attainment.
- The Government is also publishing the Academies Regulatory and Commission Review, setting out a framework for growing the impact of the academies system, and a series of Trust Development Statements (TDS), published for the first time. These statements set out the priorities in each Education Investment Area for developing a trust landscape led by high-quality trusts to transform standards locally.
- Finally, the Government has published the content that will underpin a MAT CEO development programme, setting out the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to lead a large trust effectively.

Productivity Institute publishes report on role of FE colleges

- The Productivity Institute published a report on how Further Education Colleges (FECs) fit into their local and regional ecosystems. Researchers interviewed 16 FECs across England and found six ways that government and business can boost their skills delivery:
  - Alleviate shortage of FE lecturers; encourage short-term skills qualifications; see FECs as part of social and economic infrastructure; encourage employer investment in skills; reduce constant policy churn; and align FEC needs across different ministries.
- The full report and its executive summary are available here.

New capital funding for schools announced

- The DfE has announced £1.8bn of capital funding for schools for the 2023-24 financial year. This will include:
  - £1.1 billion in School Condition Allocations (SCA) for local authorities, large multi-academy trusts and large voluntary-aided school bodies (such as dioceses).
  - £0.5 billion for the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) programme. This is an annual bidding round for essential maintenance projects at schools in small and stand-alone academy trusts, small voluntary-aided bodies and sixth form colleges.
  - £0.2 billion of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding allocated directly for schools.
Pearson news

Future of Education Technology We’re excited to be involved with the Future of Education Technology campaign, which launched in The Guardian this week. Click to find out more.

Pearson tweets of the week

[Image]

Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Strip Searching of Children
- Westminster Hall: Home Education
- Westminster Hall: Electronics Technology Skills: North Lancashire
- Lords: Children’s School Meals
- Lords: Black and Minority-ethnic Children: Police Strip-searches
- WMS: FE Colleges Capital Update
- WMS: School System Update
- WMS: Schools Capital Update
- WMS: Post-16 Qualifications Update
- WMS: Designated Quality Body Update
- Science and Technology Committee: STEM ambitions must be matched by commitment to diversity and inclusion, say MPs
- Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee: UK plc – final report
Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted: State-funded schools inspections and outcomes as at 31 December 2022
- ESFA Update: 29 March 2023
- ESFA: Consistent financial reporting framework 2023 to 2024
- ESFA: Dance and Drama Awards guide 2023 to 2024 academic year
- ESFA: Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2023 to 2024
- Ofqual: Key dates for vocational and technical qualifications in 2023
- Ofqual: Equality objectives 2023 to 2025
- Ofqual board minutes for 2022
- OfS: Equality of Opportunity Risk Register
- OfS: Access and participation data dashboard
- OfS: Rapid review to support development of the Equality of Opportunity Risk Register
- OfS: Consultation on a new approach to regulating equality of opportunity: Analysis of responses and decisions
- OfS: Regulatory notice 1: Access and participation plan guidance
- OfS: Description and definition of student outcome and experience measures
- OfS: Evaluation of new data science and artificial intelligence conversion masters’ courses
- SLC: Early-in-year student withdrawal notifications: academic year 2018/19 to 2022/23 up to 21/02/2023

Schools

- Education Secretary addresses BETT 2023
- Education Secretary establishes Government’s forward thinking AI approach
- Generative artificial intelligence in education
- Schools and colleges to receive £2.5 billion to upgrade buildings and boost school places
- Package to level up opportunities for the most disadvantaged pupils
- Academies regulatory and commissioning review
- Education investment areas
- Education investment area (EIA) trust development statements (TDS)
- Apply for Trust Establishment and Growth (TEG) funding
- Multi-academy trust leadership development: CEO content framework
- Recovery premium funding (updated)
- 16 to 18 school, college and multi-academy trust performance data in England: 2021 to 2022 (revised)
- Outcomes for children in need, including children looked after by local authorities, in England: 2021 to 2022
- Education, children’s social care and offending
- Basic need allocations (updated to include funding up to 2026)
- EEF: Over 700 early years settings, including childminders, to take part in new EEF-funded projects
- Children's Commissioner: Strip search of children in England and Wales
- Policy Exchange: An Examination of Gender and Safeguarding in Schools

Further Education & Skills

- The Apprenticeship Ambassador Network conference – 28 March
- German Industry UK Panel Discussion on Apprenticeships and Skills
- Apprenticeship standards achievement rate ambition
Policy Watch
Week ending Friday 31 March 2023

- Further education and skills: March 2023
- Apprenticeships and traineeships: March 2023
- Employer skills survey: 2019
- Further education skills index: 2021 to 2022
- A level and other 16 to 18 results: 2022 (revised)
- 16 to 19 tuition fund for academic year 2023 to 2024
- Qualifications that overlap with T Levels (updated)
- Employer support fund for T Level industry placements: funding rules
- Claim back costs for industry placements
- FE capital transformation fund: stage 2 successful applicants
- Completing and certifying apprenticeship frameworks
- Register to offer T Levels
- S31 grant determination letter for skills advisory panels: 2022 to 2023
- IFS: What has happened to college teacher pay in England?

Higher Education
- De-designation of QAA as the designated quality body in England (consultation outcome)
- UCAS kickstarts national debate on access to UK higher education as competition grows
- UCAS: Journey to a Million
- OfS: £8 million boost for digital student scholarships
- OfS: Students from disadvantaged backgrounds less likely to complete their course
- Office for Students launches consultation on publication of the National Student Survey
- UK Net Zero Research and Innovation Framework: Delivery plan 2022-2025
- HEPI: The Humanities in the UK Today: What's Going On?

Scotland
- New Cabinet unveiled

Wales
- More than £46m to support community schemes and tackle inequality in schools across Wales
- Oral Statement: Tackling the impact of poverty on attainment
- Oral Statement: Adnodd – Supporting the Curriculum for Wales
- Proposals published to enable all pupils in Wales to become confident Welsh speakers by 2050
- Ethnic minority initial teacher education incentive: integrated impact assessment
- Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee: Mental Health support in Higher Education

Northern Ireland
- Department for the Economy publishes higher education statistics
- Winners announced at the 2023 Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Awards
Consultation Watch

New consultations

- Teachers’ Pension Scheme (TPS): transitional protection remedy Closes: 4 June 2023
- Office for Students: Consultation on the approach to publication of results of the National Student Survey Closes: 26 May 2023

Ongoing consultations

- Office for Students: Consultation on payment of fees for investigations Closes: 14 April 2023
- ITT core content framework and early career framework: call for evidence Closes: 21 April 2023
- Office for Students: Consultation on a new approach to regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English higher education Closes: 4 May 2023
- Scottish Government: Rural and Islands College Merger proposal: Consultation Closes: 5 May 2023
- Ofqual: Updating Qualification Level Conditions for T Level Technical Qualifications Closes: 15 May 2023
- Ofqual: Regulating level 2 and below qualifications supporting progression to higher levels of study Closes: 25 May 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

What’s happening in Parliament next week

Parliament has risen for Easter Recess and will return on Monday 17 April.

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