

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

DfE Updates

Consultation on an additional GCSE, AS and A level exam series in autumn 2020

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION: The DfE has published the consultation decisions and an analysis of the responses has been added.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-additional-gcse-as-and-a-level-exam-series-in-autumn-2020?utm_source=81d4182c-089e-4af7-a534-c554d037260d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Ofqual publishes more details on appeals and confirms autumn exam arrangements

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION: Details of the DfE's consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the exam boards' arrangements for appeals this summer and its decisions on GCSE, AS and A level autumn exams.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-more-details-on-appeals-and-confirms-autumn-exam-arrangements?utm_source=51e5ef70-80b9-4d4b-b308-ebec53136c9b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Providing free school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Guidance for schools and local authorities on free school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The DfE has updated the application form and its guidance on the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups. This is to reflect the change in annual household income threshold to £16,190 after tax.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

NEW GUIDANCE: The DfE has published new guidance on the protective measures necessary for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?department%5B%5D=department-for-education>

Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers progress data

Information about how many laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers we have delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The DfE has published the latest distribution figures up to 30 June 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/laptops-tablets-and-4g-wireless-routers-progress-data>

Communicating with Parents

MESSAGE FROM THE DfE: 'We know schools are doing all they can to reassure parents of the safety measures which are in place to welcome eligible children back to school and college this term.

To support schools with this, as part of the Government's central "Stay Alert" campaign, you are likely to see information adverts on these measures on the radio and online to reassure parents that if their child is eligible to attend school, they should return before the summer break. These messages will sit alongside wider government messaging about public transport and returning to work, which aim to reassure the public as changes to lockdown measures are made.

The leaflets and films below are for parents of children in primary and secondary. You may want to share these with your parent network to support your engagement with children and families who have questions.'

The leaflets can be found here:

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-resources/leaflets/>

The film for primary school pupils can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiefacF2fvY>

The film for secondary school pupils can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/foQuulWoni8>

Early Years Foundation Stage reforms

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION: The DfE has added its consultation response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-foundation-stage-reforms>

Early adopter schools: EYFS framework

NEW PUBLICATION: The DfE has published the early adopters' Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to 5.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-adopter-schools-eyfs-framework>

Early adopter schools: EYFS profile handbook

NEW PUBLICATION: The DfE has published the early adopters' Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile handbook which provides guidance to schools on how to administer the EYFS profile assessment at the end of the reception year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-adopter-schools-eyfs-profile-handbook>

Reforms set to boost early language outcomes and cut workload

DfE PRESS RELEASE: Plans have been published to transform early years learning and development and to reduce unnecessary teacher workload.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-set-to-boost-early-language-outcomes-and-cut-workload>

Universities Minister calls for true social mobility

The Social Mobility Index suggests that Northumberland is one of the least socially mobile local authorities in the country. I have, therefore, provided a link to the recent speech on social mobility made by the Universities Minister.

Speaking to the NEON summit on widening access and mobility, Universities Minister Michelle Donelan, outlines a new approach to social mobility:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universities-minister-calls-for-true-social-mobility>

Local lockdowns: guidance for education and childcare settings

NEW GUIDANCE: The DfE has issued guidance on what schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders, early years and other educational settings need to do if there is a local lockdown during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-lockdowns-guidance-for-education-and-childcare-settings>

Locality Headteacher Meeting

This week's locality headteachers' meeting will take place at 2pm tomorrow, Thursday 2nd July. Please let Deborah Anderson know if there is a change to your representative. I am pleased to tell you that the KOOTH Regional Director, Lisa Locke, will be joining the meeting and will give a 15 minute presentation from around 2.00pm onwards.

The joining link is [here](#).

Schools requesting additional support from NCC staff

As you are aware, the focus of our staff at present is on support for learners with special educational needs and disabilities, to work with schools to enable successful inclusion of these children and young people at this time.

We are also able to consider requests for staff required at short notice to cover absence in schools.

All visits to schools are risk assessed to ensure everyone is safe, and that we adhere to infection control guidance.

Simon Baxter remains the contact for such requests, and schools are asked to contact him at: simon.baxter@northumberland.gov.uk

Simon will endeavour to respond to emails on the same working day.

DfE IT Kit Update

The devices for disadvantaged year 10 pupils, and the tablets for young people open to social care have finally been ordered this week, after the DfE opened the ordering portal on Monday. They should arrive next week.

Schools will be contacted this week or next to arrange delivery. A letter will also be distributed outlining the number of devices to expect and which young people/pupils they are destined for. Dongles will be distributed via social workers.

Reminder to schools with NQTs from September

The Department for Education (DfE) is conducting an early rollout of the Early Career Framework development programme from September 2020 in particular regions, including Northumberland. Participation is voluntary; however we strongly advise all schools to participate. More details are available [here](#).

Schools MUST also sign up to an Appropriate Body as they have in previous years. Please contact [Carol Green](#) to arrange if you haven't done so.

Children will be asked to walk or cycle to school rather than take public transport

The Daily Telegraph is reporting that Ministers have drawn up plans which will see children encouraged not to rely on public buses, trains and trams to travel to and from school, especially not at peak times. Children will be told to walk or cycle to school rather than take public transport when the new term begins in September, the Government will announce this week.

You can read it here: [Telegraph](#).

HR Drop-In Friday 3rd July 9.30am.

This week's Schools' HR Drop In call will take place on Friday 3rd July between 9.30 and 10.30 am. This is the link to join the call - [HR Drop In Call](#). Topics to be discussed include:

- Continued focus on the Return to Work process for September for CEV, CV, etc
- Outbreak Plans and impact on Staff Absence/ Leave of Absence
- Leaked/ Final Government 16 Point Guidance for September Planning
- Potential updates to Risk Assessment and the on-going consultation process
- Changes to the Furlough Scheme with effect from 1st July
- Update from Trade Union/ Professional Association discussions