

14-19 Learning & Skills Bulletin, No. 358

13 January 2021

- Editorial**
- 4 **A far from happy new year**
As a result of a series of failings, as a report from the CDC and the Sutton Trust show, the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic in lives and education lost will be higher than it need have been.
- News**
- 1 **Ofsted inspections to be remote until half term**
- 6 **Williamson plans for 2021.**
- 8 **Chief Regulator on exams in 2021**
- 9 **Call for more cash for schools so pupils can retake a year**
- 10 **Sector response to Education Secretary's plans**
- 12 **Failure to issue reasonable key worker definitions puts schools in impossible position**
- Spring term decision in Wales**
- 13 **Northern Ireland decides to cancel exams**
- Labour calls on Government to get every child online**
- 14 **LGA calls for resumption of school inspections to be suspended**
- Apprenticeship flexibilities extended**
- 15 **Resources published to support schools in putting evidence into practice**
- BT's Wi Fi for pupils offer snubbed**
- 16 **IGCSE will still go ahead for private sector**
- ONS Coronavirus Infection Survey**
- UCAS extends deadline for all applicants**
- 17 **New White Paper on Mental Health Act reform**
- New Joseph Rowntree Foundation Poverty report**
- International**
- 18 **Biden announces his new Education Secretary**
Dr Miguel Cardona is President-elect Biden's pick for Education Secretary of the USA. He will need to be confirmed by the US Senate.
- 19 **Many US schools have been closed since March**
Many school districts in the US have kept their schools closed since March, with the teacher unions strongly opposed to opening them.
- Research**
- 20 **Remote learning and the digital divide**
The Sutton Trust publishes a briefing note on how far pupils had access to the internet and remote learning devices.
- 21 **New variant of COVID-19 and education in Wales**
Variant of Concern (VOC 202012/01) and Education in Wales, report from the Technical Advisory Group to the Welsh Government.
- People**
- 27 **New leadership for Ofqual, OfS and UNISON**
Simon Lebus has been appointed interim Chief Regulator of Ofqual. Lord Wharton of Yarm is the Government's preferred candidate to be the next chairman of the Office for Students. Christina McAnea has been elected as the new general secretary of UNISON.

Document review

- 28** **Adult skills and lifelong learning**
A Plan for an Adult Skills and Lifelong Learning Revolution, House of Commons Education Select Committee, Third Report of Session 2019/21.

Opinion

- 30** **Everyone's own wheel**
Jan Willem de Graaf, Professor of Brain and Technology, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Deventer, Netherlands, wonders what life would be like if everything had already been invented.

COVID-19 announcements

- 31** **Government advice on COVID-19**
Details of all new documents on COVID-19 issued by governments across the UK.

Policy papers

- 36** **Policy papers published last week**
Details of policy papers from government, parliament and think tanks.

Consultations

- 37** **Consultations**
There were no new education consultations or consultation outcomes published last week.

Delegated legislation

- 38** **Statutory instruments issued last week**
There were four new statutory instruments on education issued last week.

Parliament - Debates

- 43** **COVID-19 and education settings**
The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, made an oral Ministerial Statement about COVID-19 and education settings.

45 **The Turing Scheme**

Baroness Garden of Frognal (LDP) asked the Government when the Turing Scheme would be open for applications.

Parliament - Questions

- 46** **Answers to written questions**
Answers to written parliamentary questions from the Department for Education, the Department of Health and Social Care and the House of Lords.

Publisher information

- 50** **Subscription rates**
Writers and subscription details.