Higher Education and Research Bill
The Bill had two evidence sessions this week. You can view summaries of both sessions here. You can view a list of the evidence submissions (including the one from BU) here.

Name-blind applications
Universities will test "name-blind" admissions for the first time to stop potential discrimination based on assumptions about students' names. Exeter, Huddersfield, Liverpool and Winchester will pilot a system this year where the names of applicants are not seen during admissions. Universities to hide applicants' names in anti-bias trial *(BBC News).*

HEPI
HEPI has released its latest report *Tackling Wicked Issues: Prestige and Employment Outcomes in the Teaching Excellence Framework*. The report suggests that unless teaching can come to be seen as prestigious, it will always be of secondary importance, irrespective of financial incentives. You can view the report here.

Universities and Schools
As part of new educational reforms, Theresa May made an unexpected announcement that if universities want to charge over £6,000 for their tuition fees, they will be required to establish a new school or sponsor an existing underperforming one as part of new guidance issued by the Director of Fair Access. You can view the full announcement here. HEFCE have previously done some analysis of existing relationships between schools and universities, you can view this here.

Jo Johnson MP
Jo Johnson spoke at the Universities UK annual conference. He talked about the HE Bill, Brexit and social mobility. He said that HE's presence in DfE will help facilitate closer ties between universities and schools to tackle issues such as raising attainment. You can view his speech here.

Science and Research Funding
Million Plus has published a new policy briefing calling for a new approach to research funding in universities. The briefing makes several recommendations including a proposed link between baseline research funding and student numbers at all universities with degree awarding powers. You can view their full report here.