



Department  
for Education

# Post-16 Pathways Update

July 2026

## CONTENTS

2

Content published for the first V Levels and level 2 qualifications

3

Post-16 pathways support pack

4

T Level results day  
Communities of Practice

5

Employer Support Fund update

6

T Level subject consultation  
T Levels week

7

Curriculum Design Groups  
T Level destination data

8

Case studies, toolkits and reports

9

News from Awarding Organisations

10

Resources

11

Join the T Level Ambassador Network



# ACCESS PUBLISHED CONTENT

## CONTENT PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST V LEVELS AND LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATIONS

On 16th July, we published the subject content for the first V Levels, Foundation Certificates and Occupational Certificates in:

V Levels:

- Accounting and Finance
- Digital Systems and Data
- Education

Foundation Certificates:

- Digital Systems and Data
- Education

Occupational Certificates:

- Early Years Practitioner
- Culinary Skills
- Hospitality



The subject content has been set following a 6-week publication consultation. It sets out the national requirements for these first subjects, including on technical knowledge, understanding and skills, and will provide the framework for awarding organisations to create the detailed qualification specifications. The new qualifications will be taught to 16–19-year-olds from September 2027.

**[Click here for further details and links to the published content.](#)**

We have also **finalised our list of qualifications** that will have 16–19 funding approval removed from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2027, alongside policy statements in relation to continued funding for Access to HE Diplomas for those aged 18 and above, and the continued funding of large qualifications in Land and Wildlife Management and in Countryside Management whilst we scope out the potential for a new T Level in Habitat management.



**[Back to contents](#)**

# ACTION: DOWNLOAD OUR Post-16 Pathways resource pack

To support the introduction of new post-16 pathways, we have developed a **Post-16 Pathways Resource Pack** for education and training providers, as well as careers information, advice, and guidance professionals.

The pack brings together a wide range of practical resources to help providers communicate with staff, students, parents and carers, employers, and other stakeholders. Designed to support communications, engagement activities and curriculum planning, the materials can be incorporated into existing outreach and guidance programmes to build awareness and understanding of the evolving qualifications landscape.

Providers are encouraged to use and adapt these resources to support clear, consistent, and evidence-based conversations about post-16 options, progression pathways, and future career opportunities.

## What is included?

- Information and guidance on post-16 pathways and qualifications, including T Levels, V Levels, Foundation Certificates and Occupational Certificates.
- New branding materials for Occupational Certificates, Foundation Certificates and V Levels.
- Resources for students, parents/carers, and employers, such as explainer leaflets, posters, template communications, and frequently asked questions (FAQs).
- Materials for staff and careers professionals, including presentations, qualification explainers, pathway overviews, and implementation resources.
- Student progression materials, featuring illustrative learner journeys and progression routes at Levels 2 and 3.
- Resources for higher education providers to support understanding of new qualifications and progression opportunities.
- Editable templates and communications assets that can be tailored to local audiences and settings.
- Further support and guidance, including implementation planning tools, careers resources, T Level support materials and provider guidance.
- Key policy publications and reform documents, including consultation responses, implementation plans and other supporting information related to post-16 qualifications reform.

The Post-16 Pathways Resource Pack is available to download and share, helping providers access the information and tools they need to support staff members, students, parents, carers and employers throughout the transition to the new qualifications landscape.

**DOWNLOAD  
TODAY**

**Back to  
contents**

## Be prepared for T Level results day 2026

Make sure you are prepared for T Level results day this year by accessing the guidance available on the [T Level support for schools and colleges website](#).

Ensure you are familiar with the [timeline of events](#) leading up to and on the day.

Please send any queries to

[TLevel.RESULTSANDCERTIFICATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:TLevel.RESULTSANDCERTIFICATION@education.gov.uk)



### 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/>



**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.

[Back to  
contents](#)



# EMPLOYER SUPPORT FUND

**FIND OUT MORE** >

**We are pleased to announce the launch of the Employer Support Fund (ESF) for the 2026–27 financial year .**

This targeted funding is designed to help remove financial barriers for employers delivering high-quality T Level industry placements, supporting placements that begin between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027.

This year's fund can be used to support:

- Employers of all sizes offering industry placements for the Health T Level. Based on feedback from previous funds and with typically more predictable employer costs for supporting Health placements, funding will be provided on a fixed-rate basis of £800 per student commencing a Health placement within FY26–27; and
- SMEs offering industry placements for all other T Levels – excluding the Construction route for which separate funding is in place alongside wider Level 2 and Level 3 construction industry placement funding arrangements. Providers will be able to use their allocated SME funding to support employers with specific costs incurred. Whilst this funding is intended to contribute towards essential costs it may not be sufficient to meet all requests made by employers. Providers will need to make value-for-money decisions and balance the needs of different employers to maximise the impact of the fund in considering how to allocate their funding.

Providers who opted in to the fund by the deadline of 13 July will receive a Grant Offer Letter and confirmation of your allocation in the coming weeks. Your organisation's allocation will be based on the estimated number of students studying relevant T Levels and the expected proportion of eligible employers requiring support.

**Further details, including eligibility criteria and examples of supported costs, are available in the full ESF 2026–27 guidance – <https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/36830729025298-Employer-Support-Fund-guidance-for-providers-and-employers>**

**[Back to contents](#)**

# 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.



[Back to contents](#)

## 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  
- FINAL REMINDER!**

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](mailto:sarah.herdan@gatsby.org.uk)

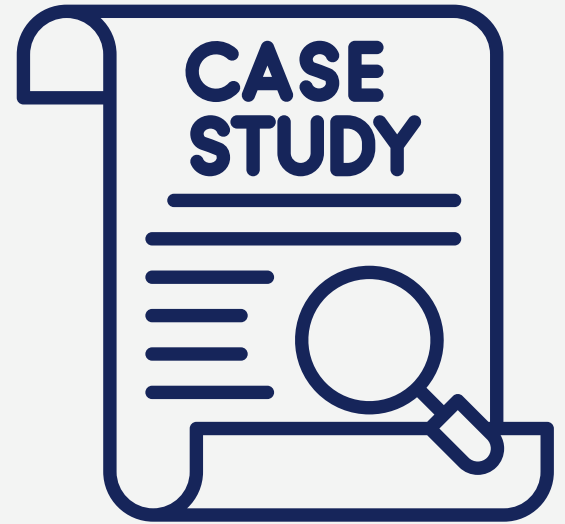
This report sits alongside a range of T Level student destinations case studies, which can be accessed here:  
<https://www.technicaleducationnetworks.org.uk/destinations/>

[Back to  
contents](#)

## RESOURCE: Case study – Maisie – Health T Level to Diagnostic Radiography BSc

Hear how Maisie's T Level in Health at City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College helped prepare her for a Diagnostic Radiography degree at the University of Bangor:

[Destination case study: Health | Technical Education Networks](#)



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

RESOURCE: Developing a non-clinical T Level industry placement offer – case studies and employer top tips

Four organisations share insights into developing a high-quality industry placement offer for T Level students outside of health. One trust shares their embedding of T Levels across the trust, another focuses on finance with a rotational model, another looks at collaboration with the integrated care board, and the NHS England SW team share their business administration placement.

[Developing a non-clinical T Level industry placement offer | NHS Employers](#)



[Back to contents](#)

## Case study of a Health T Level learner who was recognised in NCFE's Aspiration Awards



**Click the button to read more**



**Latest updates and provider support events:**

[Read the latest T Level updates from NCFE](#)

[Sign up to the upcoming Education and Early Years T Level events and webinars with NCFE's Provider Development team](#)

**Get  
involved**

**Pearson are currently re-developing T Level qualifications in Engineering and Manufacturing; Management & Administration; and Accounting, and are seeking teachers and experts to join their Provider Validation Panels for the T levels.**

Panel members will review content and scenarios to ensure:

- Content it is current and up to date
- Scenario and context of the assessment is appropriate
- Technical terms and language is correct
- Assessments are manageable

Panel members get early access to specifications and assessments.

**To find out more, please email Pearson's Stakeholder Engagement Manager [andrew.hambelton@pearson.com](mailto:andrew.hambelton@pearson.com)**

**[Back to contents](#)**

# 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](#)**



### **RESOURCE: NHS Employers video case study library**

The newly launched video case study library shares a number of videos from employers related to different aspects of T Level industry placement, including placements in estates and facilities, supporting students under eighteen and engaging students through a high-quality induction.

[T Level video case studies](#) | [NHS Employers](#)

### **RESOURCE: Piloting a T Level industry placement offer in a mental health trust**

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust provide insight into a successful T Level industry placement pilot that resulted in a permanent industry placement offer. This case study includes indicative student tasks, student destinations, and guidance on overcoming challenges.

**[Back to contents](#)**

# 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

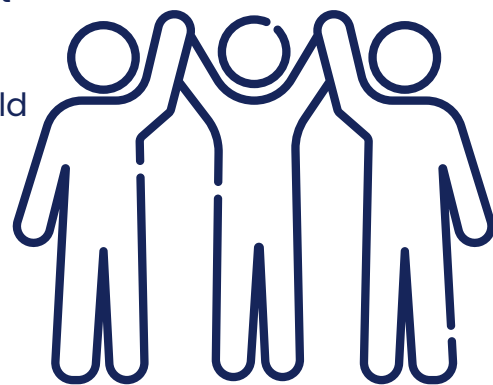
As a T Level Provider Ambassador, you won't be on your own. The network provides a wealth of support and resources designed to help you maximise your impact, including:

- 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**

**[Back to contents](#)**