

**Editorial**

**4 A reckless move**

The Government is lifting almost all remaining restrictions on 19 July. While lifting some will be welcome, a “big bang” approach is not. It risks fuelling the further spread of the virus to levels that will threaten the NHS. The Prime Minister’s approach is a reckless gamble, and he should think again about abandoning things like face coverings and social distancing completely.

**News**

**1 COVID restrictions to be removed**

**5 NAO publish school funding report**

**6 Week 26 school attendance statistics**

**7 Young people failed by approach to mental health in secondary schools**

**8 Unions condemn government treatment of school and college leaders**

**9 First Higher Technical Qualifications and Quality Mark announced**

**National Leaders of Governance recruitment opens**

**10 ETF launches free course for FE teachers**

**Peterborough warned of financial crisis**

**11 1 in 8 are NEET 5 years after leaving school**

**Call for evidence on school behaviour**

**12 ASCL rejects criticism of school leaders**

**Slough issues Section 114 notice**

**13 COVID-19 infographic for Scotland**

**14 Graduate route for “best and brightest”**

**Part-time and postgraduate students invited to apply for student finance**

**International**

**15 OECD: Better measures of wellbeing needed for effective child policies**

While enhancing child well-being benefits society as a whole and is key to fostering prosperity, improving policies to help children thrive will require better data on their needs and experiences, according to an OECD report, *Measuring What Matters for Child Well-being and Policies*.

**British Council sells Indian business**

IDP and British Council, two partners of IELTS, the world’s most popular high-stakes English language test, have announced that the British Council will sell its IELTS business in India to IDP.

**Research**

**16 EEF publishes research on the impact of the COVID pandemic on KS1 attainment**

EEF has published further findings from an ongoing study, by NFER, examining the impact of COVID-19 related disruption on the attainment of Key Stage 1 pupils.

**17 Children achieve higher grades when mothers are optimistic about their abilities**

A study has found that mothers who were overly optimistic about their children’s academic abilities not only helped their children enjoy school more but they could also improve their test results.

**18 Achieving greater progress for secondary students facing socio-economic disadvantage**

A report, *Against the Odds*, looked at the characteristics of secondary schools that had been able to start closing the progress gap and achieve better outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

**COVID variants**

News of COVID variants.

**19 COVID-19 round-up**

A round-up of news on COVID-19.

- 20** **The impact of school closures**  
*Impacts of School Closures on Physical and Mental Health of Children and Young People: A systematic review*, a paper from SAGE.
- Opinion**
- 27** **Filling holes with holes**  
Professor Jan Willem de Graaf of Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Deventer, Netherlands, observes that what Big Tech companies are praised, psychologists and psychiatrists would end up in jail for.
- Document reviews**
- 28** **School Funding in England**  
*School Funding in England*, from the NAO.
- Policy papers**
- 30** **Policy papers published last week**  
Details of policy papers from government, parliament and think tanks.
- Consultations**
- 31** **Consultations**  
There was one new education consultation published last week.
- 32** **Consultation outcomes**  
There was one new education consultation outcome published last week.
- Delegated legislation**
- 33** **Statutory instruments issued last week**  
There were no new statutory instruments on education issued last week.
- Parliament - Debates**
- 34** **COVID impact on school attendance**  
The Shadow Education Secretary, Kate Green (Lab, Stretford and Urmston) asked the Secretary of State for Education, in an Urgent Question in the House of Commons, to make a statement on the impact of coronavirus on children and young people's attendance in education settings.
- 36** **Education support for low-income families**  
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Lab, Slough) introduced a debate on the support for the education of children from low-income families.
- 37** **Children's digital rights**  
In the House of Lords, Baroness Kidron (CB) asked the Government what steps it planned to take in response to General Comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment adopted by the United Nation's Committee on the Rights of the Child on 2 March.
- Parliament - Questions**
- 38** **Answers to written questions**  
Answers to written questions to the Department for Education, the Ministry of Defence and the House of Lords.
- Publisher information**
- 58** **Subscription rates**  
Publisher, writers and subscription details.