

Department
for Education

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Guidance

Timeline for academies: useful

Updated 13 January 2016

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Spring term 2016

NEW

January 2016: finance

We have published a [collection of information, tools and support](#) on financial health and efficiency for school headteachers,

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business managers and governing bodies.

UPDATED

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

We introduced [reformed GCSEs in English literature, English language and mathematics for first teaching](#) in September 2015.

The first exams will be in summer 2017. They are the only English and mathematics GCSEs that will count in the key stage 4 performance tables in 2017. Grading scores will range from 9 to 1.

2016 is the last year that current:

- English language GCSEs
- English literature GCSEs
- English (combined) GCSEs
- mathematics GCSEs
- level 1 and level 2 certificates in these subjects (sometimes known as IGCSEs)

will count in the key stage 4 performance tables. The last exams in existing GCSEs graded A* to G in these subjects will be in summer 2016, with a single opportunity for retakes in the autumn. Schools should prepare for the second wave of new GCSEs starting in September 2016. Grading scores will range from 9 to 1. Ofqual is currently accrediting these qualifications, and awarding organisations will publish accredited specifications in these subjects in due course. Further information on [GCSEs, AS levels and A levels accredited for September 2016](#) is available.

UPDATED

January 2016: curriculum and qualifications

We plan to introduce English Baccalaureate subjects at GCSE for

pupils currently in year 7. We have an open [consultation](#) on this proposal and would like your views. The consultation closes on 29 January 2016. The government will publish its response later in the spring term in 2016.

NEW

January 2016: curriculum and qualifications

We have made changes to how we count English qualifications in new headline [secondary accountability measures](#) from 2016.

[Progress 8 and Attainment 8](#): if a student sits both English language and English literature, the higher grade is counted twice (double-weighted). The lower grade can count in the 'open' element of these measures.

The combined English language and literature qualification will be available for the last time in 2016. It will be double-weighted in the Progress 8 and Attainment 8 measures.

If pupils take only GCSE English literature or English language, this qualification will count, but will not be double-weighted.

Examples of calculating Progress 8 and Attainment 8 are included in the [guidance](#).

English Baccalaureate: a pupil must study both English language and English literature and achieve a C grade or better in at least 1 of these qualifications (in 2016, a C in combined English will be sufficient). English and maths A* to C: a pupil would have to achieve a C grade or above in either English literature or English language. There is no requirement to sit both (in 2016, a C in combined English will be sufficient).

NEW

January 2016: curriculum and qualifications

Following a recent judicial review case, we have published

[guidance](#) to schools on the teaching of religious education (RE).

UPDATED

January 2016: 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 the commemorations to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1. The next programme of visits will be in February and March 2016.

UPDATED

January 2016: 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](#). The next programme of visits will be in spring 2016.

NEW

February 2016: curriculum and qualifications

We will publish data on 2015 school and college performance against the [key stage 5 minimum standards](#).

UPDATED

Spring 2016: curriculum and qualifications

The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music has published '[Classical 100](#)'. This is a free, web-based resource for all primary school teachers looking to introduce their pupils to classical music. It offers 100 pieces of music selected by primary



school specialists to appeal to children's curiosity in music.

NEW

21 January 2016: pupils

We will publish final key stage 4 (KS4) and key stage 5 (KS5) destination measures data, including data on independent schools. This will show the 2013 to 2014 destinations of students who were included in the 2012 to 2013 KS4 or KS5 performance tables. [Previous data](#) is available.

NEW

21 January 2016: pupils

Schools may find this information about the [resettlement of Syrian refugees and their children](#) helpful. You may also be interested in this [article about supporting refugee children](#) which appeared in 'Headteacher update'.

UPDATED

Spring 2016: pupils

Schools should consider buying defibrillators at a reduced price. [More information on how to buy, install and maintain](#) them is available.

NEW

1 January 2016: staffing

We have updated our [advice on implementing a school's approach to pay](#). Mid-year reviews are a good opportunity to check that teachers know how you will assess their progress. You should also ensure arrangements are in place to support

evidence-based pay decisions at the end of the academic year.

NEW

January 2016: staffing

Schools can [check the status of any teachers](#) (including any sanctions and prohibitions) that they employ, or are considering employing, using the [teacher services web portal](#).

NEW

January 2016: staffing

All qualified teachers in England can access the [teacher self-service website](#) to view and update their details.

NEW

1 January 2016: staffing

From 1 January 2016, [registered childminders can work for up to half their time from suitable non-domestic premises](#).

NEW

January 2016: governance

We have published [guidance](#) for all schools on dealing with issues and complaints relating to parental responsibility.

NEW

January 2016: buildings

We will publish a questionnaire in January 2016 on how schools in England manage asbestos. Headteachers should complete the

questions on behalf of their school. The deadline for responding is 29 February 2016.

Autumn term 2016

NEW

December 2016: curriculum and qualifications

We will introduce compulsory resit tests in December 2017 in English reading and maths for year 7 pupils who do not reach the required standard at the end of key stage 2. Sample tests will be available in December 2016 to help schools prepare. Schools may use these sample tests with their pupils if they wish.

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