



Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP

Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT

tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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I would like to update you on the Department for Education's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak between 19 May and 8 June 2021.

Huge expansion of tutoring in next step of education recovery

Children and young people across England will be offered up to 100 million hours of free tuition to help them catch up on learning lost during the pandemic.

As part of the next step in the Government's plans to boost education recovery, a total of £1.4 billion is being invested, including £1 billion to support up to 6 million 15-hour tutoring courses for disadvantaged school children, as well as an expansion of the 16-19 tuition fund, targeting key subjects such as Maths and English.

£400 million will help give early years practitioners and 500,000 school teachers across the country training and support, and schools and colleges will be funded to give some year 13 students the option to repeat their final year.

This builds on the £1.7 billion already announced to help children catch up on what they missed during the pandemic, which includes summer schools and mental health support, bringing total investment to over £3 billion.

Sir Kevan Collins resigns as Education Recovery Commissioner

Last week, Sir Kevan Collins resigned as the Government's Education Recovery Commissioner. I am hugely grateful to Sir Kevan for his work in helping pupils

catch up and recover from the effects of the pandemic. We will continue to focus on education recovery and make sure that no child is left behind with their learning.

The Department will focus on delivering the £1.4bn package of new funding for tutoring and teacher development announced, as well as establishing the review of evidence around extended time in schools and colleges ahead of the spending review.

Cash boost for apprenticeships launched

Employers of all sizes in England can now apply for extra funding to help them take on new apprentices, in the latest drive to revolutionise the skills and training offer across the country.

The boost to the apprenticeship incentive scheme was confirmed by the Chancellor in the Budget in March, and became available to claim from 1 June. Businesses can apply to claim £3,000 for each new apprentice hired as a new employee from 1 April until 30 September.

£1,000 boost to support T Level industry placements

Employers will be able to claim £1,000 for every T Level student they host on a high-quality industry placement, as part of a new incentive scheme.

The T Level employer incentive fund, launched in recognition of the impact the pandemic has had on many businesses, is designed to help cover financial constraints employers may face as a barrier to hosting placements in the short term.

£51 million for councils to support care leavers

I have announced a £51m funding boost to help thousands of vulnerable young people in the care system. The support package will fund a range of schemes to support those that are either in or leaving care, as well as proposals to introduce national standards that accommodation settings for 16- and 17-year-olds would have to meet.

These programmes include:

- £33 million continued investment in 'Staying Put', which helps looked after children stay with their foster carers after their 18th birthday if they wish to;
- £3.6 million to extend the 'Staying Close' pilot which gives extra support for young people leaving residential care, and £12 million for councils to continue to provide Personal Advisors to support care leavers up to the age of 25; and

- £2.7 million to provide intensive support to care leavers at high risk of homelessness, as part of the Government's Rough Sleeping strategy.

Funding boost for pupils leaving Alternative Provision

Young people in Alternative Provision (AP) at risk of unemployment or dropping out of education at age 16 are set to receive further mentoring, pastoral support and careers guidance under Government plans to level up opportunity for all young people and build back better.

The Department has announced a further £8 million as part of the AP Transition Fund for 2021/22, which will support up to 11,400 Year 11 pupils as they move into the next stage of their education, work or training after they leave school. This more than doubles the original investment in the fund last year.

Opportunity Areas programme extended for a fifth year

Thousands more young people in some of the most disadvantaged regions of England will benefit from a fifth year of investment in the flagship Opportunity Areas programme.

Since 2016, the programme has invested £90 million on improving school standards, attendance, teaching quality and recruitment, careers training & advice and Literacy and Maths skills, alongside tackling barriers to learning that exist beyond the school gates.

An additional £18 million will now be invested in 12 Opportunity Areas across the country, which include Blackpool, Derby and Oldham. Each area will be 'twinned' with previous areas who have faced similar challenges so they can benefit from their expertise and collaborate more closely on the issues facing children and young people.

Update on the rollout of devices

The government is providing over 1.3 million laptops and tablets to help schools, colleges and other FE institutions throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The scale of deliveries was increased following the announcement on 5 January 2021 about a national lockdown and restricting attendance in schools and colleges but has since decreased following the return to schools on 8 March.

On 11 May we published the latest figure of 1,313,449 devices having been delivered since the start of the scheme.

We are reducing the frequency of the publication of the device statistics from weekly to monthly now that pupils have returned to school. The monthly publication means we are still reporting on progress in delivering services to schools, colleges and other FE institutions. The latest full data on laptops and

tablets is available at: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/laptops-and-tablets-data>

Attendance

The Department's analysis from week 23 indicates that 94% of primary pupils were in school on Thursday 27 May with over 99.9% of state funded schools open. Pupil attendance in secondary schools fell by 8 percentage points between 5 and 27 May, primarily due to different provision for exam year groups (Y11-13) during the summer term as expected. Data for attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak for week 23 can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

No analysis was published in week 22 as this related to half term.

The Department's analysis from week 21 data indicates that 91% of pupils were in school on Thursday 20 May with 100% of state funded schools open. Data for attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak for week 21 can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/2021-week-21>

Other key updates

In addition to the above, please see below recent key updates from the Department.

I have issued a direction to bar Jamshed Javeed from managing independent schools. The decision can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/direction-jamshed-javeed-barred-from-managing-independent-schools>

The Department has published a policy paper about reforms to teacher development. The paper outlines reforms to initial teacher training, the early career framework and replacements for national professional qualifications. The policy paper can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reforms-to-teacher-development>

The Department has published a form on how eligible providers of 16 to 19 education can apply for capital investment. The form can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-capacity-fund>

I have issued a 14th notice about changes to state-funded school inspection requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The notice can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-inspections-legislation-changes>

The Department has published research and analysis of post-16 education and labour market activities and outcomes based on different socioeconomic, demographic and education factors. The research can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-labour-market-activities-pathways-and-outcomes-leo>

The Department has published guidance on training for senior mental health leads. It provides details about the grant funding available to develop a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/senior-mental-health-lead-training>

The Department has published guidance on how schools and colleges can develop a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-in-schools-and-colleges>

The Department has published qualitative research into how early adopter schools prepared for statutory relationships, sex and health education requirements. The research can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rshe-school-practice-in-early-adopter-schools>

The Department has published statistics on the provisional A level and other results for 16 to 18-year-olds at the end of their final year from 2019-2020. The statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results-2019-to-2020-provisional>

The Department has published research on the complete curriculum programme pilot, and on use of curriculum programmes to deliver remote education. The research can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-curriculum-programme-pilot-research-reports>

The Department has published letters to devolved areas outlining adult education budget (AEB) and level 3 adult offer funding for 2021 to 2022 financial year. The correspondence can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-education-budget-devolved-grant-determination-letters-2021>

The Department has published statistics on key stage 4 and 16 to 18 (key stage 5) students going into apprenticeship, education, employment and training destinations. The statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/destinations-key-stage-4-and-5-pupils-2019>

The Department has published statistics on the employment and earnings outcomes of postgraduates in 2018-2019. The statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/graduate-outcomes-leo-postgraduate-outcomes-in-2018-to-2019>

The Department has published a list of confirmed participants for the Diocesan multi-academy trust formation pilot and the Catholic turnaround trust pilot. The list can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diocesan-multi-academy-trust-pilots>

The Department has updated its research reports which provides an analysis into the progress pupils have made during the 2020 to 2021 academic year. The report can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupils-progress-in-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year-interim-report>

The Department has published an update to its analysis of post-16 education and labour market activities and outcomes based on different socioeconomic, demographic and education factors. The analysis can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-labour-market-activities-pathways-and-outcomes-leo>

The Department has updated its lists of local authorities seeking academy and free school proposers, and of all academies and free schools already set up. The information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-school-proposals>

The Department has updated its guidance on skills advisory panels. It provides access to local skills reports and information on producing reports. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-advisory-panels>

The Department has updated its guidance on the schools financial value standard. The standard helps schools and local authorities meet basic standards for good financial health and resource management. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-financial-value-standard-sfvs>

The Department has updated its forms on the post-16 capacity fund, which show how eligible providers of 16 to 19 education can apply for capital investment. The form can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-capacity-fund>

The Department has updated its guidance on financial advice for schools. The guidance provides a list of financial advisers for schools and what school leaders should consider before choosing a supplier. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-financial-advice-for-schools>

The Department has updated its guidance on summer schools providing details of the summer schools programme for secondary schools including funding, requirements for running a summer school and best practice evidence. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-schools-programme>

The Department has updated its guidance on studying in the EU and what you need to do if you're planning to start higher education in the EU. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union>

The Department has updated its guidance on UK students in the EU and what they need to do to continue their studies. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-students-in-the-eu-continuing-your-studies>

The Department had updated its guidance on the offer available to early career teachers and how this will be developed for national roll-out. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-career-framework-reforms-overview>

The Department has updated its guidance about school admissions for children born in the summer. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

The Department has updated its guidance on the condition Data Collection 2 (CDC2) programme. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/condition-data-collection-2-cdc2-programme>

The Department has updated its guidance on level 3 qualifications available to eligible adults and the colleges and training providers who are currently able to offer free places. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-free-level-3-qualification>

The Department has updated its guidance on funding and financial support available for education, childcare and children's social care organisations during COVID-19. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care>

The Department has updated its guidance on the college collaboration fund, a peer-support programme to help FE colleges share good practice and develop quality improvement priorities. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/college-collaboration-fund-ccf>

The Department has published enforcement letters to schools who have persistently failed to meet the independent school standards. The correspondence can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enforcement-letters-to-independent-schools>

The Department has updated its guidance on holiday activities and food programmes. The guidance provides information for local authorities who will receive funding to support disadvantaged children during the 2021 Easter, summer and Christmas holidays. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

The Department has updated its guidance on early career framework reforms, providing details on the offer available to early career teachers and how this will be developed for national roll-out. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-career-framework-reforms-overview>

The Department has updated its local authority interactive tool (LAIT), an interactive spreadsheet for comparing data about children and young people across all local authorities in England. The tool can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

The Department has updated its guidance on early-career payments for teachers. Mathematics, physics, chemistry and languages teachers can check whether they can apply for the early-career payments pilot. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-career-payments-guidance-for-teachers-and-schools>

The Department has updated its guidance setting out the financial support available to alternative provision schools and colleges to support current year 11 students into post-16 education. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/alternative-provision-year-11-transition-funding>

The Department has updated its list of successful applicants who applied to the EdTech demonstrator schools and colleges programme. The information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/edtech-demonstrator-schools-and-colleges-successful-applicants>

The Department has updated its guidance on protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The Department has updated its guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The Department has updated its COVID-19 operational guidance for higher education providers. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses>

The Department has updated its guidance on how to get school-to-school help and support from system leaders to improve your school. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-school-to-school-support-from-system-leaders>

The Department has updated its guidance on how local authorities, local-authority-maintained schools, and academies should collect and submit data for the school workforce census. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-workforce-census>

The Department has updated its research providing additional analysis of England's results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018. The research can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pisa-2018-in-england-additional-analysis>

The Department has updated its special free school financial template to help schools plan their budget. The tool can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-free-school-financial-template>

The Department has updated its guidance on how schools can hire teachers who are not UK or Irish nationals. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recruit-teachers-from-overseas>

The Department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government have updated their guidance on funding allocations for free school travel. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extended-rights-to-free-school-travel--2>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has published guidance on how to complete the no recourse to public funds, free school meals additional pupil premium claim form. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-no-recourse-to-public-funds-free-school-meals>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has issued a financial notice to improve Health Futures UTC. The notice can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-notice-to-improve-health-futures-utc>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has published guidance to explain how qualification achievement rates are calculated in 2020-2021. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualification-achievement-rates-qar-2020-to-2021>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on the benefits of apprenticeships for the workforce. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-apprenticeships-for-the-school-workforce>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance to help academies complete the budget forecast return. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academies-budget-forecast-return-guide-to-using-the-online-form>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on funding claims and reconciliation for education and skills training providers. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-funding-claims>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on the register of end-point assessment organisations. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-of-end-point-assessment-organisations>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its advice for Dance and Drama Award institutions for the 2021 to 2022 academic year. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dance-and-drama-awards-guide-2021-to-2022-academic-year--2>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on information for local authorities, schools and the general public about local authority education funding and expenditure plans for 2019 to 2020. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-251-2019-to-2020>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on schools opening as academies to estimate their revenue funding. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/estimating-your-academy-funding-allocation>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on additional funding for one-year for schools, colleges and other 16 to 19 providers to mitigate the disruption to learning arising from COVID-19. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-16-to-19-tuition-fund>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department has updated its guidance on employer agreements with the ESFA to pay training providers to carry out apprenticeship training. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreement-between-an-employer-and-the-education-and-skills-funding-agency-esfa>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has published a financial notice to improve issued to Newton Academy Trust by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The notice can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-notice-to-improve-newton-academy-trust>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance for the view my financial insights (VMFI) tool which provides users with insights into the financial position and performance of schools. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-trusts-view-my-financial-insights>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance on finding a learning aim and individualised learner record sources of data. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/individualised-learner-record-ilr-sources-of-data>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated its guidance funding allocations to training providers for 2020 to 2021. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-allocations-to-training-providers-2020-to-2021>

Ofqual has published guidance for schools, colleges and training centres on how results will be awarded for vocational, technical and other general qualifications in summer 2021. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-centres-awarding-of-vtqs-summer-2021>

Ofqual has published statistics on the number of provisional entries by age group and subject for GCSEs, AS and A levels in England for the summer 2021 exam series. The statistics can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-entries-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-summer-2021-exam-series>

Ofqual has updated its guidance on the formats and timings for submitting data to Ofqual. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/submitting-data-to-ofqual>

Ofqual has updated its guidance on external quality assurance of end-point assessment. The guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/external-quality-assurance-of-end-point-assessments-status>

Ofsted has published a review of research into the factors that can affect the quality of education in languages. The review can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/curriculum-research-review-series-languages>

Ofsted and Chris Jones has published an article discussing Ofsted's findings from an evaluation of the impact of the education inspection framework. The article can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/evaluating-the-education-inspection-framework-for-schools-and-further-education-and-skills-providers>

Ofsted has published data on further education and skills inspections and outcomes from September 2020 to August 2021. The information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/further-education-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes-management-information-from-september-2020-to-august-2021>

Ofsted has published an evaluative report into how the initial teacher education (ITE) sector has responded to COVID-19 and how the ITE curriculum has been developed. The report can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-teachers-during-covid-19>

Ofsted has published an update to the guidance providing an overview of the inspection data summary report for primary and secondary schools. The guidance

can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-inspection-data-summary-report-idsr-guide>

Ofsted has published an update to its guidance on COVID-19 for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission has published an update to its guidance on local area SEND inspections for families. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspections-information-for-families>

I hope you find this information useful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JC' with a flourish, likely representing Gavin Williamson.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education