

education insight

Education Insight: for those working in the education sector

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welcome

to the September edition of our newsletter for those working in the education sector. We hope you will find this a useful summary of latest developments in schools, further and higher education and the training and apprenticeships arena. If you have any comments on the format or want more detail about a particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.



society-wide mission to tackle early literacy and communication

Education Secretary, Damien Hinds, released a nationwide campaign on 22 July 2019 in aid of supporting families to improve their children's language and literacy skills before they start school.

This campaign, formally known as 'Hungry Little Minds', will provide parents with guidance including video tips, advice and suggested activities in order to boost their children's skills before attending school.

It has been announced that 1,800 school-based nursery places will be created for those from a disadvantaged areas, to ensure that more children have access to a higher quality of education. This is will be backed by an investment worth approximately £24 million.

In addition to this, the Education Secretary plans on providing parents with access to

high quality educational apps. The idea behind this is to make sure that a child's screen time is made more productive and so that they're also learning from home.

This campaign plans to close the gap between those children who have access to a higher quality of education in comparison to those who aren't. Unfortunately, it was found that the majority of children who were found to leave their reception class without the reaching a good level of skill in language and literacy, were from low-income families.

The Education Secretary announced stated:

"Every parent wants to give their child the best start in life but not everyone has family support at hand and there is no manual telling us how to do everything right..."

To launch the campaign, the Education Secretary attended Dunraven School in

Streatham to meet with parents who were going to benefit from the scheme. Once of the sessions that was being held was a 'Stay and Play' session, where parents were encouraged to get involved in activities with their children whilst also receiving tips and advice.

To read the full news article please [click here](#).

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school teachers' pay rise by 2.75%

Teachers and leaders are set to receive a pay rise by 2.75% following the Education Secretary's receipt of recommendations from the independent School Teachers' Review Body. This 2.75% rise will raise both the upper and lower boundaries of all pay ranges and places it above current rates of inflation. However, schools will continue to have the authority to determine how staff are paid.

The minimum wage for classroom teachers will increase by between £653 (rest of England) and £816 (inner London). This in turn increases the minimum starting salary for a qualified teacher from £23,720 to £24,373 (outside of London) and from £29,664 to £30,480 in inner London.

This will see classroom teachers at the higher end of the pay scale seeing an increase of between £963 and £1,111. Experienced teachers' at the top end of the pay range will see an increase in their wage between £3,053 and £3,259.

The Education Secretary has expressed that it is their focus to ensure that salaries for teachers recognise the vital role that they play as part of his strategy to recruit and retain the best teaching staff in the profession.

This announcement followed the news that almost a million public sector workers were to get a second year of inflation –busting pay rises.

To read the full news article please [click here](#).

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reducing teacher workload

The Department of Education has released a number of documents to advise school leaders, teachers and staff on how to reduce workload, so that they have more quality time to spend engaging students and bettering themselves.

In July 2018, the Department of Education published a 'workload reduction toolkit' which includes collaborative discussions, case studies of successful methods to reduce workloads and support to help review and streamline. To accompany this, a short advice document and a video explaining how the Department is working within the profession to aid teachers.

School leaders have the support of the Secretary of State for education, Ofsted, ASCL, NAHT, NGA and CST; confirmed in writing in November 2018.

To address the national drivers of workload, a simpler system of accountability with a minimum lead-in time for significant changes to support schools has been released. There has now been introduced a period of stability in which no change to the curriculum, GCSE or A levels will take place during this government to give teachers somewhat of a 'rest period'.

The results from the evidence gathered in the Winter 2018 School Snapshot survey were published in July 2019 which gathered the views of school leaders and teachers on actions taken to reduce unnecessary workload.

The results state that in Winter 2018 over 99.5% of school leaders reported that their school had undertaken at least one action to evaluate and reduce unnecessary workload which suggests that almost

all schools are actively reducing teacher workload. Within those schools that had taken action 61% of teachers stated that in an 'average' week their workload had been reduced - this is significantly higher than the 49% in Summer 2018 which would suggest that teacher workloads are decreasing.

To read the full article please [click here](#).

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understanding the educational background of young offenders

The Department of Education has released figures which breakdown the custodial sentence lengths faced by young offenders and details key information on children and young people sentenced to short custody.

Findings:

The young offenders sentenced in 2014 that were at the end of Key Stage 2 in academic year 2007/08:

- 46% of those who were sentenced to custody of 6 months or less achieved the expected level in Maths. 56% achieved the expected level in reading and 29% achieved the expected level in writing.

- 55% of those who were given a 6 to 12 months custodial sentence achieved the expected level in Maths. 52% achieved the expected level in reading and only 26% achieved the expected level in writing.

The young offenders sentenced in 2014 that were at the end of Key Stage 4 in academic year 2012/13:

- 1% of those sentenced to custody for 6 months or less achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) graded A* - C including English and Maths. 3% of those sentenced between 6 to 12 months achieved this standard.

- 42% of those given custodial sentences 6 months or less were known to be eligible for Free School Meals, with the figure for those sentenced to between 6 and 12 months being 43%.

- 42% of those sentenced to 6 months or less were recorded as having Special Educational Needs without a statement and 29% as having Special Educational Needs with a statement. 56% of those sentenced to between 6 and 12 months were recorded as having Special Educational Needs without a statement and 24% were recorded as having Special Educational Needs with a statement.

To read the summary report in full please [**click here**](#).

“ 1% of those sentenced to custody for 6 months or less achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) graded A - C including English and Maths. 3% of those sentenced between 6 to 12 months achieved this standard. ”*



education secretary says post-16 options better than ever, as GCSE results released

Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, has highlighted the increasing number of opportunities available for those who have collected their GCSE results this summer. There were an estimated 5.2 million GCSE entries this year, which sees the total from last year being increased by 50,000.

Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson has noted:

"The opportunities that await them are the best they've ever been, so whether they go on to do A level, an apprenticeship, technical or vocational qualification, they will do so with the skills they need to thrive

in 21st century Britain, and support this country as we build for the future."

The quality of available apprenticeships and A levels, allows students to have confidence in their futures and the education that they receive along the journey.

Of the 5.2 million GCSE entries this year, provisional data suggests that 4.2 million were for EBacc subjects, which is up by almost 4% in comparison to the previous academic year. We've also seen a rise in entries for students to study Spanish and French. In addition to this, there was a 3.2% increase of entries for art subjects which demonstrates that students are receiving a well-rounded education that is not limited to the core subjects.

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has said:

"I'm delighted to see an increase in those studying EBacc subjects – including science, computing and foreign languages – as well as creative studies, meaning pupils are getting the rigorous yet well-rounded education they need."

To read the full press release please [click here](#).

"The quality of available apprenticeships and A levels, allows students to have confidence in their futures and the education that they receive along the journey."



policy — your need to know guide

£33.5 million to support schools to improve

It was announced by the Education Secretary on 19 July 2019 that high-performing academy trusts are to be encouraged to grow and support more schools across England, together with the support of £17 million. This fund, taken from The Trust Capacity Fund, is to be used by the high-performing schools to increase the standards of a number of sponsored schools.

Additionally, the Government is setting out details of a new package worth approximately £16.5 million, which will be used to support and improve 2,400 underperforming schools.

To read the full article please [click here](#).

Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education

The Department of Education has now made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education mandatory in all secondary schools as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. Although this new curriculum won't be mandatory until September 2020, schools are being encouraged to implement this from September 2019. The Secretary of State has advised that this new curriculum will be 'complemented by development of personal attributes including kindness, integrity, generosity, and honesty.'

To read the full article please [click here](#).

Competition launches to find best early years apps

On 31 July 2019, the competition was launched to find the best app that encourages the development of children's early language skills and literacy skills at home. 12 pilot areas have been given the task of trialling two of the highest-quality apps and aims to encourage parents to consider how to utilise their children's' screen time constructively.

To read the full news article please [click here](#).

Get help to increase participation in advanced maths

The advanced mathematics support programme provides resources and support to improve teaching and increase participation in post-16 maths education.

The programme will provide support for AS and A level maths; further maths and level 3 core maths. With this the support that is received includes online and face-to-face continuing professional development; online teaching resources; events and material to promote further study in maths and STEM subjects; tuition support for further maths students and support for students preparing for university maths entry tests. Additional support can be made available for schools and colleges where there is low participation levels in level 3 maths.

To find out more, please [click here](#).

meet the team

As the evolving educational landscape continues to open up new opportunities and present challenges, you need to be confident that you are getting the right legal advice, at the right time and, of course, at the right price. Ward Hadaway's Education Team is recognised as a leading national player. Our friendly, commercial and pragmatic approach allows you to be reassured that you are in safe hands.

Whether you are a maintained school, academy, multi academy trust, free school, studio school or UTC, our team have an in-depth, up-to-date knowledge of the sector, making us ideally placed to offer the best possible advice to all those involved in the delivery of educational excellence for pupils, students and their communities. [Click here](#) to read about how we can work with you.



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