# Education Journal No. 450 12 May 2021

# **Editorial**

#### 4 The Queen's Speech and last week's local elections

Last week's local elections were bad for Labour, but not as bad as some made out. Yet the party does face an existential threat with the real problem the party itself rather than the growing number of opponents wanting to take support from it.

#### News

- 1 Skills Bill promised in Queen's Speech
- 5 Ethical audit tool to support governors
- 6 Masks still needed say teachers
- 7 Ofqual confirms autumn assessments
- 8 Over a million children offered mental health support

Kate Green still Shadow Education Secretary

9 Executive leader CPD guidance for chairmen

Nursery schools forced to make further cuts

- 10 Disadvantaged pupils have fallen further behind in maths
- 12 Week 18 school attendance statistics

Study shows drop in COVID school infections

- 13 What is really going on with arts funding in higher education?
- 14 COVID-19 infographic for Scotland
- 15 Comprehensive Future plan interactive map on selection

#### Research

## 16 Adolescents' technology engagement and mental health

An Oxford University study examined data from over 430,000 adolescents in the UK and US to investigate how associations between adolescents' technology use and mental health had changed over the past 30 years.

#### **17** Variants of Concern latest

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern and Variants Under Investigation in England. Technical Briefing 10, published by Public Health England, is reviewed.

#### 19 COVID round-up

A round-up of news on COVID-19.

## Feature

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## Flexi-job apprenticeships

Josh Hill of the Skills Network asks why flexijob apprenticeships are lacking flexibility.

# Opinion

# **Not on my watch** Professor Jan Willem de Graaf of Saxion

University of Applied Sciences, Deventer, Netherlands, wonders what would happen if we took away people's connection.

# Local elections supplement

## Last Thursday's elections were complex

Demitri Coryton reports on the various elections that took place last Thursday, with details of the results in the county council, unitary authority and metropolitan district councils, and analysis of those results.

## **Document reviews**

What business wants from adult skills Report of the Workplace Training and Development Commission, from the British Chambers of Commerce.

# **Policy papers**

## **32** Policy papers published last week

Details of policy papers from government, parliament and think tanks.

# Consultations

#### 33 Consultations

There was one new education consultation outcome published last week.

# **Delegated legislation**

**34 Statutory instruments issued last week** There was one new statutory instrument on education issued last week.

## **Parliament - Debates**

## 35 The Queen's Speech

Her Majesty the Queen opened Parliament yesterday and delivered the Speech from the Throne.

#### 35 Debate on the Queen's Speech

Baroness Sherlock (Lab) asked the Government what it was doing to increase the number of jobs created by the Kickstart Scheme.

## **Parliament - Questions**

# **37 Answers to written questions** There were none, as Parliament was prorogued.

# **Publisher information**

## 38 Subscription rates

Publisher, writers and subscription details.