



Guidance

Timeline for sixth-form colleges: useful

Updated 9 September 2015

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NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

[Reformed GCSEs in English and mathematics](#) will be taught for the first time from September 2015, with the first examinations in summer 2017. These are the only English and mathematics

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GCSEs that will count in the key stage 4 performance tables in 2017. The last examination of the existing GCSEs in these subjects 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 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

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
- design and technology
- drama
- geography
- history
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

Schools will teach them 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

Awarding organisations will publish new A level specifications based on published subject content in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- further mathematics
- geography
- modern languages
- music
- mathematics
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

These will be first taught from September 2016, with the first A level examinations in summer 2018 (AS level in 2017). Schools choose specifications, contact awarding organisations and plan for these new qualifications.

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

On 16 July 2015, we announced a [consultation](#) on:

- astronomy GCSE
- business GCSE
- design and technology A level
- economics GCSE
- engineering GCSE
- environmental science A level
- geology GCSE
- history of art A level
- music technology A level
- philosophy A level
- psychology GCSE
- sociology GCSE

This consultation will close on 24 September 2015.

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: pupils

Providers of 16 to 19 education and training funded by the Education Funding Agency should submit information by the end of September 2015 on the courses they plan to offer from September 2016. This will ensure young people have information on all the options available to them after 16.

You can submit course information through [DfE Secure Access](#) (if you already have access), direct to the [National Careers Service course directory provider portal](#), or via a third-party organisation.

UPDATED

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

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

- technical awards (key stage 4, levels 1 and 2)
- technical certificates (16 to 19, level 2)
- tech levels (16 to 19, level 3)



- applied general qualifications (16 to 19, level 3)

Only technical and vocational qualifications included on the [approved lists](#) will contribute towards the 2017 school and college performance tables.

UPDATED

September 2016: curriculum and qualifications

Teaching of the technical and vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2018 key stage 4 and 16 to 19 performance tables. These include:

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

Only technical and vocational qualifications included on the approved lists will contribute towards the 2018 school and college performance tables.

NEW

October 2015: governance

We will publish the final data for provisional destination measures showing the 2013 to 2014 destinations of students included in the 2012 to 2013 key stage 4 or key stage 5 performance tables in January 2016. [Previous data](#) is also available.

NEW

December 2015: governance

Announcement of interim [minimum standard level](#) for 2015 for

schools and colleges at key stage 5. The level will set the percentage of students that have to pass the standard and the number of points they must reach to pass it. These are set separately for academic and vocational qualifications. We will publish a list of institutions falling below the minimum standards in February 2016.

UPDATED

September 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](#). This forms part of commemorations to mark the centenary of the First World War. The next programme of visits is taking place in autumn 2015.

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

We are providing the opportunity for 2 pupils (aged 16 to 18) from every state-funded school and college in England to [visit Auschwitz-Birkenau](#).

NEW

September 2015: governance

The NHS is introducing a new vaccination programme for teenagers to respond to an increase in cases of an aggressive form of meningococcal group W (MenW) disease.

For the 2015 to 2016 academic year, pupils of year 11 school age (date of birth 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2000) will be offered the [MenACWY vaccination](#) from January 2016. We

expect vaccination in the majority of areas to take place in schools. MenACWY is also replacing the MenC vaccination as the routine adolescent vaccine given to pupils in school year 9 or 10.

GP practices invited all teenagers who were in school year 13 in the 2014 to 2015 academic year (date of birth 1 September 1996 to 31 August 1997) to have the MenACWY vaccine over the summer. We will confirm a further part of the catch-up campaign to cover those pupils in school years 12 and 13 in the 2015 to 2016 academic year before the end of 2015.

UPDATED

September 2015: governance

Guidance for schools on [purchasing defibrillators](#) at a discounted price is available. These arrangements are also available to early years and some childcare settings.

NEW

September 2015: governance

The British Heart Foundation has developed a [free resource kit](#) for secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges to teach CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation - a first-aid technique that can be used if someone is not breathing properly or if their heart has stopped). The kit covers how and when to perform CPR on an adult or child, put someone in the recovery position and use a defibrillator.

NEW

September 2015: pupils

As part of the government's commitment to improving mental

health services for children and young people, NHS England is asking clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to make local transformation plans for child and adolescent mental health services. CCGs must involve partners, including schools and colleges, in these plans. This will be an opportunity to influence local [mental health provision](#). Your local authority will also be involved. Sources of advice on mental health include:

- [PSHE Association guidance and lesson plans on teaching about mental health](#)
- [Counselling in schools](#)
- [Mental health and behaviour](#)

NEW

September 2015: staffing

The [teacher self-service](#) website allows teachers to:

- view their teacher record
- obtain qualified teacher status and induction certificates
- update personal details
- download and print a letter confirming their teacher qualifications
- input employment details

NEW

September 2015: staffing

Increased employer contributions for the teachers' pension scheme begin, following the [2012 valuation](#). This is subject to consultation and regulatory changes coming into force.

NEW

September 2015: governance

We have published revised statutory guidance relating to schools' duty to secure [independent careers guidance](#).

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
- design and technology
- drama
- geography
- history
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

The first examinations in these subjects will be in summer 2018.

These are the only GCSE qualifications in these subjects that will

count in the key stage 4 performance tables from 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: finance

Funding allocations for the academic year 2016 to 2017 will include an increase based on students' successful completion, in summer 2014, of large [TechBacc programmes](#). Large TechBacc programmes are those the size of 4 A levels or larger. The programmes include a tech level qualification, a level 3 maths qualification and an extended project.

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