

<p>Apprenticeships & Levy Chancellor to keep under review flexibility for employers to use Levy funding</p> <p>Chancellor reiterates commitment to 3m apprenticeship starts by 2020.</p> <p>We welcome the government’s commitment to continue to work with employers on how the apprenticeship levy can be spent so that the levy works effectively and flexibly for industry, and supports productivity across the country <i>“I’ll keep under review the flexibility that levy payers have to spend this money”</i>.</p>	<p>New National Retraining Partnership introduced to tackle skills shortages</p> <p>To tackle skills shortages in priority sectors the government will launch an historic partnership, between government, the CBI and the TUC – to set the strategic direction and implementation for a National Retraining Scheme.</p> <p>Regional focus is proposed with the new Skills Advisory Panels having a role in highlighting local economic needs. A national and industry focus is omitted. Plus there is no overarching strategy for the UK or acknowledgement of the functioning of infrastructure sectors.</p> <p>Its first priority will be to boost digital and construction skills.</p>
<p>£20 million extra investment to help colleges prepare for the introduction of T- levels</p> <p>The government announced T levels in the Spring 2017 Budget. It is thought this cash injection will come on top of the £50 million Justine Greening revealed in July, that is to be available from April 2018 for “capacity building” ahead of the launch of the new technical qualifications in 2020.</p> <p>It’s also in addition to the annual £500 million investment in T-levels announced by the Treasury in March, which will come into play from 2022.</p> <p>The government focus is on development and implementation of T Levels.</p>	<p>Welcome support for STEM investment in maths and tech</p> <p>Maths skills were also cited by Hammond as being invaluable to the UK, which is why he suggested expanding the Teaching for Mastery of Maths programme to a further 3,000 schools. Some £40m will be provided to train maths teachers across the country.</p> <p>Incentives have also been waived across the table, with schools set to be given £600 for every additional pupil taking A-level or core maths.</p> <p>£350,000 of extra funding a year will be given to every specialist maths school that is set up across the country.</p> <p>The need to increase digital skills in the UK, both in schools and among the existing workforce, is seen by many as a key strategy for the government. Therefore, the chancellor also pledged to boost digital skills, including tripling the number of trained computer science teachers to 12,000 by committing £84m for teacher training supported by a new National Centre for Computing.</p>

Tackling gender disparity in STEM

Girls are disproportionately less likely to study most STEM subjects at A level, hindering progress into higher education and careers in STEM.

To deepen the understanding of the gender disparity in subject choices at age 16, the government will explore how to improve the accessibility and transparency of data on this issue by institution and subject.

Additional funds for work-based training but only for Unionlearn

The government will provide £8.5 million over the next two years to support Unionlearn (Unionlearn is the learning and skills organisation of the TUC), an organisation of the Trades Union Congress to boost learning in the workplace. The recognition of the disparity is welcomed.