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Guidance

Timeline for pupil referral units: useful

Updated 19 January 2015

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NEW

January 2015: curriculum and qualifications

We will publish updates to the technical and vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2017 school and college performance tables. These qualifications will be available for teaching from September 2015. The lists include qualifications in the following categories:

- technical awards (key stage 4, levels 1 and 2)
- tech levels (16 to 19, level 3)
- applied general qualifications (16 to 19, level 3)
- substantial vocational qualifications at level 2 (16 to 19)

Only technical and vocational qualifications included on these lists will appear in school and college performance tables from 2017 onwards.

NEW

January 2015: governance

We will be publishing destination measures showing the [2012 to 2013 destinations of students who were included in the 2011 to 2012 key stage 4 or key stage 5 performance tables](#).

NEW

January 2015: staffing

Maintained schools and academies following the [school teachers' pay and conditions document](#) should ensure that teachers understand the link between their performance and their pay progression. Mid-year appraisal reviews are a good opportunity to:

- check that teachers know how they will be assessed
- let them know how they are progressing
- check that arrangements are in place to support evidence-based pay decisions at the end of the year

NEW

January 2015: finance

Schools will receive an [additional premium](#) of £500 for each year 7 pupil who did not achieve at least level 4 in reading and/or mathematics (maximum £500 per pupil) at key stage 2 in summer 2014.

The premium is available to all state-funded schools with a year 7 cohort, including pupil referral units (PRUs) and maintained special schools.

Local authorities will receive funding for maintained schools for the 2014 to 2015 academic year on 27 February 2015.

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) will send academies and free schools their year 7 catch-up premium funding for the 2014 to 2015 academic year on 2 March 2015.

NEW

January 2015: governance

We have announced plans to supply defibrillators to schools at significantly discounted prices, in partnership with NHS Supply Chain. Details of how to buy a defibrillator under this arrangement are in the [automated external defibrillators \(AEDs\) guide](#).

NEW

January 2015: governance

Registration opens for the DfE [School Food Excellence Award](#) to be presented in July 2015. The top prizes will go to a primary and a secondary state school in England that have achieved the most exceptional standards in catering and food education in a whole-school environment.

NEW

January 2015: pupils

We invite schools and other organisations to apply to the new [character education award scheme](#).

There will be financial prizes for schools and/or organisations across the 9 regions that can demonstrate innovative activity in character building.

The application window closes on the 30 January.

UPDATED

January 2015: curriculum and qualifications

We are providing the opportunity for 2 pupils and 1 teacher from every state-funded secondary school in England to [visit battlefields on the Western Front](#), as part of the commemorations to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1.

UPDATED

January 2015: staffing

Implementation of changes to the [teachers' pension scheme](#).

NEW

January 2015: pupils

Schools should contact their local authority to find out the deadline for submitting their school census data to them.

The school census is a statutory collection. We use data from the school census to determine how much funding you will receive.

[Guidance on submitting your school census return](#) is available.

NEW

February 2015: pupils

Schools will be able to [register for the 2015 Future Scholar Awards scheme](#).

NEW

January 2015: curriculum and qualifications

The Association of Colleges, Association of School and College leaders (ASCL), Sixth-Form College Association (SFCA) and National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) will publish guidance to help schools and colleges implement the new linear A levels and decoupled AS level.

Autumn term 2015

NEW

September 2015: governance

We are extending the annual flu immunisation programme in line with recommendations by experts for all children aged 2 to 17. The extension will roll out gradually, with offers to all primary-school-aged children in key stage 1 in England from September 2015.

The NHS will co-ordinate the programme, with the expectation that immunisation will be available in schools in most areas. To be effective, immunisation needs to take place between September and December. Schools may wish to consider this when making their plans for the 2015 to 2016 academic year.

We will use [materials from pilots](#) to inform the development of further information and make it available to schools before the end of the 2015 summer term.

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

First teaching of [new AS and A levels](#) in:

- art and design

- biology
- business studies
- chemistry
- computer science
- economics
- English language
- English literature
- English language and literature
- history
- physics
- psychology
- sociology

The first A level examinations in these subjects will be in summer 2017 (AS level in 2016). The last examination of existing A levels in these subjects will be in the summer of 2016.

Schools should be aware of the second wave of [new AS and A levels](#) for first teaching from September 2016. Awarding organisations publish accredited specifications in these subjects in autumn 2015.

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

[Reformed GCSEs in English and mathematics](#) will be available for first teaching from September 2015, with the first examinations in summer 2017. These are the only English and mathematics qualifications that will count in the key stage 4 and key stage 5 performance tables in 2017. The last examination of existing GCSEs will be in the summer of 2016, with a single opportunity for retakes in the autumn. Schools prepare for the second wave of new GCSEs for first teaching from September 2016. Awarding organisations will publish accredited specifications in these subjects.

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

First teaching begins of the vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2017 key stage 4 and 16 to 19 performance tables. These include:

- technical awards at key stage 4
- tech levels at level 3
- applied general qualifications at level 3
- substantial vocational qualifications at level 2 for 16- to 19-year-olds

Only vocational qualifications included in these lists will contribute towards the 2017 school and college performance tables.

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

Awarding organisations will publish new GCSE specifications based on published subject content for:

- ancient languages
- art and design
- biology, chemistry and physics (single science)
- combined science
- citizenship
- computer science
- cooking and nutrition
- dance
- drama
- geography
- history
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

These will be first taught from September 2016, with the first examinations in summer 2018. Schools choose specifications, contact awarding organisations and plan for these new qualifications.

NEW

Autumn 2015: curriculum and qualifications

Publication of the lists of vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2018 key stage 4 and 16 to 19 performance tables.

Only vocational qualifications included in these lists will contribute towards the 2018 school and college performance tables.

NEW

September 2015: staffing

Implementation of increased employer contributions for the teachers' pension scheme, following the [2012 valuation](#), subject to consultation and regulatory changes coming into force.

NEW

September 2015: pupils

The persistent absence threshold for pupils will change from 15% to 10% from the start of academic year 2015 to 2016. From September 2015 Ofsted will use this new threshold in its inspection regime.

Autumn term 2016



NEW

September 2016: curriculum and qualifications

First teaching of [new GCSEs](#) in:

- ancient languages
- art and design
- biology, chemistry and physics (single science)
- combined science
- citizenship
- computer science
- cooking and nutrition
- dance
- drama
- geography
- history
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

The first examinations in these subjects will be in summer 2018. The last examination of existing GCSEs in these subjects will be in the summer of 2017. Schools prepare for the second wave of new GCSEs for first teaching from September 2017. Awarding organisations publish accredited specifications in these subjects in autumn 2016.

NEW

September 2016: curriculum and qualifications

First teaching of new AS and A levels in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- further mathematics
- geography

- modern languages
- music
- mathematics
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

The first examinations in these A levels will be in summer 2018 (AS level in 2017). The last examination of existing A levels in these subjects will be in the summer of 2017.

Schools should be aware of the third wave of new AS and A levels for first teaching from September 2017. Awarding organisations publish accredited specifications in these subjects in autumn 2016.

NEW

September 2016: curriculum and qualifications

First teaching of the technical and vocational qualifications newly approved for inclusion in the 2018 school and college performance tables. These include:

- technical awards (key stage 4, levels 1 and 2)
- tech levels (16 to 19, level 3)
- applied general qualifications (16 to 19, level 3)
- substantial vocational qualifications at level 2 (16 to 19)

Only listed technical and vocational qualifications included in these categories will contribute towards the school and college performance tables from 2018 onwards.

NEW

September 2016: finance

Funding allocations for the academic year 2016 to 2017 will include an [uplift](#) based on students' successful completion, in summer 2014, of large [TechBacc programmes](#) (those that are the size of 4 A levels or larger). TechBacc

programmes include a tech level qualification, a level 3 maths qualification and an extended project.

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