

## Continued from page 1

The London Academy of Excellence (LAE) will open in the London Borough of Newham with 10 other schools sponsoring the teaching of A-level subjects.

Eton College will be responsible for teaching English and Highgate School will support the teaching of Maths at the new academy. The school will open with 150 places, rising to 400 places by the third year.

Mr Gove hopes the new maths schools will be just the beginning of a whole range of specialist free schools.

However Chris Keates, general secretary of the NASUWT teachers' union said she feared the creation of 100 free schools could lead to more 'misery and inequality'.

She added: 'In the face of record youth unemployment the Chancellor's choice is to benefit the few not the many. In naked pursuit of the Coalition's elitist vision of education, 100 free schools and a handful of pupils get £600m while children in 22,000 other schools fight over a few hundred pounds.'

The initiative is part of the Government's 'go for growth' strategy but Ms Keates said: 'Record levels of youth unemployment are the result of the Chancellor's mismanagement of the economy. Shifting the blame onto schools is unacceptable and wrong.'

Teaching unions have criticised free schools for not having to employ qualified teachers. However the Department for Education (DfE) claims action will be taken if results slip or if teaching is not up to scratch.

Nansi Ellis, head of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers' education policy and research department, is concerned over the lack of transparency over funding of the free schools. She called it 'a huge issue' and said: 'We don't know how much is being spent on any of these schools. People have put in freedom of information requests, but they've been told it's 'sensitive business information'. If we don't know how much money's gone in, and where it's been spent, how will we know if free schools are value for money? Or if there are knock-on implications for the funding available to maintained schools?'

Free schools were given approval in the Academies Act 2010. They are set up by groups of parents, teachers, charities, businesses, universities, trusts, religious or voluntary groups, but are funded directly by central Government.

To become a free school, groups need to apply to the DfE. There were 323 applications in the first round, which closed in February 2011.

Of the 323, 115 of the applications were from faith groups. The first 24 free schools opened in September 2011.

## Trade-in your ICT resources and earn extra cash

Teachable.net is an online service that enables teachers to trade-in ICT resources in order to earn extra cash. Therefore, the more materials that are uploaded, the bigger the potential return.

Once checked by an education specialist, good quality, interactive ICT resources can be downloaded by others – internationally. The contributor receives a cash credit (50 per cent of the download fee) – providing a welcomed source of additional income, and the knowledge that they are helping to support over-worked teachers and educate a wider community.

In today's technological visual age, students have high expectations of what is provided via the classroom whiteboard, although not all teachers are ICT experts.

Lisa Telfer, head of Science at Bartholomew School in Oxfordshire, is an avid user of Teachable. She said: 'Teachable is a fantastic concept. I keep coming back to the same website again and again.'

Her colleague Hazel Petty added: 'Teachable allows that universal sharing of resources schools have always wanted. What I like the most is that you can alter everything and personalise it.'

Science teacher Simon Ball of Balcarras School, Cheltenham, said: 'It is such a good idea. I have uploaded a vast number of ICT resources to Teachable. There is some outstanding work being created in the UK, it would be great to see it all.'

Mr Upton added: 'As part of our aim as a social enterprise we want to go further and will match any donation pound for pound.'

See [www.teachable.net](http://www.teachable.net) for further details.

## Sport Relief free school fundraising resource packs available now!

Sport Relief are encouraging teachers to get their whole school involved in the biggest year of sport with the help of their free Schools Fundraising Resource Packs – available to order online at [sportrelief.com](http://sportrelief.com).

The packs have everything a school needs to hold a brilliant event for Sport Relief on Friday 23 March 2012, including a fundraising guide, promotional posters, balloons, stickers and exclusive materials to decorate your 'Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile' in school.

Pupils will learn about how their fundraising helps too, as each pack contains huge interactive story posters and an interactive, animated CD-ROM showcasing films of young people benefitting from Comic Relief-funded projects in Sierra Leone and the UK.

The packs are tailored to primary and secondary schools. There is also a schools section on the website – with many more learning, assembly and fundraising ideas available at [sportrelief.com/schools](http://sportrelief.com/schools)