

2014/6

27 June 2014

Policy Tracker - Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in June 2014

Main talking points

16 headlines, 23 Reports, 7 leading speeches, it's been that sort of month.

Key headlines from the month

- Primary. Government and IoE announce new leadership schemes
- Free schools. 38 more approved, total rises to 331
- Progress 8. Schools invited to opt in early
- GCSEs/A levels. Ofqual consults on the final sweep
- Science. DfE launches consultation on proposed programme of study at KS4
- Maths. ACME launches a maths education blueprint
- Functional Skills. Ofqual seeks views
- Exams 2014. Ofqual writes to schools and colleges
- School funding. Lib-Dems pledge to ring fence 0-19 funding
- Teachers. Ofqual invites teacher comments on exam prepping techniques
- Lesson observations. Ofsted prepares to pilot a new approach
- Learning Technology. Government pushes the agenda in FE
- Apprenticeships. New co-investment funding model to be piloted from 2014/15
- University complaints. Universities uphold a rising number of student complaints
- Universities. Bath, Surrey, Lancaster charge up the Guardian university league table
- Student visas. Government Statement responds to latest concerns

Reports/Publications of the month (in order of publication)

- **Manifesto on skills acquisition, economic recovery and jobs.** The Association of training providers launches its election 2015 Manifesto wish list with 10 calls on skills and jobs
- **Intervention in FE.** The BIS Dept reports on the intervention process one year on and starts publishing the follow-up correspondence from the Commissioner and his team
- **Completing GCSE, AS and A level reform.** Ofqual launches consultation on how to play the remaining sets of qualifications not already earmarked for revision
- **Winning the global race?** The think tank IPPR makes a powerful case for the importance of high-level, technical skills in helping tackle the global race
- **Technology Manifesto.** The think tank Policy Exchange calls on politicians to incorporate digital excellence in forthcoming Manifestos and sets three key challenges for 2020
- **Accountability: publishing headline performance measures on school and college websites.** The DfE consults on the widget that will enable standard information to be presented
- **Ofsted report on allegations in Birmingham.** Ofsted emerges with six main findings and a pledge to consult on introducing a new inspection grade on wider school learning for Sept 2015
- **National Curriculum reform: KS4 Science.** The DfE launches consultation on draft programmes of study for KS4 science from Sept 2016
- **Skills for Prosperity.** The National Institute for lifelong learning proposes six skill-based priorities as it launches its wish list for the 2015 election
- **Government response to the FE Learning Technology Action Group (FELTAG.)** The Government responds with a big shift to online learning and e-assessment in FE
- **MOOCs: Opportunities for their use in compulsory-age education.** A commissioned Report from the DfE tries to pull the current state of play together
- **Assessing value for money in Sixth Form education.** London Economics crunch the numbers to prove that Sixth Form Colleges get a raw deal
- **Underachievement in Education by white working class children.** The Education Committee finds a complex set of issues as it publishes the results of its Inquiry
- **National Colleges.** BIS calls for expressions of interest in setting up 'specialist' high-tech Colleges able to serve key industry sectors
- **Technical Awards for 14-16 year olds.** The DfE completes the Wolf agenda by setting out guidelines for new styled Technical Awards to run alongside GCSEs from 2015
- **Vocational Qualifications for 16-19 year olds.** The DfE confirms the criteria for the development of substantial L2 Voc Quals from 2015

- **DfE update on its Departmental Improvement Plan.** The DfE reports on the progress being made against its 2012 vision of a more agile, modernised Dept
- **Enterprise for all.** Lord Young's latest Report calls for an Enterprise Passport as part of a big push to encourage more enterprise activity in schools, colleges and universities
- **Expanding and simplifying FE loans.** BIS launches consultation on flexing and extending the FE learning loan system and bringing HNs into the FE fold
- **Traineeship funding in England.** DfE and BIS consult on a more uniform funding model with greater emphasis on positive outcomes
- **Excellence in competitive sport.** Ofsted raises concerns about 'unacceptable discrepancies' between the number of state and independent school pupils competing in sports at an elite level
- **Tests worth teaching to.** The Centre for Market Reform of Education publishes a series of essays on how to balance diversity with quality in the qualification/exam system
- **Vision for science and maths education.** The Royal Society goes for Bacc style qual frameworks built around core STEM subjects to help boost provision in this key area

Speeches of the month

- Matthew Hancock's 2 June AELP Conference speech presents apprenticeship reform as an essential modernising exercise and announces a pilot funding model for new starters
- Michael Gove's 7 June Policy Exchange speech outlines five factors that help define high-performing school systems starting with autonomy and accountability
- Matthew Hancock's 11 June AoC International Conference speech finds good progress being made in the International Education Strategy as it reaches its first anniversary
- Matthew Hancock's 15 June Spectator speech highlights the role of technology in helping transform vocational learning
- Sir Michael Wilshaw's 20 June Sunday Times Ed Festival speech identifies 4 features for successful comp schools: aspirational; competitive; ordered; working with/confronting parents
- Glenys Stacey's 20 June Sunday Times Ed Festival speech outlines what to expect not just for this summer but for the longer-term future in the qualification world
- George Osborne's 23 June Manchester speech sees a new rail network and flourishing universities as core ingredients of a booming Northern economy

Quotes of the month

- *"I would say freedom, tolerance, respect for the rule of law, belief in personal and social responsibility and respect for British institutions."* The Prime Minister defines British values
- *"When I go to Tesco I don't negotiate the prices and I guess you don't either. But they know sure as anything I can go to Waitrose next door if I want and that drives value for money."* The Skills Minister on the shopping basket approach to apprenticeship funding
- *"When I was 7, maths meant workbooks, pencils and pocket calculators."* The Skills Minister on what learning was like before technology came along
- *"We wouldn't accept a fifth of hospital operations going wrong of a fifth of flights ending badly. So why should we accept a system in which school standards were still too low?"* Michael Gove on setting bars for school standards
- *"We're not going to indulge in massive curriculum change, undoing what's taken place."* Tristram Hunt tries to reassure
- *"It won't be an easy summer but then I haven't had an easy summer yet."* The Chief Executive of Ofqual on the anxieties of the summer results season

Word or phrase of the month

- *'Playlist.'* An online learning plan for students, apparently
- *'Mindfulness.'* The new in-demand skill for leaders

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Policy Tracker on what happened in June 2014

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