



Department  
for Education

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Guidance

# Timeline for independent schools: useful

Updated 15 September 2016

**Contents**

Autumn term 2016

## Autumn term 2016

### NEW

#### October 2016: 16 to 19 accountability - destination measures

In October 2016 we will publish destination measures data, including for the first time data from HM Revenue and Customs and DWP, showing the 2014 to 2015 destinations of students

[↑ Contents](#)

who were included in the 2013 to 2014 KS4 or KS5 performance tables. [Previous data is available](#).

## NEW

### **October 2016: 16 to 19 accountability - technical guidance on headline measures**

We have [updated technical guidance](#) on 16 to 19 accountability headline performance measures.

## UPDATED

### **Reformed GCSEs and A levels**

Pupils sat the last exams in existing GCSEs graded A\* to G in English and maths in summer 2016. There are opportunities for retakes in autumn 2016 and summer 2017. Schools should begin to prepare for the [third wave of reformed GCSEs and A levels](#) starting in September 2017. Specifications for all 2017 subjects will be available on awarding organisation websites and Ofqual maintains a [list of qualifications as they are accredited](#). Grading scores in the GCSEs will range from 9 to 1.

## NEW

### **GCSE, AS and A level changes: resources**

In mid-July, we and Ofqual circulated a [slide pack resource](#) that schools and colleges can use to communicate with students and parents about changes to:

- GCSEs, AS and A levels
- performance measures

You can find the resource via the [qualification resource timeline on TES online](#) [↗](#), under the teachers resources' button for

Autumn Term 2016.

## **NEW**

### **1 September 2016: Ofqual National Reference Test**

From 1 September 2016 local-authority-maintained secondary schools and the vast majority of academies must take part in [Ofqual's national reference test \(NRT\)](#), if selected. This does not apply to independent schools but we expect that these schools will want to participate voluntarily if selected, to ensure the test is fully representative. Ofqual has appointed the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) as its test supplier. NFER will contact selected schools in September.

## **NEW**

### **Technical and applied qualifications**

We will publish lists of technical and applied qualifications approved for teaching from September 2017 and reporting in the 2019 performance tables. We will publish them alongside lists of [technical and applied qualifications](#) approved for reporting in earlier years.

## **NEW**

### **Post-16 skill plans**

On 8 July 2016, we published the ['Post-16 skills plan'](#) and the [final report of Lord Sainsbury's independent panel](#), which set out plans for reforming the 16+ skills system. We want to work with the sector to develop the detailed plans for carrying out the reforms, which include the phased introduction of 15 new technical education routes from September 2019. We will publish further details during the autumn term to help schools and post-16

providers prepare for implementation.


## NEW

### Changes to DfE email addresses

We are [removing '.gsi' from our email addresses](#). From 1 October 2016 joe.bloggs@education.gsi.gov.uk will become joe.bloggs@education.gov.uk. Update your DfE email contact details from 1 October. This change does not affect the security of the information you are sending to us.


## NEW

### Make your Mark youth vote open until 5 October

Young people will have the opportunity to vote on which topic should be the subject of the UK Youth Parliament's national campaign. This engagement can form part of schools' PSHE or citizenship curriculum. The ballot is open now and will run until 5 October. Schools can [register online to take part](#) .



## UPDATED

### Revised pupil premium reviews guide

In May 2016, the Teaching Schools Council and NCTL updated [guidance on arranging effective pupil premium reviews](#) .


## UPDATED

### Extremism and radicalisation website

The government has developed a [free e-learning tool for school staff](#)  to increase their awareness of radicalisation. The [Educate Against Hate website](#)  provides advice and resources for parents, teachers and school leaders to help them protect young people from extremism and radicalisation.


## UPDATED

### **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, for example, sharing their data with DfE through the school workforce and school censuses. To help you with this, we provide [model privacy notices](#). We suggest you make relevant privacy notices available to parents on your school website and to teaching staff in their induction packs and that you refer to them in communications with parents.

## NEW

### **September 2016: 30 hours of free childcare toolkit**

In September 2017, 3- and 4-year-olds of working parents will be entitled to 30 hours of free childcare a week. Schools may want to offer these funded hours, either directly or in partnership with others. In September 2016 we will publish a toolkit on the [Family and Childcare Trust website](#)  to help those considering partnership working.

## NEW

### **September 2016: updated guidance to academy conversion**

In September 2016 we will publish updated guidance to make the [academy conversion process](#) easier. For more information on how to convert, contact your local [regional schools commissioner](#).

## NEW

### **Teacher workload reports**

DfE and Ofsted have accepted all the recommendations made in 3 independent reports on teacher workload, relating to:

- [marking](#)
- [lesson planning](#)
- [data management](#)

Schools should also follow their recommendations to remove unnecessary workload in these areas. We invite schools to provide examples of how they are using the reports. Before 1 October 2016, please email: [workload.solutions@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:workload.solutions@education.gsi.gov.uk). After 1 October 2016, please email: [workload.solutions@education.gov.uk](mailto:workload.solutions@education.gov.uk).

## UPDATED

### Teachers' professional development

We published the [standard for teachers' professional development](#) on 12 July 2016. Written by independent experts, it aims to help schools improve the quality and availability of professional development.

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