

Overhaul for England's Schools: Vocational Paths to Tackle Neet Crisis

3 hours ago



Under an educational overhaul proposed by Prime Minister Andy Burnham, teenagers across England in Year 10 and above will soon have the option to pair core subjects with technical fields like artificial intelligence and manufacturing.

Intended to connect students directly with regional job markets, these vocational pathways aim to curb a sharp rise in youth unemployment. Recent figures indicate that over one million young Britons are currently not in education, employment, or training (Neet), marking a 12-year high. While the administration projects these work-ready pathways to launch regionally by 2028, critics and school leaders note that operational details remain sparse, particularly for regions with limited industrial footprints.

Visiting a train manufacturing facility in Derby, Burnham criticised the long-standing societal bias favouring university attendance, arguing that the traditional framework marginalises students who thrive in hands-on environments. Although he declined to specify a timeline for reversing the upward trend in Neet figures, he emphasised that halting the current rise is his immediate priority. Meanwhile, opposition figures like shadow work and pensions secretary Helen Whately dismissed the initiative, asserting that broader economic policies have stifled youth employment and that the new curriculum alone will not resolve the shortage.