



Department
for Education

Post-16 Pathways at level 3 and below update March 2026

ACTION

Come and work with us on our qualification reforms

We're offering a unique secondment opportunity for experienced school or college leaders with current responsibility for hands on curriculum planning and delivery for Level 2 and/or Level 3 technical and vocational provision. Secondees will work directly with DfE qualification design and delivery teams to bring real provider insight into guidance, testing, and implementation.

You will continue to be paid and employed by your school or college and will need to commit a minimum of 3 days a week for 4-6 months. If you want to influence national reform and bring your sector expertise to help make these qualifications a success, expressions of interest are open until midnight on 21 April 2026.

Click the following link to find out more: [Work with us on our qualifications reform](#)



Consultation: Level 1 English and maths

The Government has launched a consultation on new Level 1 English and maths qualifications for 16-19-year-olds with prior GCSE attainment at grade 2 or below. These new qualifications will consolidate foundational skills and support students to achieve a GCSE grade 4/C or higher, ensuring that they only resit GCSEs when ready to make progress.

Respond to the Level 1 English and maths consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/16-to-19-level-1-english-and-maths-qualifications>. This consultation closes on 2 June 2026.

Webinars on the level 1 English and maths consultation will be held at 3pm on Wednesday 25 March and at 10am on Monday 13 April, and run for approximately 1 hour.

To **register** for Wed 25 March, please click the link: [Webinar New Consultation: Level 1 English and maths Wednesday 25 March](#)

To **register** for Mon 13 April, please click the link: [Webinar New Consultation: Level 1 English and maths Monday 13 April](#)



CONTACT US



[VISIT](#) our provider webpages.

[STAY INFORMED](#) by signing up to our mailing list and share this link with colleagues so that they are up-to-date with news and information about qualifications reform.

[CONTACT US](#) via our email to make suggestions about what you would like to see in future newsletters.



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POST-16 PATHWAYS UPDATE



Funding and Transition

To maintain stability during transition, and to give providers more time and scope to engage with the reforms, we will not remove funding approval from qualifications in AY2026/27, as set out previously.

Further detail on the timeline for changes to funding approval for qualifications, and the provisional timeline for introduction of new qualifications in routes from AY2027/28, is set out in our Transition Plan.

POST 16 LEVEL 3 AND BELOW PATHWAYS CONSULTATION RESPONSE

On 10 March 2026 the Government published its response to the consultation on post-16 Level 3 and below pathways. Building on the Post-16 Education and Skills white paper and the recommendations of the Curriculum and Assessment Review, this response sets out our vision for a reformed 16–19 qualifications system in which every young person has a clear choice of pathways that support them to succeed in work and in life.

In response to the consultation, we are committing to three major changes to post-16 pathways: the introduction of V Levels, the expansion of T Levels, and clearer Level 2 routes through new Occupational and Further Study pathways.

VIEW the full Post 16 Level 3 and Below Pathways consultation response, equality impact assessment and the Transition Plan by clicking this link: [Post-16 level 3 and below pathways - GOV.UK](#)

WATCH a recording of a webinar which outlines the Government's response in more detail and explains what the reforms mean for providers and stakeholders by clicking this [link](#)

NEXT STEPS :

By June 2026, we will also publish an Implementation Plan setting out further detail including:

- subject lists for phased rollout
- updated T Level development and delivery approach
- expectations for non-qualification activities
- further details of the transition strategy

To **VIEW** the qualifications due to have funding approval removed in August 2027 please click this [link](#).



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T-LEVELS

The Post-16 Level 3 and Below Pathways consultation response confirmed that T Levels will be the only large qualification available in the reformed system, for students who know what broad career they want to pursue.

The largest expansion of T Level subjects since they began was also confirmed - including the planned introduction of new T Levels in areas such as Care Services and Sports, Fitness and Exercise Science.



On 10 March we published **data** which shows the continued overall growth of T Levels and how they are benefiting a widening range of young people, and **data** showing that the vast majority of T Level completers continue to progress to positive outcomes.

We continue to support providers to scale up their T Level provision, and have also confirmed:

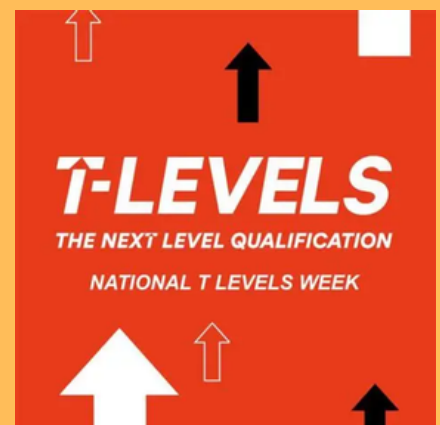
- **c.£11 million** which has already been made available to support providers to purchase industry-standard equipment for T Levels they are delivering for the first time in high priority sectors in September 2026.
- T Level funding rates for academic year 2026/7 will include a **targeted 5% uplift**, focused on T Levels introduced since 2022, recognising the higher costs associated with delivery in the early stages of roll out.
- The continuation of the Employer Support Fund into financial year 2026/7, helping employers delivering the Health T Level and SMEs delivering all T Levels, to meet the essential costs of offering industry placements.
- A new Occupational Specialism in Low Carbon Heating Engineering will be added to the T Level in Building Services Engineering for Construction, ready for delivery this September.



T LEVELS WEEK 2026

T Levels Week is a key moment during the year when we celebrate the achievements of T Level providers, students and employers delivering industry placements. T

This year's T Levels Week will take place from 19–23 October. Please mark the dates in your diaries and we'll be in touch later in the year with more details.



EMPLOYER SUPPORT FUND

For T Level providers in receipt of the 25–26 **Employer Support Fund**, please note that the end of the fourth and final claims window is approaching, with claims to be uploaded **no later than Tuesday 31 March 2026**.

