

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### DfE Updates

#### **Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)**

New guidance issued by the DfE stating what school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **Local authority children's services: coronavirus (COVID-19)**

This is a collection of DfE guidance documents describing what local authority children's services need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-childrens-services-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **Awarding qualifications in summer 2020**

The DfE has published information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.

In addition, guidance on Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths: Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers document have all been updated to reflect autumn 2020 consultation decision outcomes and 2021 exam series consultation proposals.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm\\_source=d631d694-40d4-45b0-924e-620d1581dcf7&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm_source=d631d694-40d4-45b0-924e-620d1581dcf7&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

'This has been a challenging time for everyone working in education, and we recognise the extraordinary lengths you've gone to in order to care for your students. To support you, we have:

- [postponed the statutory implementation of the Reception Baseline Assessment \(RBA\) until Autumn 2021](#) Instead, primary and infant schools can choose to participate in the RBA early adopter year. All eligible schools received information on how to sign up for the early adopter year on 25 June 2020.
- [cancelled or paused all but the most essential data collections](#) You can see a list of ongoing collections and services on GOV.UK along with a summary of changes. The list will next be reviewed in September 2020.
- [provided free mental health resources, guidance and information](#). [Mentally Healthy Schools](#) has been producing regular [toolkit](#) full of useful resources. Each toolkit is themed around a different topic, including anxiety, building resilience and managing transitions - [get the toolkits sent directly to your inbox](#). You can also [sign up for a free webinar](#) hosted by DfE in collaboration with NHS England and Public Health England for school and college staff on 9 July on how to support returning pupils and students with their mental wellbeing.'

#### **Thousands of children offered nutritious breakfasts during summer**

Children from more than 1,800 schools in England who are currently part of our Breakfast Clubs programme will now be offered healthy breakfasts over the summer.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-children-offered-nutritious-breakfasts-during-summer>

## **National professional qualifications (NPQs) reforms**

The DfE has announced its plans to introduce new national professional qualifications (NPQs) and review existing NPQs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms>

### **IMPORTANT: HR Update Webinar, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm.**

A one-hour HR Update Webinar will take place on Monday, 6th July 2020 at 2.30pm.

The aim of the webinar will be to have a 20-30 minute talk through of what we think some of the issues/ considerations will be from yesterday's documents and then a Q&A. We will then plan a daily 30 mins update/ drop in next week so we can keep the advice up-to date as things evolve followed by the standard/ hour long HR drop on Friday morning.

Joining instructions can be found [here](#).

## **Education Welfare / Attendance Update**

The Government has announced that all children and young people are expected to return to education in September. This includes those attending alternative provision but excludes the small number of pupils who will be unable to attend on the basis of public health advice. This means that, from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school, and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Further guidance on coding of attendance will be published by DfE in due course.

Education Welfare will resume their regular weekly monitoring of attendance, recognising that there may be some parents who are reluctant to send

their children back to school and others who may wish to begin elective home education. We will also continue weekly contact with DSLs to monitor attendance of more vulnerable students and those who were persistently absent prior to lockdown.

If you have any questions regarding term time holidays or any other attendance related issues, please contact Sarah Wintringham, Principal Education Welfare Officer on 07584273772 or [sarah.wintringham@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.wintringham@northumberland.gov.uk) Sarah and Jane Walker will also be attending next Thursday's Locality Headteacher meeting to take questions.

## **Accountability**

Ofsted is planning to restart routine inspections from January 2021. However, during the autumn term, inspectors will visit a sample of schools to discuss how they are supporting the return to education for their pupils. These will be collaborative discussions, taking into account curriculum and remote education expectations and will not result in a judgement.

[Read more about assessment and accountability](#)

## **Safe to Learn**

The latest, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin, Safe to Learn, can be found at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-44-03-07-20.pdf>

## **Shakespeare North Playhouse**

### **As You Write It – You Play on Stage**

'As You Write It – You Play on Stage' is a joint initiative from The Shakespeare North Playhouse and The One Show which looks for bright young talent and ideas from across the UK to come up with an idea for a play.

Three winners will be chosen in early 2021 and will have the amazing opportunity to have their final plays performed at the Playhouse in Prescot on Merseyside when it opens in 2022. You can watch the show again on BBC i-player or visit The One Show website for all the competition details.