



Department
for Education

Post-16 Pathways Update

June 2026

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WEBINAR RECORDING AND SLIDES

We recently hosted a webinar focused on the Strategic Transition Planning Statement (STPS) and the [Post-16 pathways implementation plan](#). The session provided an overview of the implementation plan, timelines, and what they mean for stakeholders, along with practical guidance on preparing for implementation. If you were unable to attend, or would like to revisit the content, you can access the materials below:

- [Watch the webinar recording](#)
- [Download the slides](#)

We encourage you to share these resources with colleagues who may find them useful.



AN UPDATE ON THE NEW TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TVPD) OFFER TO BEGIN DELIVERY IN AUTUMN 2026

Following a competitive procurement process, the Association of Colleges (AoC) has been awarded a new three-year contract to deliver PD support, with full delivery expected to begin from Autumn 2026. This transition reflects the conclusion of the current contract and provides an opportunity to ensure the PD offer continues to support the reforms across the technical and vocational qualifications landscape.

We will be maintaining many of the valued and impactful features of the T Level PD offer. The new programme will also have a broader scope to support the wider range of technical and vocational qualifications. The programme will remain fully funded by DfE and will include subject-specific training focused on pedagogy and assessment readiness. Opportunities for collaboration and networking across providers will also be a key part of the programme going forward, alongside additional organisational support for leaders on transition planning and curriculum implementation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Education Training Foundation (ETF) for their significant and important contribution to the current programme, having delivered over 72,000 activities to teachers, support staff, leaders, managers and wider teams since TLPD began in 2019, as well as for their ongoing support for workforce development across the sector. The full TLPD programme remains available, offering ongoing support across all activities until the end of term.

Further details on the new offer, including how to access it from Autumn 2026, will be shared in due course.



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Get involved: Post 16 Level 2 and 3 content development



The Department for Education is delivering reforms to technical and vocational qualifications, including the introduction of new V Levels, Occupational Certificates and Foundation Certificates. More detail can be found in the Post-16 Pathways implementation plan: [Post-16 pathways: implementation plan - GOV.UK](#)

There is an opportunity for Post 16 providers, Higher Education Providers, Awarding Organisations, Employers and others with relevant subject specific expertise to get involved in shaping these qualifications. The department has recently consulted on the content for the first tranche of qualifications, and will shortly begin work to develop national content for the second tranche of qualifications due for first teach in 2028. These are expected to include qualifications in the following areas:

- Engineering and Manufacturing;
- Construction;
- Health and Science;
- Care Services;
- Sport, Fitness and Exercise Science;
- Legal, Finance and Accounting;
- Business and Administration;
- Sales, Marketing and Procurement.

We believe it is important that the principles of co-design and collaboration with the sector and employers continue to shape our reforms. We are keen to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including providers, employers, higher education institutions and others with relevant subject specific expertise.

In particular, we will establish **Subject Development Groups (SDG)** and **Subject Review Groups (SRG)** to develop and review draft content at key stages and provide expert feedback to help refine and strengthen products being produced. There will be an SDG and SRG for each subject area in scope for 2028 first teach.

Members of the groups will be asked to join an onboarding call in July (alternatives arrangements in place depending on availability), two virtual meetings in September and October, and a further virtual meeting in January 2027 following the content consultation in November. The department will share the latest versions of the national content with members for review at least a week before each meeting.

This is an opportunity to shape the development of these qualifications and ensure they meet the government's ambition for high quality qualifications that adapt to future skills needs and ensure positive outcomes for students and employers.

If you would like to be part of an SDG or SRG for any of the subject areas set out above, please complete the following form: [Registration Form: Post-16 Level 2 and 3 Content Development](#) by Tuesday 7th July providing your organisation name, contact details and areas of interest and we will be in touch in due course.

GET
INVOLVED



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FOR INFORMATION

T Level Industry placement delivery framework

Please see [here](#) for the recording of our teach-in on the new T Level industry placement delivery framework. This session explained what has changed about the industry placement guidance, what requirements remain the same and how T Level providers can put the new framework into practice.



RESPOND – Strategic Transition Planning Statement (STPS)



In April, we shared the [guidance](#) and early sight of the questions which form a STPS. We are now requesting statements from all post-16 institutions that deliver, or plan to deliver, T Levels and vocational qualifications. This statement should be submitted via this [online form](#). It is due by **6 July 2026** and will confirm an institution's high-level intentions for delivery from academic year 2027 to 2028. If an institution does not currently deliver, or plan to deliver T Levels and/or vocational qualifications by academic year 2027/28, we ask that you confirm this via the same online form.



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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T-LEVELS

Have Your Say: DfE Consultation on New T Levels in Sport and Social Care

The Department for Education has launched a new consultation on the proposed outline content for T Levels in Sport and Social Care, and we encourage you to take part and share your expertise.

This is a valuable opportunity to help shape these qualifications, ensuring they reflect the skills, knowledge and behaviours learners need to progress into employment or further study within these important sectors.



What is the consultation about?

The consultation invites feedback on several important aspects of the proposed T Levels, including:

- The breadth and depth of core knowledge and technical skills
- How effectively the content aligns with industry expectations and workforce needs
- Whether the qualification supports students to progress into skilled technical roles, either directly or via further or higher education
- The proposed structure

Why your input matters

Your insights as education and sector specialists are vital in ensuring that these T Levels are:

- Relevant to careers in sport and social care
- High-quality and fit for purpose
- Designed to support successful learner progression and positive outcomes

By contributing to the consultation, you will play an important role in shaping a qualification that meets both education and employer needs.

The consultation will close at 11:59pm on 9 August 2026. Your feedback will support the final design of these qualifications. Thank you in advance for contributing your expertise and helping to shape the future of T Levels in Sport and Social Care.

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.



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NEW

Masterclasses – for T Level employer engagement teams

A new series of practical CPD Masterclasses has been launched to support T Level providers with employer engagement and the delivery of high-quality industry placements.

The sessions – delivered by SDN Mesma Group and funded by the Department for Education – draw on practical approaches, resources and insights gathered through work with providers, employers and the T Level Co-Lab networks.

Each session will be practical and focused, with an emphasis on building employer-engagement confidence, improving placement quality and supporting better outcomes for students.

Employer engagement: what employers tell us and practical tools for placements – Masterclass: 1st July, 10am – 12pm – [Find out more and book your place here](#)

- what builds employer confidence and what leads to hesitation or drop-off
- how employers experience industry placements in practice
- what makes placements more meaningful for both employers and students

Practical tools to support employer engagement will also be shared, including:

- the employer engagement conversation toolkit
- employer-facing brochures and role-specific annexes
- approaches to building confidence and sustaining employer relationships

LinkedIn skills and techniques for employer engagement– Masterclass: 9th July, 2:30pm – 4 pm – [Find out more and book your place here](#)

- key updates in the guidance and what they mean in practice
- designing placements that work for employers and students
- making effective use of flexibilities within the guidance
- aligning placement design with curriculum delivery and student readiness

Student readiness and preparation for industry placements – Masterclass: 16th July, 10am – 12pm – [Find out more and book your place here](#)

- build a strong professional presence
- understand a little about the algorithm
- find and connect with the right employers and key decision makers
- share content that engages and builds credibility

An additional session will also be hosted to help T Level providers understand and practically implement the updated Industry Placement Delivery Guidance once published. More details will be shared nearer the time.

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EVENTS



AoC Provider Insight Days

London South Bank Technical College – Tuesday
30 June

**South Bank Technical College – T Level... |
Association of Colleges**

Bede Academy – Wednesday 01 July.

**T Level Provider Insight Day – Bede Academy |
Association of Colleges**

Workshop on T Level Sport and Social Consultation

Date: 29 June 2026
Time: 3.00 pm to 5pm
Venue: Online

Fee: Free

**Book
now**

Post 16 Pathways: Transition, Scale-up and Readiness for 2026/27North

Date: 30 June 2026
Time: 10am to 2.30pm
Venue: City of Liverpool
College

Fee: Free

**Book
now**

Post 16 Pathways: Transition, Scale-up and Readiness for 2026/27 Midlands

Date: 1 July 2026
Time: 10am to 2.30pm
Venue: Sutton Coldfield
College

Fee: Free

**Book
now**

Post 16 Pathways: Transition, Scale-up and Readiness for 2026/27 South

Date: 2 July 2026
Time: 10am to 2.30pm
Venue: Southwark College

Fee: Free

**Book
now**

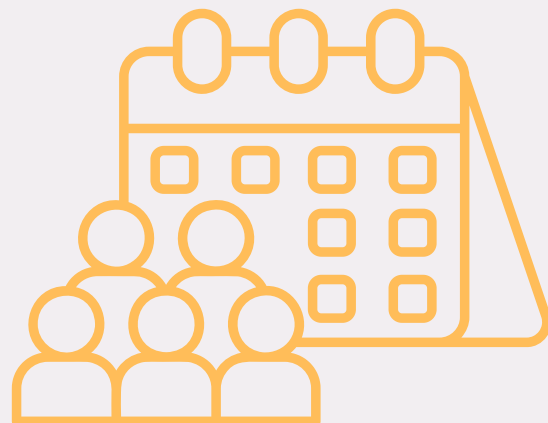
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Join us for the final T Level Community of Practice meeting for 2026

Join your peers from across the country at the final T Level Communities of Practice meetings of the year 2025/26 which are funded by The Gatsby Foundation and delivered by the AoC. This is an inspiring opportunity to connect, share insights, and elevate your approach to delivery. These dynamic sessions have become powerful spaces for collaboration and problem-solving, empowering providers to tackle challenges together and build confidence in delivering T Levels. As the year draws to a close, don't miss this chance to reflect on achievements, celebrate progress, and leave with fresh, practical ideas to strengthen your programmes moving forward.

JOIN US

Communities of Practice



Engineering and Manufacturing

Date: 30 June 2026
Time: 3.30pm – 5pm
Venue: Online

Fee: Free

[Book now](#)

Digital Software Development

Date: 30 June 2026
Time: 3.30pm – 5pm
Venue: Online

Fee: Free

[Book now](#)

Management and Administration

Date: 30 June 2026
Time: 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Venue: Online

Fee: Free

[Book now](#)

Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction

Date: 30 June 2026
Time: 1pm – 2.30pm
Venue: Online

Fee: Free

[Book now](#)

Media, Broadcast and Production

Date: 30 June 2026
Time: 1pm – 2.30pm
Venue: Online

Fee: Free

[Book now](#)

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CURRICULUM DESIGN GROUPS SUPPORTED BY THE GATSBY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.

Since Summer 2024, over 100 FE providers across England have joined Curriculum Design Groups supported by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

These networks connect senior leaders with responsibility for curriculum to work together on real challenges and opportunities created by qualification reform and the implementation of T Levels.

Backed by expert facilitation and support, the networks have already made a strong impact. Colleges involved so far report:

- **Greater confidence in curriculum planning**
- **Access to shared resources and peer support**
- **Opportunities to test and shape new ideas in practice**

Each network focuses on a specific area, such as aligning technical qualifications to workforce needs or developing innovative approaches to technical delivery. Colleges work together over several months to design solutions they can use and share. The next round of networks will launch in autumn 2026, with recruitment opening this summer.

The new Curriculum Design Groups will be focused, with each network aligned to a particular sector or theme. They will offer a clear, structured process to help colleges respond to the opportunities of continuing curriculum reform and improve their curriculum in a way that is practical, collaborative, and responsive to the needs of learners and employers.

Who should get involved? We are inviting senior leaders and curriculum managers who are responsible for shaping the curriculum and implementing T Levels. If you are looking to improve your offer, learn from others, and influence national practice, this is an opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

Register your interest by clicking [here](#) and be part of the next wave of curriculum reform.

Work together. Build confidence. Lead change.



PROVIDERS: SUBMIT YOUR T LEVEL DESTINATIONS DATA

The tool for sharing data can be downloaded from the following secure website:
<https://rcultd.co.uk/Destinations/Tool.html> . For queries, please contact: sarah.herdan@gatsby.org.uk

This report sits alongside a range of T Level student destinations case studies, which can be accessed here:
<https://www.technicaleducationnetworks.org.uk/destinations/>

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Case study: Legal Services T Level

Find out more about how National Highways brought additional capacity and support into their legal team, by hosting Legal Services T Level student Mahdere Nebiyu from La Retraite Sixth Form. [Click here to read.](#)



TOOLKIT: Delivering high-quality T Level industry placements in health and care

A new resource has been created in response to feedback from employer and education stakeholders, who asked for clear, practical guidance on how to structure and manage T Level industry placements effectively. The toolkit offers easy-to-follow steps, templates and tips designed to make the process straightforward and rewarding for all involved.

You can access the toolkit here:

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/publications/developing-quality-t-level-industry-placements-health-and-care-settings-toolkit>



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CASE STUDY



Case study: T Level Engineering to Level 4 Apprenticeship

Watch a brand-new video to learn how Millie's T Level in Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing helped her to progress to a Level 4 Technician apprenticeship with Warwick Manufacturing Group (University of Warwick).

T LEVEL TEACHERS & CURRICULUM LEADS – Communities of Practice

T Level teachers and curriculum leads are invited to join route-specific Communities of Practice (CoPs). These CoPs provide the opportunity to share knowledge and experience with sector specialists, collaborate on the creation of tailored teaching resources, refine examination techniques to strengthen learner outcomes, and more. Find out more and sign up here:

<https://www.technicaleducationnetworks.org.uk/communities-of-practice>



Sign Up

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Evidence on T Level industry placements for Health and Care employers

We are pleased to share new evidence on the value of T Level industry placements for health and care employers.

Sue Howard and Associates produced research, commissioned by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, exploring the employer return on investment (ROI) of hosting T Level students and highlighting how placements can support organisations to build sustainable local talent pipelines, while delivering measurable benefits for employers.

Their findings show a £1.81 return for every £1 spent by employers and add to a growing body of evidence demonstrating that T Levels can help address workforce challenges by attracting young people into health and care careers, supporting future recruitment needs, and strengthening links between employers and their local communities.

To read a concise summary of these findings and a link to the full report, see the NHS Employers article:

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/publications/employer-return-investment-t-level-industry-placements-health-and-care>



Progression from T Levels in health and care

New research highlights the growing role of T Levels in strengthening the health and social care workforce pipeline, whilst identifying opportunities to embed them more systematically into workforce planning.

The full report can be accessed here:

<https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/updates/progression-from-t-levels-in-health-and-care/>



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Coming soon: Industry Placement resources

New resources developed through a series of Collaborative Networks involving providers from across the country, the resources have been designed in response to real delivery challenges and focus on practical solutions that can be applied in day-to-day delivery.

New tools will support T Level providers to plan, design and deliver high-quality industry placements. This work is part of the employer engagement offer, delivered by SDN Mesma Group on behalf of the Department for Education.

Developed with providers across England through collaborative networks, the resources address common delivery challenges and focus on practical solutions that can be applied in day-to-day delivery.

They include student readiness packs, employer conversation toolkits, resources to strengthen the employer journey, and examples of employer-led placement models. Together, these aim to support more consistent and effective placement delivery.

The resources will be published on the T Levels: Support for Schools and Colleges website.

The resource navigation tool helps employer engagement teams find relevant support more easily. Users can search by role, challenge or stage of the placement journey and access resources directly. The tool will be updated as resources are published.

Look out for further updates as the new resources become available.

<https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb>

**COMING
SOON**

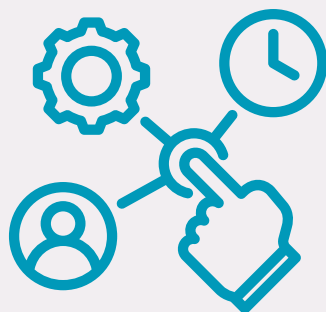
READ MORE

Ofqual Qualifications Reform hub



Ofqual have created a hub on gov.uk to hold information about qualifications reform in a single place.

Visit it here: Qualification Reform Hub



New Low Carbon Heating Engineering Occupational Specialism added to T Level in Building Services Engineering

Launching in September 2026, the Occupational Specialism in Low Carbon Heating Engineering will equip learners with the skills needed to work confidently with modern, sustainable heating technologies.

The qualification focuses on the installation, commissioning, and maintenance of systems such as heat pumps and low temperature heating solutions, combining hands on training with industry aligned technical knowledge. This new pathway supports the UK's transition to low carbon heating and ensures learners are ready for the emerging demands of the sector:

Find out more.

Vocational Qualifications Bulletin

Pearson has published their latest VQ Bulletin. [Read Pearson's latest VQ Bulletin.](#)

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Middlesex University and Saracens T Level (Midwifery) Collaboration by Cariona Flaherty, Middlesex University



Strong partnerships between providers, higher education and employers are central to delivering high-quality T Levels and supporting progression into skilled careers and further study.

This case study from Middlesex University, written by Cariona Flaherty, Head of Nursing and Midwifery, illustrates how collaborative approaches can create meaningful, industry-relevant experiences and support clear pathways into higher education. Providers interested in developing similar partnerships can contact riti.dasgupta@education.gov.uk for further support.



Middlesex University, through its Department of Nursing and Midwifery, has established a strong partnership with Saracens High School to deliver T Levels.

This collaboration represents an innovative and impactful approach to technical education, combining student learning with valuable real-world experience. T Levels, introduced in England as a high-quality alternative to A levels, are designed to provide students with the skills, knowledge, and practice experience needed for employment, apprenticeships, or further study in Higher Education.



The collaboration between Middlesex and Saracens School exemplifies collaborative working to support the delivery of T-Levels.

At the heart of this partnership is a shared commitment to providing students with a curriculum that is both rigorous and relevant.

Middlesex brings academic and clinical expertise, and experience in higher education, while Saracens contributes a strong focus on discipline, teamwork, leadership, and links to industry through its association with professional sport and community engagement programmes.

Together, creating an environment where students can thrive both academically and personally.

(continued over the page...)



Middlesex University and Saracens T Level (Midwifery) Collaboration by Cariona Flaherty, Middlesex University, continued from page 13...

CASE STUDY

A key feature of T Level Midwifery delivery is the integration of classroom learning with clinical expertise in higher education. Through this partnership, students benefit from structured opportunities to engage with nurses and midwives to gain hands-on experience in a simulated environment.

The collaboration also supports the development of essential transferable skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and professional behaviours. Students are encouraged to develop confidence, leadership qualities, and a strong work ethic, which are crucial for future success in any sector. Middlesex complements this by embedding research-informed teaching practices and providing access to further education pathways.



Another strength of the partnership is its focus on widening participation and creating opportunities for diverse learners. By combining the community-focused approach of Saracens School with the academic pathways offered by Middlesex, the collaboration for T Level delivery becomes accessible to students who may not have previously considered higher education or technical careers. This inclusivity is vital in addressing skills shortages and supporting social mobility.

Furthermore, the partnership demonstrates responsiveness to employer needs. T Levels are designed in collaboration with industry, and the involvement of organisations linked to Saracens ensures that the curriculum remains current and aligned with workforce demands.

Middlesex's role in curriculum design and quality assurance ensures that academic standards are maintained while adapting to emerging trends. The Middlesex and Saracens partnership provides a strong model for T Level delivery. It highlights the importance of partnerships in education and demonstrates how collaborative approaches can enhance the quality and relevance of technical learning pathways. It also recognises the value of T Levels in supporting students to further develop their careers.

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Become a Voice for Technical Education: Join the T Level Ambassador Network

The T Level Ambassador Network (TAN) is inviting passionate providers to step forward and become ambassadors. You can play a key role in raising awareness, strengthening partnerships, and influencing the future of T Levels.

What is the T Level Ambassador Network? – The TAN is a vibrant national and regional community made up of dedicated employers and education providers. Together, they work collaboratively to promote T Levels, share best practice, and build stronger connections between education and industry.

Why become a T Level Provider Ambassador?

Joining TAN as a Provider Ambassador brings a range of professional and organisational benefits, you can:

- Elevate your organisation's profile at both a local and national level
- Build and strengthen relationships with employers and key stakeholders
- Gain access to peer support, learning and sharing with other providers
- Choose your level of involvement, ensuring flexibility to suit your capacity
- Be part of a respected and influential network driving real change

Support to help you succeed

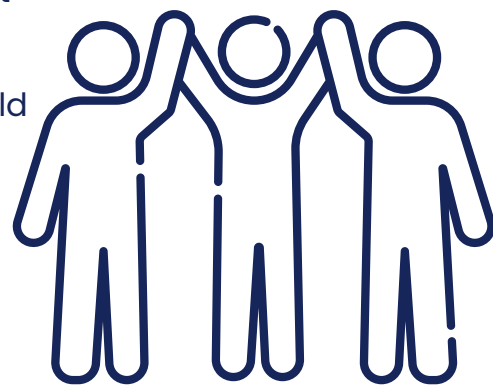
As a T Level Provider Ambassador, you won't be on your own. The network provides a wealth of support and resources designed to help you maximise your impact, including:

- A dedicated Regional Coordinator to guide and support your journey
- Access to practical resources, guidance, and marketing toolkits
- Regular updates and engagement opportunities within the network
- Invitations to exclusive webinars and events
- A digital ambassador badge and access to a LinkedIn support community
- The TAN Mobile App to log your activity and track your impact

Joining the T Level Ambassador Network is more than a professional opportunity, it's a chance to make a meaningful difference in technical education and employer engagement.

Become an ambassador today and help shape the future of T Levels – **[Join the T Level Ambassador Network](#)**

Are you ready to champion technical education and help shape the future workforce?



SIGN UP!



JOIN
TODAY

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