

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THE YEAR AHEAD (AND MORE)

On January 22 the Department for Education (DfE) published information that it says will help headteachers, principals and governors plan ahead, prepare for, and apply mandatory (compulsory) legal requirements during this academic year and beyond. Changes include the introduction of the pupil premium, changes to teachers' pension and new GCSEs and A levels. The department says that it has tried to be as precise as possible, but some of the timings may change.

Blackpool, Bristol, Cambridgeshire, Hackney, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, and Stoke on Trent, will be the first areas to get this pupil premium

Local authorities will get the funding for maintained schools on February 27. The EFA will send funding for academies and free schools on March 2.

KEY: FIND HOW THE CHANGES AFFECT YOUR SCHOOL

ACADEMIES PRU UTC/STUDIO MAINTAINED INDEPENDENT NON-MAINTAINED SPECIAL

JANUARY

2015

- Data for students who were included in the 2011/12 key stage 4 or 5 performance tables published showing their destinations in 2012/13
- Maintained schools and academies should make sure their teachers understand the link between their performance and pay progression
- The DfE will introduce the early years pupil premium early ahead of its introduction in April.
- An extra premium of £500 for each Year 7 pupil who did not achieve at least level 4 in reading and/or maths at KS2 last summer will be given to schools.
- From this month, schools can buy defibrillators, at significantly discounted prices, via a partnership of the DfE with NHS Supply Chain.
- Registration opens for the DfE School Food Excellence Award, to be presented in July 2015. One winner for state primaries and another for state secondaries.
- Implementation of changes to the teachers' pension scheme.
- ASCL, Sixth Form Colleges' Association (SFCA) and NAHT will publish guidance to help schools and colleges implement the new linear A levels and decoupled AS level.
- The DfE will announce the "approved reception baseline suppliers" for primary schools this month. Schools have until the end of April to sign up to their preferred provider.
- Schools able to register for the 2015 Future Scholar Awards scheme.
- Early years pupil premium will be available in all local authority areas.

SEPTEMBER

- It will roll out gradually, with primary-school-aged children in key stage 1 in England first this month. To be effective, immunisation needs to take place between September and December.
- The new AS and A levels will be in: art and design; biology; business studies; chemistry; computer science; economics; English language; English literature; English language and literature; history; physics; psychology; sociology. The first A level exams will be in summer 2017, with AS levels in 2016. The last examination of existing A levels in these subjects will be in the summer of 2016. Awarding organisations publish accredited specifications in these subjects in autumn 2015.
- Only these will count in the KS4 and 5 performance tables in 2017. The last examination of existing GCSEs will be in the summer of 2016, with a single opportunity for retakes in the autumn.
- Includes - technical awards at key stage 4; tech levels at level 3; applied general qualifications at level 3; substantial vocational qualifications at level 2 for 16- to 19-year-olds.
- New GCSE specifications for: ancient languages; art and design; biology; chemistry and physics (single science); combined science; citizenship; computer science; cooking and nutrition; dance; drama; geography; history; modern foreign languages; music; PE; religious studies. First taught from September 2016, with first examinations in summer 2018.

2015

- The DfE is, from this month, extending the annual flu immunisation programme for all children aged 2 to 17.
- Primary schools will be able to use a reception baseline to measure children's progress from September.
- First teaching of new AS and A levels in certain subjects.
- Reformed GCSEs in English and mathematics will be available for first teaching this month. First examinations in summer 2017.
- First teaching begins of the vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2017 key stage 4 and 16 to 19 performance tables.
- Awarding organisations publish new GCSE specifications for certain subjects.
- Implementation of increased employer contributions for the teachers' pension scheme and regulatory changes coming into force.
- Publication of the lists of vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2018 key stage 4 and 16 to 19 performance tables. Only vocational qualifications included in these lists will contribute towards the 2018 school and college performance tables.
- The persistent absence threshold for pupils will change from 15% to 10% from the start of academic year 2015 to 2016. From September 2015 Ofsted will use this new threshold in its inspection regime.

SEPTEMBER

- The first examinations in these subjects will be in summer 2018. The last examination of existing GCSEs in these subjects will be in the summer of 2017. Schools should prepare for the second wave of new GCSEs for first teaching from September 2017. Awarding organisations publish accredited specifications in these subjects in autumn 2016.
- This wave of new teaching will include: ancient languages; dance; drama and theatre; further mathematics; geography; modern languages; music; mathematics; physical education (PE); religious studies. The first A level exams in these will be in summer 2018, with AS level in 2017. The last examination of existing A levels in these subjects will be in the summer of 2017. Be aware of the third wave of new AS and A levels for first teaching from September 2017. Awarding organisations publish accredited specifications in these subjects this autumn.
- These include technical awards (key stage 4, levels 1 and 2); tech levels (16 to 19, level 3); applied general qualifications (16 to 19, level 3); substantial vocational qualifications at level 2 (16 to 19). Only listed technical and vocational qualifications included in these categories will contribute towards the school and college performance tables from 2018 onwards.

2016

- First teaching of new GCSEs in subjects other than English and maths
- First teaching of more new AS and A level subjects.
- First teaching of the technical and vocational qualifications newly approved for inclusion in the 2018 school and college performance tables.
- Funding allocations for the academic year 2016 to 2017 will include an uplift based on students' successful completion, in summer 2014, of large TechBacc programmes (those that are the size of 4 A levels or larger). TechBacc programmes include a tech level qualification, a level 3 maths qualification and an extended project.

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