

2014/7

24 July 2014

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

### Main talking points

You start the month with one team and end up with another, the election must be getting nearer.

### Key headlines from the month

- Ed Depts. Changing of the guard in both
- Ofsted. Issues guidance to inspectors on evaluating new assessment regime
- School buildings. Facing an £8.5bn backlog of repair according to architects
- Maths hubs. 32 pace-setters announced
- English/maths. GCSE Eng/maths seen as future national standard, stepping stone quals listed
- English and maths GCSE. NIACE commissioned to look at functional aspects
- Core maths. Government responds on the technical guidance
- School sixth forms. Will receive separate Ofsted grading from Sept 2014
- Master teachers. Labour looking at recreating
- Headteacher Boards. Elected members announced
- Tech Levels. Latest listing for 2016 tables confirmed
- Tech/voc ed. The Education Committee prepares for final major review
- Careers guidance. The Education Committee confirms follow-up inquiry
- 14-16 yr olds. More colleges bid to take on young recruits
- 16/19-24 funding. Labour considers shift to local commissioning
- QCF/GLH. Ofqual confirm consultations coming
- Apprenticeships. Public see them as degree alternatives in poll for Pearson/Sutton Trust
- Growth Deals. Government signs off first instalment
- FE. The IfL throws its lot in with the ETF
- Tech degrees. Labour lines up new high-level voc route
- UCAS. Uni applications up by 4% at end of June deadline

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

- **The Technology Strategy Board 2014-15 Delivery Plan.** The TSB announces two new catapult centres and over £400m investment in its latest blueprint for growth
- **Open Access.** A commissioned report from the Social Market Foundation calls for wider adoption of a scheme to enable more disadvantaged pupils to attend fee paying schools
- **FE Workforce Strategy.** The government lists 4 priorities: beefing up Eng/maths teaching; responsiveness; governance and leadership; and use of technology as it goes for excellence
- **Mending the Fractured Economy.** Lord Adonis's final report for the Labour Party on creating shared growth identifies £30bn of funding that could be devolved to local growth partnerships
- **Final Report from the Local Government Innovation Taskforce.** Commissioned as part of Labour's policy review, the Taskforce propose 5 measures to support people driven services
- **Migrants in low-skilled work.** The Migration Advisory Committee examines low-skilled work immigration and emerges with 5 themes that need addressing incl the youth labour market
- **Academies Annual Report.** The DfE reports Academy progress and offers a wealth of data to back up claims that they're working
- **Lifting the accreditation requirement.** Ofqual consults on lifting accreditation requirements for many non-core academic quals as the first of a number of potential regulatory changes
- **Core Maths.** No change to the size but the government agrees a number of minor adjustments as it responds to the earlier consultation on required technical guidance
- **Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14.** BIS confirm 33 out of 37 actions now complete as it continues to push for growth
- **Developing new GCSE, AS and A level quals.** The latest batch of consultations from the DfE and Ofqual focus on content and assessment for more 2016 subject starts
- **Here be dragons.** PA Consulting issue their latest annual report on how universities are coping with choppy waters and find government policies the biggest risk factor
- **Education and Skills Survey 2014.** The latest annual CBI/Pearson report highlights familiar employer concerns especially about school leaver skills and employability

- **The pupil premium: an update.** Ofsted's latest review of the impact of the pupil premium finds some evidence the attainment gap is closing but it's a long haul
- **Future Trends in Pupil Numbers.** Latest projections from DfE show the primary bulge due to hit secondary schools from 2016 and overall pupil numbers set to exceed 8m over next decade
- **Breaking the Mould.** The AoC argues that FE is well positioned to help lead the charge towards more high-level tech and voc degrees
- **Consultation on the conduct, marking and grading of spoken language skills in GCSE Eng Lang.** Ofqual consult on future assessment arrangements
- **Growth Dashboard.** The latest update from government shows knowledge intensive services growing, GDP up but labour productivity remaining weak
- **Report into allegations concerning Birmingham schools.** The Commissioner chronicles the findings of the Trojan Horse Inquiry and comes up with a number of recommendations
- **Student Loans.** The BIS Committee finds a trail of poor forecasting and potential funding gaps

### Speeches of the month

- Elizabeth Truss's 2 July Maths Support speech makes the now familiar passionate pitch for both the importance of maths and the government's enthusiasm for it
- Ed Miliband's 3 July speech to the Policy Network supports the theme of inclusive prosperity and identifies 5 core challenges around skills, trust and reformed markets
- Liam Byrne's 7 July City of Westminster College speech sets out Labour principles for a locally commissioned skills system including per-student funding
- Ed Miliband's 8 July Pearson/Sutton Trust event speech points Labour HE policy in the direction of employer endorsed tech degrees
- Matthew Hancock's 8 July Pearson/Sutton Trust event speech highlights apprenticeship reforms as a key part of the government's reforms of the skills system
- Matthew Hancock's 9 July Change Board speech rehearses familiar lines about how the government is opening up opportunity by bridging the academic/vocational divide
- Michael Gove's 10 July Education Foundation speech stresses (perhaps presciently) the importance of keeping the government's school reforms going not least for social mobility

### Quotes of the month

- *"There is no question of reversing his policies; the point is to preserve them with a little less controversy."* An unnamed colleague on the brief facing the new Education Secretary
- *"I am tremendously privileged and luck and happy to be given this job. Like poor Manuel, I know nothing at the moment but am keen to learn."* The new Skills Minister faces up to his new job
- *"Let us link hands and embrace the future together."* The Chancellor gets friendly on a trade mission to India
- *"My priority for expansion of university places will be tech degrees."* Ed Miliband on Labour's HE plans
- *"Only 10 out of 120 institutions will charge maximum fees of less than £9000 in 2014/15."* The HE Network reflects on the steady spread of the fee max
- *"By 2023 the number of state-funded secondary pupils aged up to and including 15 is projected to be 17% higher than in 2014."* The DfE on the pupil numbers bulge
- *"Of the 29,000 schools in Britain, 80% of the stock is beyond its shelf life."* The Royal Institute of British Architects eyes future school building work

### Word or phrase of the month

- *'Whiteguymageddon.'* Apparently what the Ministerial reshuffle was all about

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