

**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for Level 3 qualifications reform, and design and implementation of V Levels**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 8th January 2026

*****Taking place online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing the current post-16 landscape and next steps for development of V Levels**
Tom Reed, Head, Sector Readiness, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for the design, development and rollout of V Levels**
support for providers in preparing for delivery / setting entry requirements and developing pathways / employer engagement and curriculum co-design / grading and assessment frameworks and their relationship with A Levels and T Levels / Skills England occupational standards in qualification and programme design / effective rules of combination and careers guidance / awareness among learners, parents and schools / funding and capacity within the 16-19 funding formula / inclusive qualification design and accessibility for SEND and disadvantaged learners / flexible and digital delivery and placement models / staff development and access to specialist facilities / alignment with Industrial Strategy priority sectors and regional skills needs / maintaining parity of esteem and confidence in new routes
Alice Wilby, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience, University of Northampton
Will Chitty, Principal, Crewe Engineering & Design UTC
Senior representative, FE
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, awarding body
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Regulatory considerations for qualification development, oversight and delivery**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Supporting student choice, progression and accessibility at Level 3**
Senior representative, union
- 11.15 **Assessing Level 3 reform and priorities for maintaining continuity of vocational provision**
managing withdrawal of funding from AGQs and phasing reforms to avoid gaps in provision / student choice and maintaining a balanced qualification offer / overlap with A Levels, T Levels and V Levels / accessibility for SEND and disadvantaged learners, and those between academic and technical entry points / transitions from Level 2 to Level 3, including development of occupational and progression pathways / quality and standards during transition / provider capacity to reorganise delivery as older qualifications are phased out / priorities emerging from the Curriculum and Assessment Review and Post-16 Education White Paper
James Scott, CEO, Trafford & Stockport College Group
Senior representative, awarding body
Senior representative, employer
Senior commentator
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 **Supporting learner progression and developing pathways to further study and employment**
pathways into HE, apprenticeships and employment / parity of esteem between academic, technical and vocational routes / engagement and partnerships between FE, employers, HEIs and local authorities / alignment with regional and sectoral skills needs through Local Skills Improvement Plans / career pathways and learner progression / addressing barriers such as prior attainment in English and maths, transport and placement access, and flexible pacing and assessment / provision for adult learners and mid-career reskilling / tracking learner outcomes and progression, and improving delivery and outcomes across Level 3 qualifications
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, FE
Senior representative, HE
Senior representative, local authority
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum