

**Editorial**

- 4 **The PM should think again on face coverings**  
The Government plans to lift all remaining restrictions next Monday, as new infections continue to surge. The PM should think again, and keep some mitigating actions like retaining the legal need to wear face coverings in certain circumstances.

**News**

- 1 **New coronavirus wave ahead**
- 5 **School funding to be fairer and clearer**
- 6 **Counting the cost of assessment**
- 7 **Driving up training standards for teachers**
- 8 **Sector response to lifting COVID restrictions**
- 9 **Week 28 school attendance figures**
- Online course to support early career teacher development**
- 10 **COVID-19 infographic for Scotland**
- 11 **Welsh military college is on manoeuvres**

**Conferences**

- 12 **ADCS: Charlotte Ramsden presidential**  
ADCS President Charlotte Ramsden gives her presidential address to another virtual conference.
- 14 **ADCS: Children’s Minister Vicky Ford**  
Children’s Minister Vicky Ford covered a range of children’s services issues at the ADCS conference.
- 16 **ADCS: Amanda Spielman HMCI**  
The Chief Inspector discussed the impact of COVID-19 and recent work at the ADCS conference.
- 18 **Apprenticeships: Simon Lebus**  
The Ofqual Interim Chief Regulator spoke at the Apprenticeships conference 2021.

**Opinion**

- 21 **Babylon?!**  
Professor Jan Willem de Graaf of Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Deventer, Netherlands, observes that smart technology unifies mainly because it globalises (or rather, colonises).

**Features**

- 22 **How technology can help schools flourish**  
Mike Smith, of Virgin Media O2 Business, explores how technology can revolutionise schools.
- 23 **Water mist systems to counter school fires**  
Jade Musto, Head of Suppression System Testing at the FPA looks at water mist technology as a counter to school fires.

**Research**

- 24 **The evolution of cognitive skills during childhood across the UK.**  
A report from the EPI has offered insights into the educational outcomes of pupils in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland since devolution.
- 26 **Higher GCSE grades linked to lifetime earnings boost**  
Those who perform just one GCSE grade better than their counterparts across nine subjects have been shown to earn on average over £200,000 more throughout their lives.
- 27 **International project sets out to understand impact of COVID school closures**  
A new international research project, led by Birmingham City University, is exploring the effect school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children’s learning.
- 28 **Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 schools**  
*Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs* from the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

- 42 Latest information on COVID variants**  
News of COVID Variants of Concern and Variants Under Investigation.
- 45 COVID-19 round-up**  
A round-up of news on COVID-19.
- 47 Teaching about the protected characteristics of sex, sexual orientation and gender reassignment in England's schools: the research context**  
Chris Jones, Director, Corporate Strategy, at Ofsted, writes about the research context of teaching about the protected characteristics.

- 54 Young children's attention and persistence impacts their learning more than deprivation**  
Two reports, *IELS Thematic Report: Young Children's Development and Deprivation in England*, and *IELS Thematic Report: Young Children's Physical Development in England*, produced by NFER, look at how deprivation and physical development relate to the learning outcomes of five-year-old children in England.

- 56 EEF publishes findings from Big Lockdown -Learning Parent Survey**  
Fixed daily routines for work submissions, specific and frequent feedback from teachers, and the use of live lessons had been associated with more positive perceptions of home learning for parents.

- 57 Rise in university offer-making and apprenticeships**  
Record numbers of students are set to take their next step this summer, as UCAS data showed that applications and university offer-making had increased and searches for apprenticeships had continued to rise.

### Document reviews

- 58 The Reading Framework**  
*The Reading Framework: Teaching the foundations of literacy*, from the DfE.

### Policy papers

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

### Consultations

- 63 Consultations**  
There were three new education consultations published last week.
- 64 Consultation outcomes**  
There were two new education consultation outcomes published last week.

### Delegated legislation

- 66 Statutory instruments issued last week**  
There were five new statutory instruments on education issued last week.

### Parliament - Debates

- 70 COVID-19 and education settings**  
The Education Secretary made a statement on the restrictions that would be lifted for schools, early years, childcare, colleges and universities when the country moved to step 4 on 19 July.

- 72 The Skills & Post-16 Education Bill in committee**

The House of Lords took the committee stage of the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill on the floor of the House.

### Parliament - Questions

- 74 Answers to written questions**  
Answers to written questions to the Department for Education, the Department for Culture Media and Sport, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, the Department of Health and Social Care, the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions and the House of Lords.

### Publisher information

- 98 Subscription rates**  
Publisher, writers and subscription details.

**This will be our last issue before we break for the academic summer holidays. The next issue of *Education Journal* will be in September.**