



Department  
for Education

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Guidance

# Timeline for sixth-form colleges: useful

Updated 19 January 2015

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## Spring term 2015

**NEW**

### **January 2015: curriculum and qualifications**

We will publish updates to the technical and vocational qualifications approved for

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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: 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](#).

**UPDATED**

## January 2015: staffing

Implementation of changes to the [teachers' pension 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: 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.

## 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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