

Welcome to Wonkhe Live

Wonkhe Live is a monthly online briefing event exclusively for Wonkhe partners and Plus subscribers

Get involved – post in the chat, ask questions, share your thoughts

Recording and slides will be available after the session

Please share your feedback if there's anything you'd like to see at future Wonkhe Live events:
team@wonkhe.com

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HOME OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEBATE

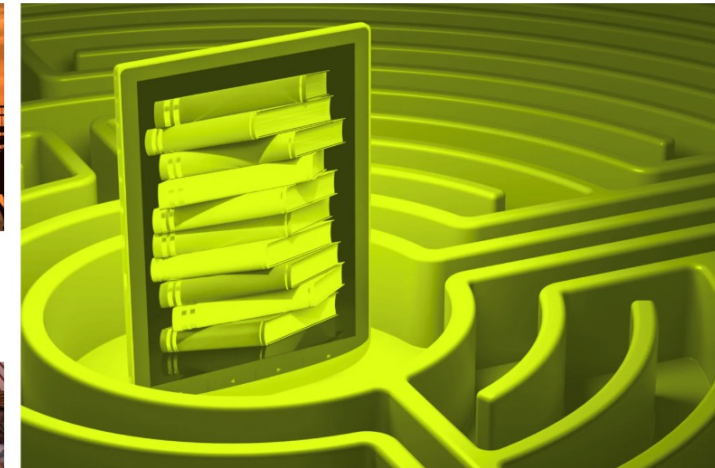


The new bill can deliver on Wales' promise

ELIZABETH TREASURE | COMMENT | 03/11/21



Here comes the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill



What do we really know about how students use learning resources?

David Kernohan asks how we get to know how students feel about the resources they used during emergency remote learning

DAVID KERNOHAN | COMMENT | 02/11/21

WONK CORNER

Augar response? Fee cuts? Minimum qualifications? It's all about timing

DAVID KERNOHAN | 02/11/21

How much financial help should we give to students?

JIM DICKINSON | 01/11/21

Do a quarter of students have an eating disorder?

JIM DICKINSON | 27/10/21

Minimum entry requirements would do the opposite of levelling up

DAVID KERNOHAN | 26/10/21

Lots to complain about at the debate over fees

JIM DICKINSON | 26/10/21

Have students been getting the vaccine?

JIM DICKINSON | 25/10/21

FREE WEEKLY

Wonkhe Mondays

Start the week with our free agenda-setting briefing with everything you need to know about what's going on in UK higher education.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ The biggest changes you need to know about
- ✓ In-depth commentary and analysis
- ✓ What's happened, and what happens next
- ✓ A briefing designed for both the biggest experts and the most casual of observers

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- ✓ Wonkhe Daily briefing every morning
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Wonkhe SUs

Your one-stop-shop for information, advice, training and policy analysis to save your students' union time and resources, and stay ahead of the curve. Join a thriving community.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Regular policy briefings
- ✓ Training
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ADVANCING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

**How universities can meet the
post-pandemic challenge to deliver
improved retention & success**

Tuesday 28 June 12:30 - 14:00

Register for free wonkhe.com/events

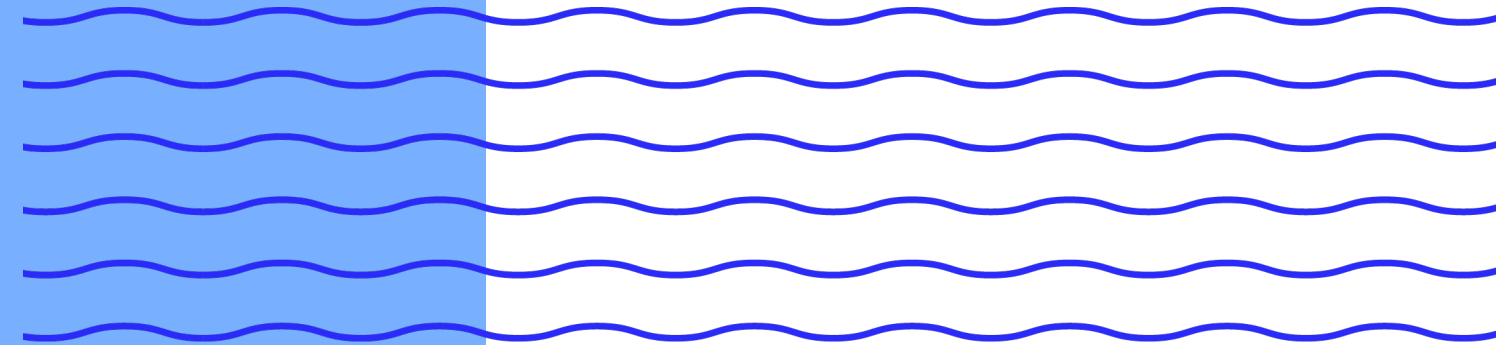
Education Espresso

WONKHE ×  **Adobe**

Thursday 30 June 12.00-1.00pm
Telling the story of changing pedagogy

Policy round-up

June 2022



DAVID KERNOHAN | ACTING EDITOR, WONKHE
@DKERNOHAN | DK@WONKHE.COM

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Key events

01 BOOTS ON THE GROUND

OfS reinvents subject review for the age of antagonism

02 SKILLS, LEVELLING UP, SOCIAL MOBILITY

Skills policy is hard, so is levelling up. But we can redefine away the difficulties with social mobility?

03 SURVEYING STUDENTS

Back to 2019-20, complete with anxiety?

04 THE ME TOO MOMENT

Bartlett should not keep being Bartlett

05 HORIZON SCANNING

Yes or no, George? [Featuring James Coe]

06 BELONGING

6,000 staff speak out on student support

07 FREE SPEECH

Now with added international funding



I don't know but it's been said, the OfS dashboard is flashing red

- Business provision under investigation at 8 (larger) providers
- Decisions to inspect draws on outcomes data and NSS responses.
- Part of a wider programme of inspections of “poor quality course” (Law is next, we hear)
- Focus on blended learning provision post pandemic
- ... as well as the usual stuff on effective delivery, contact hours, learning resources, and academic s
- More detail expected “soon” – we understand at least one provider has formally appealed the decis
- Review groups involve OfS staff and academics. No students. No involvement of the DQB.

Levelling up latest

THE NEW ORTHODOXY

- Oxford-educated Director of the Social Mobility Commission Katharine Birbalsingh couches a message about recognising all forms of achievement and parity of esteem as a national “obsession” with Oxbridge.
- We saw a huge drop of research and data from the Skills and Productivity Board and the Unit for Future Skills. We learn that there are still problems with employer led training, we need better data on skills demands, simply adding skills will not magically level up an area, and that demand for skills in psychology and counselling is predicted to grow sharply.



We should be very worried about anxiety

IT'S BACK TO THE FUTURE?

We are seeing a “rebound” in student satisfaction to pre-pandemic trends (in SAES, and in research from IDP), and the pandemic appears to have had little effect on the activities of recent graduates (in Graduate Outcomes).

But we still need to be concerned about huge increases in anxiety among young people – and there’s some evidence that the actual experience of being a student (and graduate) is a contributing factor).



Uncomfortable truths and open secrets

“Complicit through inaction”

A disturbing report highlights a “boys club” climate of unaccountability, inappropriate behaviour, and toxicity at the Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL.

Perhaps the most worrying aspect was that these issues were well known within the school, provider, and subject community for some considerable time without action being taken.

It is likely that similar stories will emerge from other parts of the sector.





Sunset on the horizon?

- The sector still awaits news of the UK's attempt to affiliate with EU-funded research programmes.
- The issue is bound up in other Withdrawal Agreement arguments – we are promised a decision later this year.
- Meanwhile UK HE is missing out on involvement in international consortia

A place to belong

ASKING STAFF

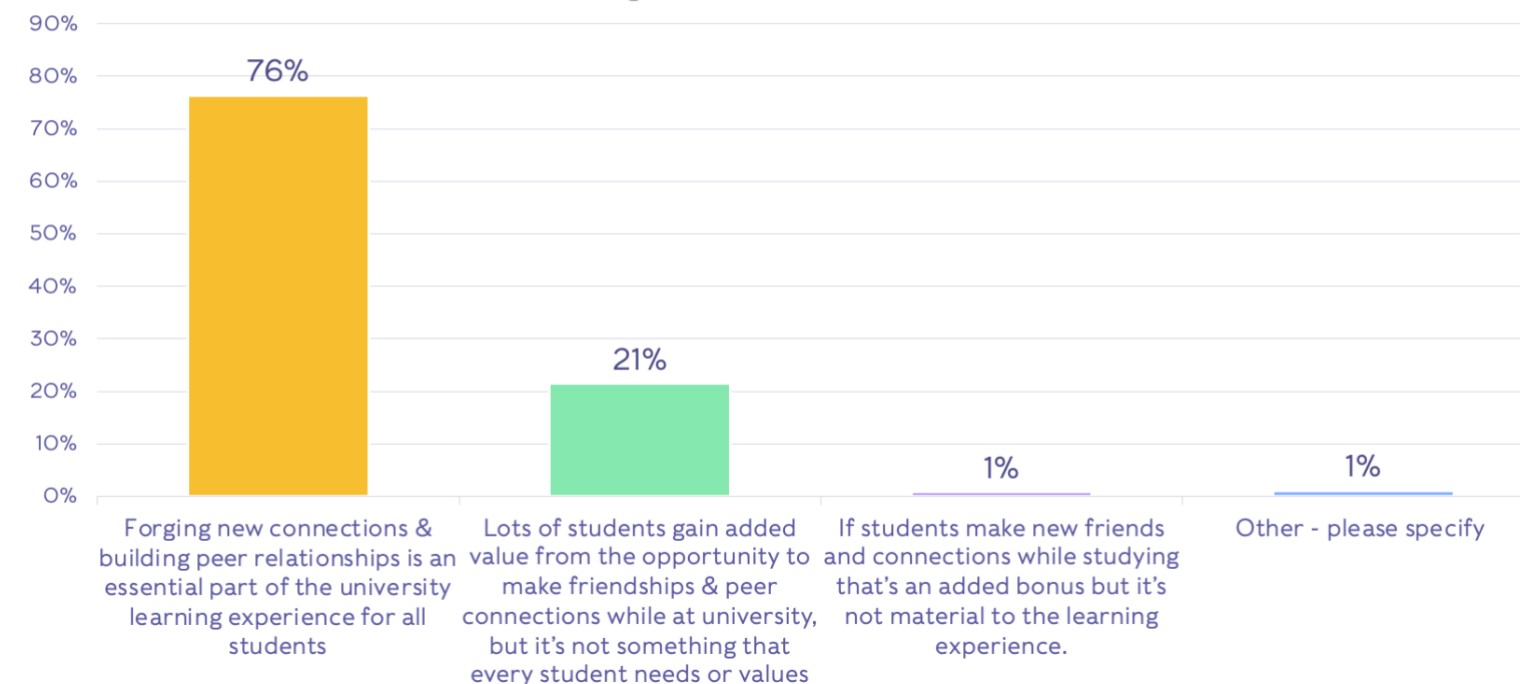
Key findings:

- Need a wide working definition of inclusion
- Progress is being made on course design but more to do
- Not always a staff priority given competing demands
- The quality of a student's relationship with academics teaching on the course

What in your view, makes the most significant difference to whether a student feels confident about their academic skills on arrival at university?



If you think about the degree of importance that is afforded to students developing peer connections as part of their university learning experience, how would you characterise your general view of the issue?



Renters reform

- Decent homes, ombuds, pets

Major change to rental Ts and Cs

- To facilitate abolition of "no fault" evictions, all tenancies (HMOs) will be rolling "periodic" tenancies and fixed term tenancies abolished
- All tenants will be able to give two months notice
- Rent early? But they can cancel, and the room isn't free
- International students? Upfront rent as an alt to deposits and guarantor won't work any more
- When will students sign? Interaction with academic year pressures
- Exempt students? But why should students not have the right to stay and the two month cancellation right?
- 12 month contracts die – a student wanting to leave in June will give notice in April – implications on rent costs (and who's then left around)
- CHAOS

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Free speech bill

As a reminder...

- Toughening of existing duty – becomes something to promote and more than external speakers and room bookings
- New DoAFaFoS on the OfS appointed by SoS
- Will operate an ombuds scheme (relationship with OIAHE)
- Freedom of speech within the law BUT reasonably practicable wording and balancing with other duties
- Students' unions directly regulated UNLESS an SU of an Oxbridge College
- New legal tort if a person is impacted by a failure re the duty

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Free speech bill

- Copy and paste emphatically rejected in the Senedd yesterday Report stage
- Foreign funding (free speech or security?)
- Security costs (will this work?)
- Academic freedom definition addressed (expertise...)
- NDA ban defeated (MD very strong on OfS regulation and what it will achieve)
- Harassment and a free speech defence amendment defeated (existing balance left intact, OfS will issue guidance)
- Labour amendments on political neutrality of the DoAFaFoS and a sunset clause both obviously defeated

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Free speech bill

To the Lords!

- To what extent will definitional/interpretation issues be left to OfS?
- Interaction with other legislation (inc online harms bill and human rights proposals)
- Problems with direct SU regulation when SUs already regulated by university and charity commission
- Which SUs regulated and how?
- Interaction with the OIA
- OfS implementation – Quality and standards?!
- Bill of rights – Raab – free speech and public authority overreach

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