

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

7 September 2021

DfE Changes – Updates July 2021 to August 2021

£10 million scheme to help pupils boost core skills

1. Pupils in participating schools are set to benefit from more support in maths and English, as part of a £10 million scheme announced Friday 09 July.

Specialist training and materials will be provided to support focused sessions to boost numeracy and literacy skills and help pupils catch-up in these core subjects. Schools with high proportions of children from disadvantaged backgrounds will be prioritised for the schemes to support those most impacted by the disruption to education. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

Cash boost to create new flexible approach to apprenticeships

2. Sectors including the creative, agriculture and construction industries can now [bid for a share of a £7 million fund](#) to support the creation of new flexible apprenticeships, unlocking more opportunities for people to develop the skills they need to get good jobs.
3. The fund will establish a small number of agencies that will set up new flexi-job apprenticeships so an apprentice can work across a range of projects and with different employers to gain the knowledge, skills, and behaviours they need to be occupationally competent. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

Education and Skills Funding Agency review to ensure continued effectiveness

4. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is to be reviewed as part of a wider programme across Government to ensure it remains effective into the future. The review is part of a programme of reviews of public organisations known as arm's length bodies.
5. It will be led by an Independent Lead Reviewer, Sir David Bell, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sunderland. It will consider the ESFA's operating model, governance, accountability model and impact. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

All schools to receive carbon dioxide monitors

6. Education settings will be provided with carbon dioxide monitors from September, backed by £25 million in government funding. CO2 monitors will be provided to all state-funded education settings from September, so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.
7. The majority of c. 300,000 monitors will become available over the autumn term, with special schools and alternative provision prioritised to receive their full allocation from September given their higher-than-average numbers of vulnerable pupils. Full details can be found here: [Link](#).

Schools COVID-19 operational guidance

8. This guidance explains the actions school leaders should take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their school, as the government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE). Full details can be found here: [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)