

# education insight

Education Insight: for those working in the education sector

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# welcome

to the February 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.



## schools encouraged to open up sports facilities all year round

**Thousands of children are set to benefit from additional sporting activities being made available after school and during the school holidays following a £1.6 million funding boost to aid schools in utilising their facilities better. The funding is set to provide opportunities across the country including in North Yorkshire and County Durham.**

The total funding worth £2.4 million is part of a national drive to encourage children to take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. The funding is to be allocated to ensure that better sports activities and teaching is made more widely available and will see 19 schools across England collaborate with sports organisations to increase the opportunities to use school sports facilities outside of school hours.

The Active Partnership Network will set up partnerships between schools and local sport providers, to encourage them to provide after school clubs and take part in sporting events.

Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary has stated:

*"Getting children active from a young age helps them build confidence and learn skills they will use in later life. Many schools already open up their facilities so their communities can benefit and I want to encourage even more to do so."*

*"By backing schools with this extra money we can make more fun activities available all year round – everything from football to dodgeball – to help children find a sport that they will enjoy and which will keep them healthy."*

An additional benefit is that schools will be able to generate a sustainable income from leasing their premises to external organisations at affordable rates.

The Sports Minister, Nigel Adams has said:

*"It is absolutely right that every child, regardless of background, has the chance to learn how to run, jump, throw and catch to develop a healthy lifestyle."*

*"By opening up school sports halls and playing fields to sport clubs and the wider community, we will increase opportunities, particularly for those with the least access and from the most deprived areas and deliver on our manifesto commitment."*

The government has pledged as part of the £2.4 million funding, to provide a grant of £500,000 across nine teaching schools which are renowned for their expertise in sport. This grant will aim to trial new ways to engage with pupils who are not as active and to develop the skills of and confidence in PE teachers.

The funding will also aim to encourage and increase the number of youth volunteers

in communities, in particular, Birmingham will receive a £20,000 grant as part of a £300,000 package that is being distributed across the country.

Mike Diaper, Sport England's Director of Children and Young People said:


*"A significant amount of community sports facilities are found in schools. This new funding will help support schools to open up their facilities beyond the school day so they can be used for as long as possible by young people and the wider community and link schools up with great local activities."*

*"The 19 Active Partnerships around the country will be working with local schools to make it easier, overcome some of the obstacles and share best practice – in what will be a win-win for pupils, community members and local sports clubs."*

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

### How can we help?

If you are approached by a community association or club or wish to connect with a local partnership, we would recommend having a contract in place with regard to the use of your facilities. If you require any advice, **please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team**, we'd be happy to help and offer you some guidance.



# new data to help students see future earnings boost

**Data that has never been available before is set to provide thousands of students with details of potential earnings based on new data that has been collected which shows what graduates from each university earn in different regions of the UK today (23rd January 2020).**

The purpose of releasing this data is to better equip young people when they make their decisions about whether to go to university, where to study as well as their graduate opportunities. The data that has been made available outlines what graduates from each university earned five years after finishing their studies, the figures have been adjusted for regional differences in earnings across the country.

The Universities Minister Chris Skidmore has said:

*"It's great to see that all over the country, it pays to have a degree from our world-leading universities, and they are bringing benefits to all of the regions."*

*"This data is a milestone for the thousands of future students, helping them to work out whether university is for them, and where to study and work. I hope this will particularly help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to see the benefits, who are often more likely to stay in their home region."*

*"Of course earnings potential is just one factor for students, but we believe they should have all the facts to make their*

*decision. It is important for young people to know that they will not only get a rich education at university, but that their degree will be good value for money."*

The data shows that graduates earn a median salary of £19,900 one year after graduating, £23,300 after three years, £26,000 after five, and £30,500 after ten years. This data also demonstrated that graduates in all regions of the country earned on average around 20% more than those in the same region who did not attend university.

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

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# high-tech products to level the playing field for disabled pupils

**New technology trials that are to test new equipment to assist disabled pupils in the classroom are to take place across the country in the first programme of its kind in the world. The new technology is set to include ‘text-to-speech’ and ‘speech recognition’ software which will support pupils with dyslexia to read and proof-read. Other trials will include the use of eye-gaze technology, which can help pupils with severe motor impairments to communicate, this should in turn help to level the playing field for children with additional needs.**

The trials will initially be funded by an investment of £300,000, as part of a wider investment of £10 million through the Department’s EdTech Strategy, which aims to transform the use of technology in education.

The pilot is set to run between April 2020 until the end of the 2020-21 academic year and will monitor the impact of different types of technology and how they will assist pupils who require additional assistance.

EdTech exports are worth approximately £170 million to the UK economy, and the strategy will deliver on the Government’s aim for tech firms to work with the education sector and create innovative solutions to 10 key education challenges, including the following:

- Promote use of innovative tech to level the playing field for people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Reduce teachers’ marking workload
- Demonstrate how artificial intelligence can support the effective delivery of on-line learning and training for adults; and
- Prove that the use of apps contributes to improved literacy and communications skills for disadvantaged children.

Chief Executive of Nasa, Professor Adam Boddison has said:

*“Assistive technology is increasingly being used by schools to ensure that pupils with SEND have full access to the curriculum offer. This programme will play an important role in providing a reliable evidence base for schools so they can be as effective as possible in their use of assistive technology.”*

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

*“EdTech exports are worth approximately £170 million to the UK economy, and the strategy will deliver on the Government’s aim for tech firms to work with the education sector...”*



# teachers set for biggest sustained pay increase since 2005

**Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson has outlined plans to increase the starting salaries of teachers to at least £26,000 in September 2020, with those working in outer and inner London to rise to £30,000 and £32,000. This is to make significant steps towards the Government's plans to increase teachers' starting salaries to £30,000 by September 2022, ensuring that the teacher pay package is one of the most competitive in the graduate recruitment market.**

To make the teaching profession an increasingly attractive career path, experienced teachers, heads and school leaders are set to receive an above inflation pay increase of 2.5 per cent to their pay ranges, with early career teachers' salaries increasing by up to 6.7 per cent.

The Education Secretary has stated:

*"We want to make teaching attractive to the most talented graduates by recognising the prestige that we as a society place on the profession."*

*"We have set out proposals to significantly raise starting salaries for new teachers to £25,000 next year, rising to £30,000 by September 2022, alongside above-inflation pay increases for senior teachers and school leaders. These mark the biggest reform to teacher pay in a generation."*

Analysis suggest that the above changes could see over 1,000 extra teachers retained per year by 2022/23.

The School Teacher's Review Body (STRB) is set to review the Department's proposals and respond with their recommendations later on this year.

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

## What are people saying?

Although it is welcome news for some that wages are increasing, it's not so much a welcome proposal for schools who will not be receiving any extra funding to cover the rises, which will in turn cost schools £455 million.

In a response to the School Teachers' Review Body, the government has stated that the rises are affordable due to the additional £2.6 billion that is being added to the schools budget for 2020/21.

Geoff Barton, general secretary of the Association of School and College leaders has said it is *"obvious that many schools will not have enough additional funding to cover the increased costs. It will necessitate further savings, which will mean reducing teachers, support staff, or both."*

*"Although it is welcome news for some that wages are increasing, it's not so much a welcome proposal for schools who will not be receiving any extra funding to cover the rises, which will in turn cost schools £455 million."*





# britain set for post-brexit education revolution

**With the UK's departure from the EU set in stone, the Education Secretary has called on more than 100 education ministers at the Education World Forum to ensure that international relationships are nurtured, in order to place Britain in the best possible position post- leaving the EU.**

Gavin Williamson announced a one-year extension to a £2.5 million school exchange programme which will enable children from disadvantaged backgrounds to experience other countries, cultures and improve language skills.

Mr Williamson has noted that:

*"The UK has always been an outward-looking and global nation, with a proud history and record when it comes to education and innovation."*

*"Just over a week from now, the UK will leave the EU. This is the perfect opportunity to march forward and be the global leader in educating children, young people and adults. Make no mistake, I want the UK to be the best place in the world to educate your child and make the most of people's talents."*

*"Achieving this comes by working in partnership with the rest of the world and that will not change. With world leading universities and one of the best school systems in the world, we are and will continue to be a global leader in education."*

The Education Secretary has further made it clear that the UK's doors are open to international students who want to benefit from its leading education and this was demonstrated back in September 2019 when the new graduate visa route was created.

Data that was published on 16 January 2020 details that UK higher education institutions hosted almost 486,000 students from outside the UK in 2018/19, an increase of 27,000 on the previous year. The Government hopes to reach 600,000 international students by 2030.

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

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# free period products for all schools and colleges

**From Monday 20th January, schools have been granted access to order a range of period products from the supplier PHS Group, in order to make products readily available for all young people when required.**

Children and Families Minister Michelle Donelan said:

*"Periods are a normal part of everyday life and we do not want young people missing out on lessons because of them."*

*"We know that it is not easy for everyone to access period products where and when they need them. This scheme will deal with those problems so young people can go about their daily lives without getting caught out if they have come on their period unexpectedly, forgotten to bring products with them or if they can't afford the products they need."*

This initiative comes just months before health education becomes compulsory for all state funded primary and secondary school, under new guidance which will take form from September 2020.

David Taylor-Smith, CEO of PHS Group has said:

*"We have been busy preparing for the launch of this scheme and we are ready for the first wave of demand. We encourage schools and colleges to look out for their activation email and make their first order so they can start offering free products as soon as possible."*

*"Period products are a necessity, not a luxury, and we believe providing free products for young people will be a catalyst for change in creating period equality. We are proud to be the supplier for such a worthy scheme."*

In addition to this initiative, the Government has also introduced the £15 million annual Tampon Tax Fund to support women's charities and has further made a commitment to end period poverty globally by 2030.

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

## What are people saying?

The scheme that was due to launch in September 2019 has now hit the ground running and has of course come under scrutiny. It has been noted that PHS Group have received £11.4 million from the Government to deliver the scheme that requires £18 million, should all eligible pupils take up the offer. Should extra funding be required, the DfE has previously informed people that they will have to go to the Treasury for more money, if more than the anticipated amount of pupils require the products.

*"In addition to this initiative, the Government has also introduced the £15 million annual Tampon Tax Fund to support women's charities and has further made a commitment to end period poverty globally by 2030."*





# prime minister boosts schools with £14 billion

**The Prime Minister has announced a cash boost of over £14 billion for primary and secondary education across England between now and 2022/23.**

The funding package is being pumped into 5-16 schools and includes £2.6 billion for 2020/21, £4.8 billion for 2021/22 and £7.1 billion for 22/23 compared to 2019/2020. This will in turn bring the schools budget to 2022/23 billion in 2022/23.

As part of this announcement, every secondary school is set to receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil next year, with every primary schools getting a minimum of £4,000 from 2021/22.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are going to receive £780 million extra in 2020/21. This is to ensure that every pupil has access to the education that is appropriate for them and what they should be receiving.

The Prime Minister has made the following comments:

*"Today (10th January) I can announce the first step in delivering on that pledge – funding per pupil in primary and secondary schools will increase, and be levelled up across the entire country."*

*"We should not accept the idea that there can be "winners or losers" when it comes*

*to our children's futures. That's why we are providing additional funding now and for the future for every school, with those historically underfunded receiving the greatest increase."*

*"My government will ensure all young people get the best possible start in life. That means the right funding, but also giving schools the powers they need to deal with bad behaviour and bullying so pupils continue to learn effectively."*

The Education Secretary has said:

*"We owe it to be next generation to ensure our education system is world class, and that nothing stands in the way of our young people having the best choices in life, whatever course they take."*

*"The £14 billion funding increase – the largest cash boost in a generation – means our schools can continue to raise standards and build an education system that boosts productivity, improves social mobility and equips children with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the bright future that lies ahead."*

*"In addition to this package, schools will receive £4.4 billion over three years to cover rising pension costs and ensure they can focus their resources on the front line."*

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

## What are people saying?

Following an analysis from the SEND Action campaign group, they have revealed that the extra £780 million funding that the Prime Minister has pledged to inject to support pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities, will simply cover hefty funding shortfalls as a result of a lack of funding over the years.

Julie Cordiner, an education funding specialist and co-founder of School Financial Success Publications has stated:

*"The scale of the problems is staggering; the extra money clearly isn't sufficient and the Department of Education seems to be focusing online on in-year, rather than cumulative deficits."*

***"As part of this announcement, every secondary school is set to receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil next year, with every primary schools getting a minimum of £4,000 from 2021/22."***





# multi-million-pound culture boost for children in schools package

**An £80 million investment by the Government into music hubs is to provide thousands more children with access to learn an instrument and play in orchestras or choirs. Charities that also help young people learn about music are also due to receive a further £1 million grant as part of a move to support the next generation of musicians. As well as music, cultural education programmes are to receive an additional £4 million funding boost next year.**

The School Standards Minister Nick Gabb has said:

*"Music, arts and culture play an essential role in enriching pupils' education, and we want to give as many young people as possible the opportunity to learn an instrument or perform in a choir or a band."*

*"Our continued investment will play an important role in helping young people widen their horizons and access all the opportunities that learning a musical instrument can provide – whether that be playing for pleasure or performing."*

A total of £85million is to be invested into the following curriculum schemes for 2020/21:

- Music Education Hubs
- In Harmony
- National Youth Music Organisations (NY-MOs) and Music for Youth; and
- Cultural education (Heritage Schools, BFI Film Academy, Museums and Schools, ACE Bridge Network, National Youth Dance Company, Saturday Art and Design Clubs).

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

## What are people saying?

The CEO of Youth Music has noted that the number of hours for teaching arts subjects in secondary schools is decreasing, along with the number of arts teachers. Last year it was reported that the number of secondary school music teachers fell from 7,500 in 2010 to 6,500 in 2017. The CEO is calling for the departments for education and for culture, media and sport to work together collaboratively to put the new National Plan for Music Education in place as soon as possible.

Research has demonstrated that music in schools can re-engage pupils in education as well as develop their confidence and resilience.

*“Research has demonstrated that music in schools can re-engage pupils in education as well as develop their confidence and resilience.”*



# government announces plans for universal school inspections

**To bring an end to the current system which allows some schools to not come under scrutiny of Ofsted for over 10 years, the Government has proposed that all schools that have been rated as outstanding will be judged within the next 5 years.**

This change will eradicate the exemption that schools who are rated as outstanding do not encounter routine inspections. The new proposal is to ensure that all schools are part of the inspection cycle and should expect to be inspected every 4 to 5 years.

This will in turn affect approximately 3,700 schools and colleges that are currently ranked as outstanding, once the exemption is lifted in September.

The purpose of this change in addressing Ofsted inspections is to ensure that parents are provided with up to date information about every school and can be more confident in the school where their child/children are studying.

Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, has stated:

*"Parents want to know that they are making the best, most informed choices about their children's education. Making sure that all schools are regularly inspected means they will benefit from the expert insight Ofsted provides when making these decisions."*

*"We know parents trust Ofsted - and with good reason. It serves a valuable purpose as the only organisation that gives a clear, accessible and impartial view on school, and college performance."*

*"But it's also far more than that – it's a driver of improvement. Although we continue to trust our best schools and colleges to get on with the job of educating, without Ofsted standards, would go unchecked and the exemption meant there is often not an up to date picture."*

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

## An Ofsted nightmare

An Ofsted inspector has recently deemed a school 'not likely to meet' independent schools standards which has consequently failed a pre-registration inspection. This follows a visit by an Ofsted inspector when on the day of inspection, a kitchen fire set a fire alarm off and the inspector was unable to escape. The first means of exit, via a magnetic door exit on the ground floor, was not operational, with a second fire exit door being tied shut on the inside with a power cable.

*"This change will eradicate the exemption that schools who are rated as outstanding do not encounter routine inspections."*



# 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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