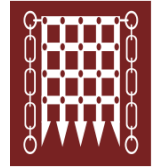


## Westminster Education Forum policy conference:

### Next steps for Level 3 qualification reform - V Levels, student progression and implementation

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



WESTMINSTER  
EDUCATION  
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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing the future of post-16 qualifications - reform, implementation and learner progression**  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Key considerations for V Level design, development and delivery**  
*preparation for implementation and workforce training | grading and assessment | entry requirements | careers guidance provision and improving awareness among learners, parents and schools | Skills England's approach to occupational standards and technical qualification design | provider capacity, quality assurance and curriculum planning | expanding placement capacity, including digital and virtual models, and improving access in rural areas | alignment with Level 2 pathways, T Levels and A levels | learning from T Level rollout | SME participation and sustainable employer partnerships*  
**Donna Ford-Clarke**, Vice President, Vocational Qualifications and Portfolio, Pearson  
**Adam Fahey**, Group Deputy CEO, South Essex Colleges Group  
**Adam Steels**, Curriculum Director, Meridian Trust  
**Sam Nicholas**, Policy Advisor, Education and Skills, Royal Academy of Engineering  
Senior representative, employer  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Regulation and quality assurance for reformed Level 3 pathways**  
Senior representative, regulation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Ramsey of Wall Heath**
- 11.00 **Supporting accessibility and student choice**  
Senior representative, teaching union
- 11.10 **Managing phased defunding and reform of existing Level 3 qualifications**  
*co-ordination between Level 3 options | maintaining learner choice, flexibility and continuity of provision | supporting transitions for learners, providers and awarding organisations | supporting disadvantaged learners, students with SEND and learners in rural or coastal areas | options for learners below standard entry thresholds | timing and sequencing of defunding | minimising disruption while sustaining confidence across the post-16 system*  
**Dr Catherine Richards**, Principal, East Norfolk Sixth Form College  
**Neil Hatton MBE**, Chief Executive, UK Screen Alliance  
Senior representative, awarding body  
Senior commentator
- 11.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Developing learner awareness of reformed post-16 pathways and supporting access to careers guidance**  
**James Moon**, Associate Director, Careers Hubs, The Careers and Enterprise Company
- 12.00 **Supporting student progression and recognition - pathways into further study, higher education and employment**  
*parity of esteem between academic and technical qualifications | progression across V Levels, T Levels, apprenticeships, higher technical education and employment | HEI admissions and employer recognition of reformed qualifications | access criteria and admissions processes | balance between technical focus and academic breadth | supporting adult learners and mid-career reskilling | accessibility and inclusivity in assessment and delivery | alignment with Skills England, Local Skills Improvement Plans and labour market priorities*  
**Professor Graeme Atherton**, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Regional Engagement; Vice Principal, Ruskin College; and Head, Ruskin Institute for Social Equity, University of West London  
Senior representative, further education  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior commentator
- 12.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Policy priorities for Level 3 reform and preparing the sector for implementation**  
**Tom Reed**, Head, Sector Readiness, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Baroness Ramsey of Wall Heath**  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Education Forum