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Guidance

Timeline for sixth-form and further education colleges: useful

Updated 13 April 2016

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NEW

May 2016: headline performance measures for 16- to 19-year-olds

We will issue shadow data on the [headline measures we will publish in the 2016 16 to 19 performance tables](#).

UPDATED

Reformed GCSEs and A levels

Schools should prepare for the [second wave of reformed GCSEs and A levels](#) starting in September 2016. Grading scores in the GCSEs will range from 9 to 1.

The [first wave of reformed GCSEs](#) in English literature, English language and mathematics were taught for the first time in September 2015. The first exams will be in summer 2017. They are the only English and maths GCSEs that will count in the key stage 4 performance tables in 2017. Grading scores will also range from 9 to 1.

This year (2016) is the last year that the following current qualifications will count in key stage 4 performance tables:

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

The last exams in existing GCSEs graded A* to G in these subjects will be in summer 2016, with an opportunity for retakes in the autumn.

NEW

Technical and vocational qualifications

We have published [lists of technical and vocational qualifications](#) for teaching from September 2016 and reporting in the 2018 performance tables.

NEW

Summer 2016: GCSE, AS and A level specifications

Awarding organisations will begin to publish new draft specifications for the third wave of reformed:

- [GCSEs](#)
- [AS and A levels](#)

starting in September 2017. The first examinations will be in summer 2019 (AS level in 2018). Schools offering these subjects must choose specifications, contact awarding organisations and plan for these new qualifications.


NEW

Teachers' professional development

We will publish the standard for teachers' professional development. The standard has been produced by an independent expert group to help schools improve the quality and availability of professional development.

NEW

Safer recruitment: pre-appointment checks for teachers

Schools and colleges (including sixth-form colleges) can use the [teacher services system \(accessed via secure access web portal\)](#)  to check for restrictions or sanctions imposed by other


European Economic Area (EEA) teacher regulators.

The system will display restrictions made after 18 January 2016.

You should check for EEA restrictions as part of the other safer recruitment [pre-appointment checks](#) described in part 3 of '[Keeping children safe in education](#)'. The secure access login page 'announcements' section provides information about this check.


UPDATED

Update teacher details online

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

UPDATED

May 2016: new school applications

We plan to update the guidance on [how to apply to set up a new school](#) by May 2016. If you are interested in applying, you should [register your interest](#)  as early as possible; this will allow us to start looking for potential sites for your school and to check the level of need for a new school in your preferred location.

The next application window is expected to close in September 2016.

NEW

Legal duties under the Data Protection Act: privacy notices


Schools and local authorities have a legal duty, under the Data Protection Act, to inform parents, pupils and staff how they will use their personal data, eg sharing their data with DfE through the school workforce and school censuses.


To help you with this, we provide [model privacy notices](#). You

should review and amend these as necessary for your specific circumstances. In order to make these individuals fully aware of our use of their data we strongly advise you reference our use in the National Pupil Database and onward sharing, retaining the link to '[Data protection: how we collect and share research data](#)'. We suggest that you make relevant privacy notices available to parents on your school website and to teaching staff in their induction packs. In order to ensure parents remain informed, some schools also choose to refer to this in their communications to parents.

NEW

Legal duties under the Data Protection Act: data security

Schools and local authorities have a legal duty under the Data Protection Act to ensure that any personal data they process is handled and stored securely. Further information is available from the [Information Commissioners Office](#) .

If personal data is not properly safeguarded it could damage your reputation and compromise the safety of individuals. Your responsibility as a data controller extends to those who have access to your data beyond your organisation if working on your behalf, eg if external IT suppliers can remotely access your information. The '[10 steps to cyber security](#)' and '[Responsible for information](#) ' pages provide further guidance and advice.

It is vital that all staff with access to personal data understand the importance of protecting it; that they are familiar with your security policy; and that they put security procedures into practice. So you should provide appropriate initial and refresher training. Further information on handling data securely can also be found in the [DfE guidance on data protection for schools consider cloud software services](#).

NEW

Extremism and radicalisation website

The government has developed a free [e-learning tool](#) for school staff to increase their awareness of radicalisation. The tool helps staff identify potential signs of radicalisation and provides information to help protect those at risk.

We have launched the [Educate Against Hate](#) website. It provides advice and resources for parents, teachers and school leaders to help them protect young people from extremism and radicalisation.

NEW

Beta version of performance tables website

We have published a [beta version of a new performance tables](#) website. The new site makes it easier for parents, schools and governors to access important performance data. The existing site will remain open for a short time after which we will redirect users to the new site.

NEW

National citizen service

The [National Citizen Service](#) (NCS) are recruiting schools and pupils to take part in this summer's NCS programme which starts in July 2016. NCS will help develop important character traits in 16- and 17-year-olds to prepare them for adult life. [Contact NCS](#) for more information.

Autumn term 2016


NEW

September 2016: 16 to 19 English and maths

There will be 2 opportunities to re-sit legacy maths and English GCSEs in the 2016 to 2017 academic year. Resits will take place in November 2016 and June 2017. The additional summer resit will allow students who do not secure A* to C grades in the final summer exams of the legacy maths and English GCSEs in June 2016 a full year to prepare for their resit. The additional summer resit will be restricted to students aged 16 or over on 31 August 2016.

UPDATED

Auschwitz-Birkenau visits

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 autumn 2016.

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