

Coalition Changes – Update March to May 2013

Programme to improve mathematics teaching for children aged 11 to 14 years

1. The Department for Education is funding a [1-year professional development programme](#) for mathematics teachers at key stage 3. Schools taking part in the programme will have the opportunity to develop 2 members of staff, including at least 1 with a management role at key stage 3. The programme, which will start in July, will include the following elements:
 - an immersive phase of up 4 days in July, possibly residential
 - a follow-up session, with participating teachers spending at least 1 day working together in their school
 - tuition delivered throughout the year and possible evening sessions
 - another 1 or 2 days in January out of school
 - a final event at the end of the course
2. The findings of the trial will be reported in early 2014. If the evidence is strong, a procurement process will be started for a large-scale programme through a competitive tender.

Technical baccalaureate

3. The [TechBacc](#) will be a performance measure marking achievement by young people aged 16 to 19 in 3 areas. It will be introduced for courses beginning in September 2014, reported for the first time in the college and school sixth-form performance tables in January 2017. The 3 elements are:
 - a high-quality level 3 vocational qualification - only the best courses, recognised by employers, will continue to count in league tables; a list of these courses will be published towards the end of the year
 - a level 3 'core maths' qualification, including AS level maths (further information about core maths courses for post-16 students will be published by the Department for Education (DfE) in due course)
 - the extended project, which will develop and test students' skills in extended writing, communication, research, and self-discipline and self-motivation

New advice to help schools set performance-related pay

4. Advice helping schools decide how to pay their teachers has been published by the Department for Education. The [advice](#) is being sent to all schools in England, alongside a revised version of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions

Document that reflects reforms to teachers' pay. Schools will, from 1 September 2013, be able to link teachers' pay to performance allowing them to pay good teachers more. This follows recommendations from the independent School Teachers' Review Body, which last year called on the government to link teachers' pay more closely to their performance.

More free schools applications approved

- Education Secretary Michael Gove approved 102 new free school applications to open in 2014 and beyond, delivering around 50,000 new school places. There are already 81 open free schools, with a further 109 aiming to open in September and beyond. In total, all currently approved free schools would deliver 130,000 new school places when full. Approvals included Salisbury Sixth Form College.

Academies Update

- Number in Wiltshire as at the 1 May 2013:

Sponsored academies	8
Non-sponsored converter academies	30

- Additions since last meeting:

Oasis Academy Longmeadow	Trowbridge	April 2013
Kings Park Primary School	Melksham	April 2013
Burbage Primary School	Nr Marlborough	April 2013
Pembroke Park Primary School	Salisbury	April 2013

Traineeships

- The Government has published a framework for delivery of a new programme of traineeships. [Traineeships](#) will address the needs of young people and employers directly, providing an important link between school or college and apprenticeships or sustainable work. The programme will begin from August this year for 16- to 19-year-olds, and we will look to extend the programme up to 24 in due course. Traineeships will be designed to help young people develop in 3 core areas and have flexibility around this core to respond to individuals' needs:
 - they will include high-quality work placements. This will allow trainees to work with an employer, developing the behaviours necessary to find and keep a job.
 - traineeships will offer flexible training in other relevant areas to build character and help young people get ready for work, such as job search and interview skills, time-keeping and team working.

- the programme will develop the English and maths that employers consistently tell us are essential prerequisites for successful employment.

Proposal to delegate looked-after children work

9. The Department for Education proposes changes to the law to allow local authorities to delegate work for looked-after children to external organisations. This will allow local authorities to delegate some decision making and tasks around children in care and care leavers to external social work providers. DFE plan to use existing legislation to let local authorities who are already using external providers to continue to do so, which will give local authorities greater flexibility around how to look after children in their care. They also plan to amend legislation so that social work providers do not need to register with and be inspected separately by Ofsted. Ofsted will instead consider the experiences of children receiving services under delegated arrangements as part of their new inspection framework.

Funding for foster care recruitment

10. The government has announced a new package of support to help local authorities attract and retain more foster carers from a wider range of backgrounds. A new [package of support](#) totalling £750,000 will be used to:
 - provide Fostering Network with £250,000 over 2 years to boost local recruitment of foster carers and help councils share good practice nationally
 - provide intervention programmes for looked-after children and those on the edge of care and custody and their families
 - fund 3 partnerships between local authorities and independent fostering services to explore new ways of recruitment and retaining a wider group of foster carers – including working professionals and those with the skills and experience to care for children with more complex needs

New online service to support those who would adopt

11. A new, national, online tool to help prospective adopters was launched by the Government. The First4Adoption service gathers in one place, for the first time, the evidence and information people need to navigate the adoption system. The launch comes as new research shows that over 4 million people in England would consider adopting, but are held back by myths as well as barriers in the system. First4Adoption, which will run alongside the existing information line (0300 222 0022), is intended to help overcome these barriers and dispel the myths.
12. Adopters will also be able to see exactly what support is available for them and their child with the new ['Adoption passport: a support guide for adopters'](#). The passport sets out the support services adopters can expect from local authorities.

Revised safeguarding guidance for professionals working with children

13. In response to recommendations from Professor Eileen Munro's report, A child-centered system, the revised [Working together to safeguard children](#) guidance has been published which clarifies the core legal requirements on individuals and organisations to keep children safe. It sets out, in one place, the legal requirements that health services, social workers, police, schools and other organisations that work with children, must follow - and clear states that safeguarding is the responsibility of all professionals who work with children.

Step Up to Social Work programme

14. The [Step Up to Social Work programme](#) has been specifically designed for high-calibre graduates who want to change career, train to become qualified social workers whilst gaining intensive hands-on experience working within a local authority. The 14-month scheme allows the trainees to work towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work and qualification to practice as a social worker. Trainees will be supported throughout with one-to-one support in the workplace, as well as support from their university tutors. They are also guaranteed a competitive bursary of over £19k while they complete their training. The application window opened on 11 March 2013 and closed on 17 May 2013. There are several stages in the assessment process, including an application and assessment centre.

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