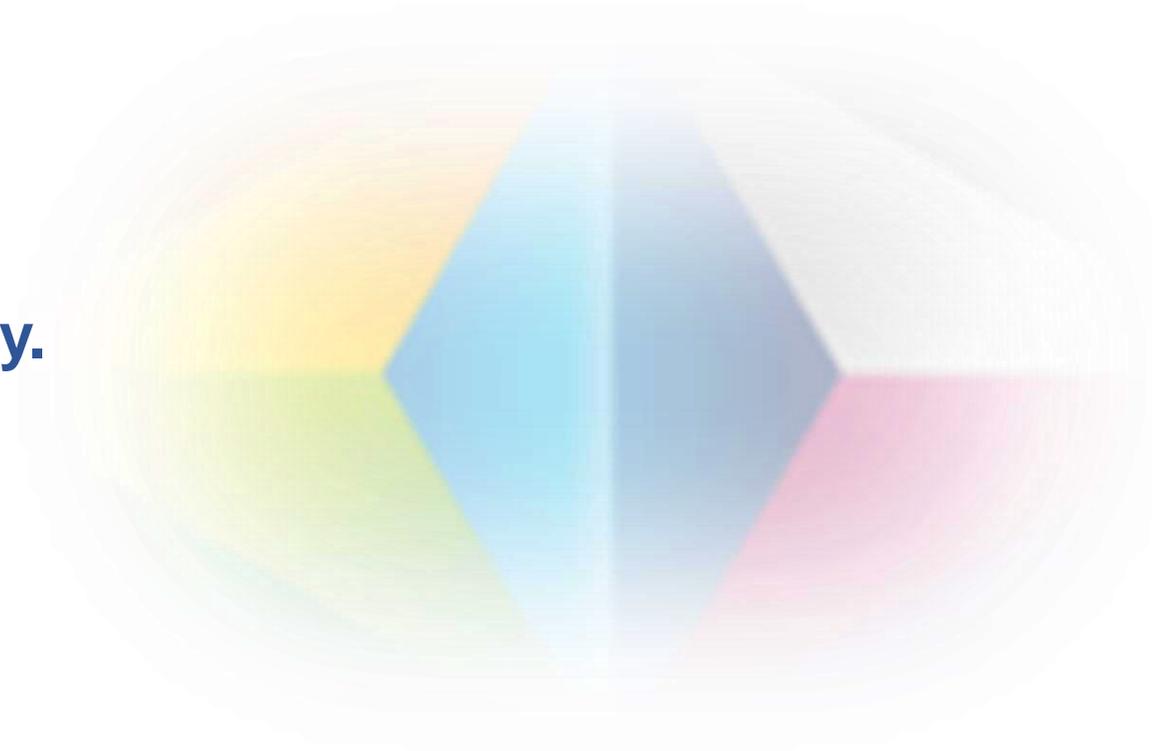


# Weekly update

W/B 22-3-21

## 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Orange** headers (2-12) are new today.



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## News in brief...

- Some schools have laptops and routers still in their allocation. If you haven't rechecked your laptop allocation use this [link](#). The DfE is encouraging all schools to order any devices left in their allocation as soon as possible.

# Operational guidance

- On the 26<sup>th</sup> March, the DfE updated [guidance](#): schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance.
- In terms of **Test and Trace Support Payments**, it makes clear that parents (low income) can claim from the LA if they have to miss work to care for children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting.
- Schools should provide parents and carers of children advised to self-isolate with a template letter, detailing the child's name and the dates of their isolation period.
- Test and Trace support will contact schools to confirm details to prevent fraud. Schools may wish to update data privacy notices to reflect this.

# Operational guidance

- In terms of **educational visits**, it outlines that:
  - schools can resume educational **day visits** no earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April. **Provided that** step 2 of the road map commences; (As announced by government).
  - In line with the roadmap, DfE advise against domestic **residential** educational visits until at least step 3, no earlier than 17th May;
  - schools are advised **not** to enter into any new financial or contractual commitments at this stage;
  - the date for international visits is not yet set;
  - the government is working on a scheme to give schools cover against coronavirus (COVID-19) travel cancellations in the future and to allow schools to book new visits with confidence. (*Updates to follow. AP*)

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# Operational guidance

- In terms of **wraparound care**, it outlines that:
  - From the **29<sup>th</sup> March** parents can access provision where:
    - the provision is taking place outdoors - **all children** may access outdoor provision regardless of circumstances;
    - their children are eligible for free school meals and are attending provision as part of the holiday activities and food programme.
  - As part of step 2 (**no earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April**) of the roadmap, all parents may access wraparound and extra-curricular provision, **without any restrictions** on the reasons for which they may attend;
  - schools should continue to work closely with any external wraparound providers to minimise mixing between children. This can be achieved by trying to keep children in the same school day bubble or school together, or in consistent groups.

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# Operational guidance

- from 29<sup>th</sup> March, when all outdoor sports and supervised activities for children will be able to open without restrictions on attendance, activities taking place outdoors can happen in **groups of any number**. This is because the transmission risk is lower outside.
- In terms of **PE**, the guidance states that:
  - from 29<sup>th</sup> March, **outdoor** competition between different schools can take place;
  - indoor competition between schools should not happen at this time and not before 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- In terms of **inspection**, this guidance states:
  - routine, graded Ofsted inspections remain suspended for the spring term. We are engaging with Ofsted and the sector on the inspection arrangements for the summer term and will provide information about this soon. (*Hmm not quite what Amanda Spielman implied. AP*)

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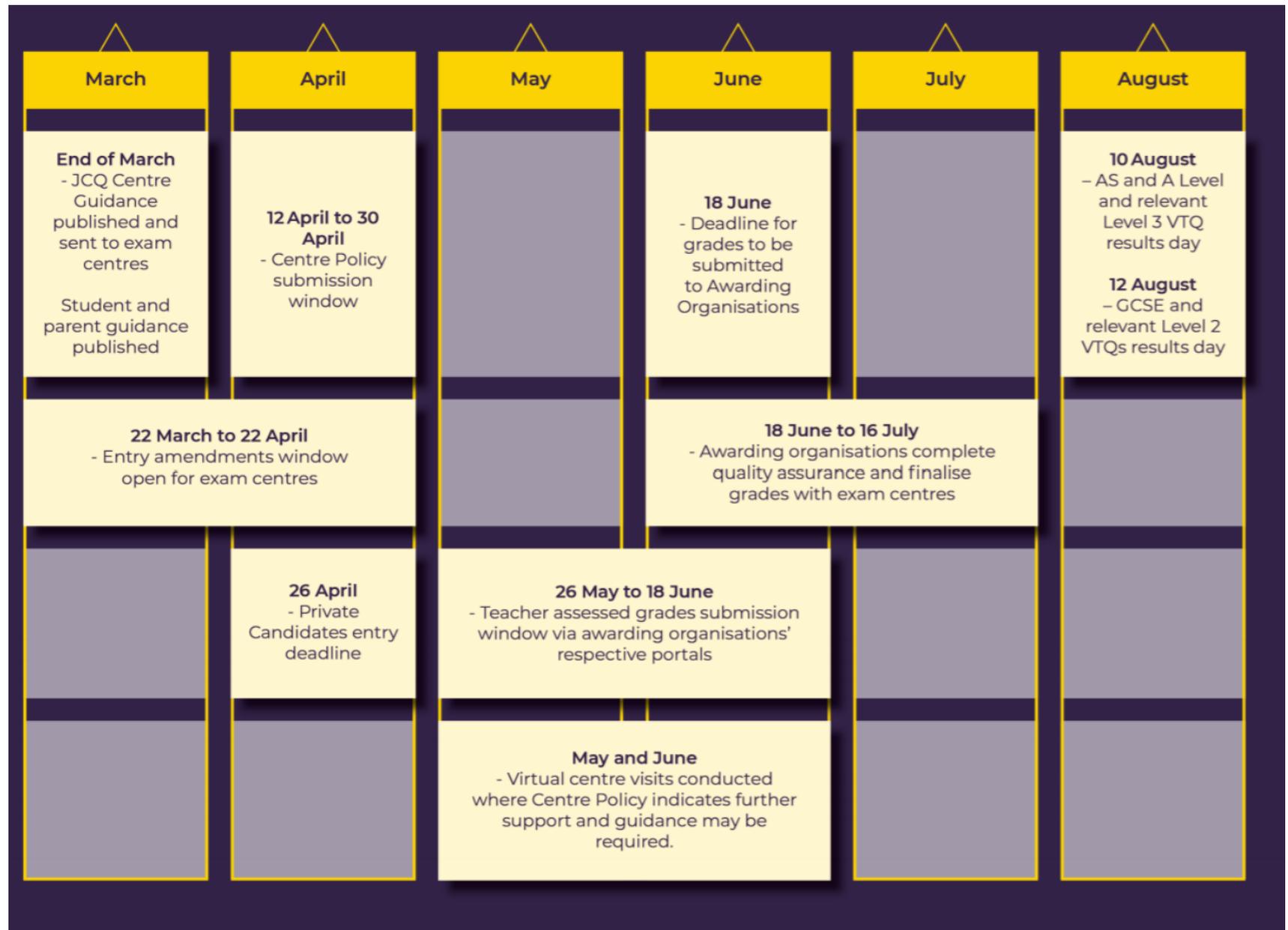
## DfE helpline

- Over Easter the DfE helpline will operate reduced hours.
- From Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April lines will be open from 10:00am until 4:00pm.
- Usual opening times from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- Phone: 0800 046 8687

# Determination of grades

- On the 26<sup>th</sup> March, the JCQ released its [guidance](#) the determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for Summer 2021.
- This includes the key dates and grade descriptors for all subjects.
- This gives schools just 12 weeks to be ready to submit grades by 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- There is a calendar chart from the guidance on the next slide.

# Determination of grades



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## Submission of teacher assessed grades –GCSE, AS and A level

- On the 24<sup>th</sup> March, the DfE published [guidance](#): information for heads of centre, heads of department and teachers on the submission of teacher assessed grades: summer 2021.
- This outlines the sources of evidence, information about private candidates and how to submit data.
- It also outlines the process for internal sign-off within centres including the head of centre sign off.
- As part of this sign off, heads of centre are asked to confirm that:
  - I and my staff have taken note of the Ofqual guidance on making objective judgements, judgements **have not been influenced** by pressure from students, parents or carers, and I am confident that the judgements are fair.

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## Submission of teacher assessed grades –GCSE, AS and A level

- Heads of centre should keep records of any cases where they believe ‘inappropriate pressure is being put on teachers’. Such cases could potentially be malpractice.
- In terms of evidence, we are still awaiting guidance but this document states:
  - as far as possible, the sources of evidence should be consistent across a class or cohort of students, and schools should record the reasons for their selection;
  - data from 2017, 2018 or 2019 can provide a ‘useful guide’ to the ‘expected profile’ of results;
  - schools can begin to submit grades from 26<sup>th</sup> May 26, up until a deadline of 18<sup>th</sup> June.

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## NEW: CPD briefings in finance.



A half-termly strategic update for finance officers, chief financial officers, bursars, business managers and anyone with financial responsibility. Delegates will receive:

- updates on key issues;
- useful financial tools;
- understanding of changes in reporting requirements and financial regulations;
- clarity on expectations around financial compliance.

What do you **really** need to know at key times? This CPD will provide that key information, allow time for questions and create a network of fellow professionals who can work with each other. Led by David Bagley ACMA (CEO) and Lee Schofield who have nearly 60 years experience between them.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 9:00am – 90 minute ZOOM Webinar.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 9:00am - 90 minute ZOOM Webinar.

Each webinar is just **£70 (+VAT)**. Contact [Tracy](#) to reserve a place on both.

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## Good morning

- *Good morning all. Hope you are all well. A mid-week update as both the ransomware slide and ordering more test kits could require swift action. We have also managed to source expertise in EYFS if schools are looking for training before September. Hope that helps. AP*

# Ransomware

- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the National Cyber Security Centre published an [alert](#) to the education sector regarding ransomware attacks.
- It is worth **sending the above link to your IT specialists** as there is really good advice there, most importantly:
  - schools should have up-to-date and **tested** online backups;
  - make sure that any **remote desktop** protocol working (RDP) is protected by strong passwords and **multi-factor authentication**; (*We are all doing more remote working. AP*)
  - ensure that antivirus software is up to date and enabled;
  - disable or constrain scripting environments and macros.

*(There are other tests such as [Exercise in a Box](#) which would need greater expertise than mine to even talk about! AP)*

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# Testing over Easter

- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March the DfE daily update stated that it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Staff, pupils and parents are encouraged to:
  - test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to);
  - report results online as positive, negative or void;
  - continue to test twice weekly **over the Easter holidays**;
  - test **before returning to school** for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back.
- Primaries and maintained nurseries order more test kits [here](#).
- Secondaries order more test kits [here](#) also.

# Attendance

- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the government site ‘explore education statistics’ [published](#) the attendance for up to **18<sup>th</sup> March**.
  - attendance in state-funded **primary schools** was 93%, down from 94% on 15<sup>th</sup> March and 95% on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 66,900 primary pupils were self-isolating due to a potential in-school contact, **up** from 21,700 the week before;
  - attendance in secondary schools was 89%;
  - attendance in state-funded special schools was 83%;
  - DfE estimate that 2% of all pupils on roll in state-funded schools did not attend school for COVID-19 related reasons on 18<sup>th</sup> March, up from 1% on 11<sup>th</sup> March. This was mostly due to an increase in pupils self-isolating due to contact inside the school.
  - 815,000 children attended early years childcare settings on 18<sup>th</sup> March - 78% of the usual daily level.

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# Attendance statistics by type of school – 11<sup>th</sup> March:

	response rate	proportion of open settings including inset	proportion of students attending	proportion of students with ehcp attending	proportion of students with sw attending
<b>State-funded primary</b>	76%	99.9%	93.4%	90.0%	88.6%
<b>State-funded secondary</b>	71%	100.0%	88.9%	82.2%	76.7%
<b>State-funded special</b>	76%	99.9%	82.6%	82.8%	80.1%
<b>State-funded alternative provision</b>	68%	100.0%	56.7%	64.1%	50.9%
<b>State-funded schools</b>	75%	99.9%	91.2%	84.7%	82.3%

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## Attendance statistics by staff on site – 18<sup>th</sup> March:

	Response rate	Proportion of teachers and school leaders absent for COVID-19 reasons	Proportion of teachers and school leaders absent for other reasons	Proportion of teaching assistants and other staff absent for COVID-19 reasons	Proportion of teaching assistants and other staff absent for other reasons
<b>State-funded primary</b>	75.6%	1.6%	5.1%	1.9%	6.1%
<b>State-funded secondary</b>	70.7%	1.0%	4.3%	0.9%	4.4%
<b>State-funded special</b>	75.5%	2.0%	7.5%	2.3%	8.7%
<b>State-funded alternative provision</b>	68.1%	0.8%	6.1%	1.4%	6.2%

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# Early years coronavirus reporting

- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Ofsted [updated](#) the reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> March, the number of reported cases was **491**, this continues the reducing pattern.

28/12/2020	582
04/01/2021	1267
11/01/2021	2357
18/01/2021	2279
25/01/2021	2318
01/02/2021	2384
08/02/2021	1806
15/02/2021	957
22/02/2021	734
01/03/2021	491

# NEW: EYFS with Amanda Picken



- We are really pleased to be able to offer workshops for both senior leaders and for subject/curriculum leaders to help prepare for the introduction of the new EYFS framework.
- Amanda has over 29 years experience as a Teacher, Senior Leader and Consultant. She has particular expertise in EYFS, Communication, language and literacy.
- She is experienced in designing, delivering and evaluating quality sessions, training and workshops in schools and EYFS settings.
- She is able to use her experience of working directly with schools and groups of children to offer practical advice and techniques when implementing the new framework.
- Amanda played a lead role in the Every Child a Talker (ECAT) Programme and Communication, language and literacy (CLL) Programme for a Local Authority.

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# EYFS for senior leaders and governors



For **senior leaders, governors and trustees**. Support in preparing for implementation, covering:

- understanding the key changes in the new EYFS reforms and the rationale for this;
- considering the implications for your school/ setting;
- identifying school priorities in preparation for September 2021.

Summer term: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 1:30pm - 3:00pm. ZOOM Webinar.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 1:30pm - 3:00pm. ZOOM Webinar

Each webinar is just £70.00 (+VAT)

Contact [Tracy](#) to reserve a place.

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# EYFS for classroom practitioners



For **EYFS leaders and class teachers**. Zoom webinars offering practical advice and resources to cover:

- understanding the key changes in the new EYFS reforms and the rationale for this;
- identifying the priorities in preparation for September 2021;
- considering how this will be introduced in your classroom or setting.

Summer term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 1:30pm - 3:00pm. ZOOM Webinar.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 1:30pm - 3:00pm. ZOOM Webinar

Each webinar is just £70.00 (+VAT)

Contact [Tracy](#) to reserve a place.

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