

## Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

### Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
12:00pm, 16 March 2021	Added 'Laptops and tablets progress data as of 16 March 2021'.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/laptops-tablets-and-connectivity-progress-data-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Laptops, tablets and connectivity progress data during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:00pm, 16 March 2021	Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 11 March 2021'.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:01pm, 16 March 2021	Removed "Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most." Replaced with "You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days."	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-nurseries-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests">Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
1:02pm, 16 March 2021	Updated information on returning to boarding school from overseas and elective home education.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19">What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:38pm, 16 March 2021	Updated information about any PE and sport premium carried forward from the 2019 to 2020 academic year. The deadline to spend carried forward funding is now the end of the 2020 to 2021 academic year.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools">PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
6:42pm, 16 March 2021	Updated translations.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-people-s-mental-health-and-wellbeing">COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
10:00am, 17 March 2021	Public response analysis document has been added.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-materials-and-advance-information-in-2021-gcse-as-and-a-level-exams">Support materials and advance information in 2021 GCSE, AS and A level exams - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
10:15am, 17 March 2021	Pages relating to support materials consultation response analysis and a consultation on an autumn exam series in 2021 have been added	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-as-and-a-level-qualifications-in-2021">GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:45pm, 18 March 2021	The government's plans for funding local authorities in the 2021 spring term and for the financial year 2021 to 2022.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/use-of-free-early-education-entitlements-funding-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Use of free early education entitlements funding during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
2:59pm, 18 March 2021	'Public health guidance to support exams from January 2021' to confirm the types of scheduled assessments that can still go ahead.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/responsibility-for-exams">Responsibility for exams - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
4:49pm, 18 March 2021	Converted the additional operational guidance from PDF to HTML. This version clarifies previously published guidance on	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings-coronavirus">Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus</a>

	supporting those who are anxious about school attendance, clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable, lateral flow device (LFD) testing in primary school and face coverings.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk"> (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:59pm, 19 March 2021	New information explaining what 'related occupations' are to schools, nurseries and college staff and students. Added 'early years education' because the service includes childminders and childcare staff who do not work in nurseries	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

### **New Publications:**

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
3:14pm, 15 March 2021	Exam centre guidance on the private support grant, eligibility and making a claim.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Private candidate support grant: information for exam centres - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:00pm, 16 March 2021	Information about how many laptops and tablets that have been delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Laptops and tablets progress data as of 16 March 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
1:02pm, 16 March 2021	Information and guidance for parents and carers of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Information for parents and carers: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
2:41pm, 16 March 2021	Data on the number of COVID-19 lateral flow test kits sent to schools and colleges in England, January to March 2021.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Test kits sent to schools in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
10:00am, 17 March 2021	A 2-week consultation has started on how an autumn exam series for GCSEs, AS and A levels should run this year.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Consultation on autumn series 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
10:00am, 17 March 2021	Proposals for an additional exam series in autumn 2021 in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Consultation on arrangements for an autumn 2021 exam series - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:01pm, 18 March 2021	Wave 3 of research with childcare providers in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19).	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Survey of childcare and early years providers and coronavirus (COVID-19): wave 3 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
4:39pm, 18 March 2021	Ian Bauckham CBE delivered a speech reflecting on the topic of qualifications and assessment in 2021, particularly GCSEs and A levels.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">ASCL annual conference 2021: Ofqual Chair Ian Bauckham, CBE - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

### **Ofsted Rolling Update**

10:20am, 19 March 2021	Added a short section about Area SEND in 'Current activity'. This sets out our plans from April 2021.	<a href="#">Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
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## **DfE Information**

### **Test kit supplies for primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools**

- You will need to use the [contact us form](#) to place orders for additional test at home kits to enable twice-weekly testing of staff to continue over the Easter period.
- Orders placed before 5pm on Wednesdays will arrive the following week, after this time orders will be processed and delivered the subsequent week. Therefore, we advise that you place an order no later than 5pm on Wednesday 17 March to ensure delivery in week commencing Monday 22 March.
- Further information on how to order additional test at home kits and details on the national testing policy can be found on the [primary schools and nurseries document sharing platform](#).

### **Updated guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings**

- We have updated our [guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to include a section on asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This section provides information on how members of a household, childcare or support bubble of a primary or secondary-age pupil or college student can access twice-weekly testing.

### **Webinar on the National Tutoring Programme**

- The National Tutoring Programme (NTP) has been supporting disadvantaged pupils across England since November 2020. Over 4,000 schools and 100,000 children are now enrolled with an approved NTP tuition partner and over 1,000 academic mentors are now working in schools.
- The NTP is hosting a webinar on Tuesday 23 March at 4pm, where you can hear directly from Tuition Partner organisations and learn about how to apply for this subsidy. You can join the webinar using this link:

[NTP Tuition Partners webinar for Schools – Tuesday 23 March at 4pm](#)

To find out further information, or to find NTP tuition partners working in your area, visit the National Tutoring Programme website.

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### **Support and guidance for those looking to return from overseas to teach in England**

- The Department for Education is supporting teachers currently overseas who are looking for new opportunities back home. We are running the second in a series of online events on Tuesday 23 March (10:00am to 11:15am GMT) where our panel of experts will cover topics such as how returners can best demonstrate the value they bring back to schools in England, remote interviewing tips, real life examples from teachers and school leaders who have recently returned as a result of the pandemic, as well as guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) updates and the practical support available to you. You will also get a chance to ask questions, network with colleagues in a similar position and shape future sessions. [Register online here](#) for this free event.
- An online information pack is also available and covers the key information teachers working overseas need as they consider a return to teach in England. Download the current [information pack](#) or visit us at [Get into Teaching](#) for further information.
- Further personalised help and guidance is available including one-to-one support through the [get an adviser service](#) if you teach maths, physics or modern foreign languages. The [teaching vacancies service](#) can be used to browse by subject, role in school and full or part-time work, and to set up job alerts.

### **Information on the private candidate support grant**

- We have published new [guidance on eligibility for exam centres to claim funding for assessing private candidates this summer](#). The announcement follows the government's commitment to making sure that private candidates due to sit GCSEs, AS and A levels, and some vocational qualifications, will be able to receive a grade this summer at a similar cost to a normal year
- Centres should work with private candidates to assess them on a range of evidence, which could include evidence from an established educational provider and the board-provided assessment materials. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has also issued [guidance for centres assessing private candidates](#), taking into account their different circumstances. These candidates should have the same opportunity as other students to be assessed on what they were taught, and centres can conduct assessments remotely if needed. Further guidance on assessing all candidates (including private candidates) will be published before the end of March.
- To support centres with the particular additional requirements of assessing private candidates this year, especially given they will not have been taught alongside a wider cohort, and avoid the cost being passed on to candidates, we are providing additional funding for centres. Centres can claim £200 per private candidate entry and further detail is available in the [private candidate support grant guidance](#). We encourage all available exams centres to help these candidates achieve their qualifications in this exceptional year.
- JCQ will soon email all centres with a survey to express interest in supporting private candidates and will publish a list of available centres by the end of March. The exam boards have committed that private candidates or centres will not be charged late fees if entries are received by Monday 26 April.

### **Vaccinations of eligible staff in education settings**

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are the best way to protect people from coronavirus (COVID-19) and will save thousands of lives. We welcome the support of education and childcare

settings in encouraging vaccine take up and enabling staff who are eligible for a vaccination to attend booked vaccine appointments where possible.

- The vaccines have been through the same regulatory approval process as any medicines to ensure they meet strict safety standards and offer high levels of protection. They were tested on thousands of people of different ages, ethnic backgrounds and with different health conditions before being approved. The vaccine cannot give you coronavirus (COVID-19), and will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. Some people may experience side effects from the vaccine – if you do, most of these are mild and short-term, lasting no longer than a week (but usually much less).
- DHSC has published a blog on [Covid-19 vaccines – frequently asked questions](#).

### **PCR and LFD testing during Ramadan**

- The British Islamic Medical Association's view is that taking polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lateral flow device (LFD) tests during Ramadan does not invalidate the fast.
- People may feel more comfortable doing the tests when they are not fasting. In this case, with the move to home-testing, tests can be carried out at any time.

### **Update to guidance for parents**

- We have updated our guidance on [what parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#).
- The guidance now includes information on returning to boarding school from overseas, including arrangements for pupils to quarantine on arrival in the UK. It also provides additional information to support parents considering elective home education for their child.
- We have also published a collection of [guidance providing information for parents and carers](#) of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This collection brings together information and guidance for parents on:

- essential information for the spring term
- coronavirus (COVID-19) testing
- clubs and out-of-school settings
- home schooling and remote education
- support for children and young people

### **Guidance now available as HTML**

- We have published the [actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak guidance](#) and the [providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak guidance](#) in HTML format to make them more accessible for our audiences, compared to the original PDF format. We have also removed reference to 8 March where appropriate.

*There have been no policy changes as part of this process.*

## **Shielding guidance is being paused for clinically extremely vulnerable people**

- The government has [announced](#) that shielding guidance is being paused. From Thursday 1 April, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield. CEV people must continue to follow the [national restrictions](#) that are in place for everyone.
- From Thursday 1 April, all CEV children should attend early years provision, school, college, wraparound childcare and out-of-school settings, unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.
- CEV students who are enrolled in practical, or practice-based (including creative arts) courses should return to in-person teaching.
- CEV staff are advised to continue to work from home where possible, but if they cannot work from home, they should now attend their workplace.

***Where parents, carers, staff, or students are anxious about attendance, you should speak to them about their concerns and discuss the protective measures that have been put in place to reduce the risk and any additional measures that could be put in place.***

- There is [guidance](#) to assist school leaders in actions they should take to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting. This includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

## **Ofqual consultation on the autumn exam series 2021 for schools and colleges**

- Ofqual is seeking views on how an autumn exam series for GCSEs, AS and A levels should run this year, in a [consultation published on Wednesday 17 March](#).

They are keen to hear from students, teachers, exam boards and the wider education sector on their proposals, which include:

- the autumn series being open to any student who entered or who had intended to enter exams this summer
- holding AS and A level exams in October and GCSE exams in November/early December
- grades being determined by a student's exam performance only
- students being able to use the better of the summer or autumn grade
- the use of the normal reviews of marking and appeal arrangements

The consultation follows the cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A level exams this summer because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. When the government set out its [policy on how grades would be awarded](#) it also confirmed it wanted students to have the opportunity to take exams in the autumn.

The consultation will be open until Friday 9 April 2021.

## **COVID-19 recovery – investing in early career teachers in schools**

- Supporting teachers is core to the Department for Education's long term recovery plan. The Early Career Framework reforms, rolling out nationally from September 2021, will ensure that all early career teachers learn how to apply the best available evidence on effective teaching.

These reforms include changes to statutory induction to extend induction support from one year to two years and ensure new teachers receive training and support.

- If a school offers statutory induction, it will need to replace its current induction process with this new funded programme of training and support.
- After a challenging year for trainees, it is now more important than ever that new teachers get the support they need to deliver great teaching and help ensure every student is supported to fulfil their potential.

Find out more about the [Early Career Framework reforms](#), including how schools can meet statutory requirements and the funding available to all schools.

### **Schools with laptops and routers awaiting order**

- A number of schools have laptops and routers allocated through the [get help with technology](#) programme that have not yet been ordered.
- We encourage you to order these devices while they are still available so you can support the students that need them the most.
- Laptops and routers become the school's property at the point of delivery.

To order your full allocation, visit 'Order devices' at [get help with technology](#).