

Today's email includes:

- the appointment of Nadhim Zahawi MP as Secretary of State for Education
- the announcement that young people aged 12 to 15 are to be offered a COVID-19 vaccine
- the COVID-19 Response Autumn and Winter Plan 2021
- the summer schools claim form for eligible secondary schools

Nadhim Zahawi MP has been appointed as the new Secretary of State for Education

On Wednesday 15 September, the Prime Minister confirmed that [Nadhim Zahawi MP has been appointed](#) as the new Secretary of State for Education.

The Secretary of State for Education said:

“Education is a crucial part of our levelling up agenda so it’s an honour to be back at the Department for Education as Secretary of State.

Children and young people have had a tough time during this pandemic, and I’ll be listening to them and their families as we accelerate our work to build back better and fairer.

From my own experience, I know what a beacon of opportunity this country can be, and I want all children, young people and adults to have access to a brilliant education, the right qualifications and opportunities to secure good jobs. That’s both

vital for them, and also our economy and is more important now than ever before.

I can't wait to get started, working with the amazing teachers and staff in our nurseries, schools, colleges and universities as well as employers and businesses.”

COVID-19 vaccine update for 12 to 15 year olds

This autumn, all young people aged 12 to 15 are being offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccinating young people should help to reduce the need for young people to have time off school and should reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The main purpose of the COVID-19 childhood vaccination programme is therefore to provide protection to the young people who receive the vaccine and to reduce the disruption to face-to-face education this winter.

Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine.

More information on the COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccination programme and how it will work, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions, is included in the [Public Health England guidance for schools](#).

[NHS leaflets](#) are available to provide more information to parents, carers and eligible young people on the vaccine, including how it works and what to expect after having the vaccine. Accessible versions and translations are also available.

COVID-19 response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021

The government has published the [COVID-19 Response – Autumn and Winter Plan 2021](#). This guidance sets out plans for autumn and winter 2021/22 in England. It includes the government’s “Plan A” – a comprehensive approach designed to steer the country through autumn and winter 2021/22. It also outlines a “Plan B” which would only be enacted if the data suggests further measures are necessary to protect the NHS.

Information for eligible secondary schools on the summer schools claim form

The [COVID-19 summer schools claim form](#) is now live. The deadline to submit your claim is 23:59 on Friday 1 October 2021.

Further information on how to complete the claim form, the summer schools programme and the conditions of funding can be found in our guidance on [COVID-19 summer schools programme funding](#).

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children’s social care.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

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