

[News story: New education and skills measures announced](#)

Education Secretary Justine Greening has (1 October) announced a series of measures to place education at the heart of the government's ambition to provide opportunity for all and ensure we are building the skills needed to secure the nation's prosperity.

The announcements will build on the government's record of driving up standards in education – with 1.8 million more children in good or outstanding schools than in 2010, more rigorous qualifications and fairer funding for schools, backed by £1.3 billion of additional funding.

The measures announced include:

Help for students

To help more young people access the widest choice of high quality education or training, the government has outlined additional support for university students. The government has announced that it will raise the earning threshold for student loan repayments from £21,000 to £25,000 – which could mean up to an additional £360 a year for thousands of graduates early on in their career. The government is also freezing tuition fees for 2018/19 at their current rate.

Getting great teachers in the schools that need them most

The government wants to ensure every young person can reach their potential – and great teachers are at the heart of this. There are already a record number of teachers in our schools – 15,500 more than in 2010. To support more schools to attract the best staff, the Education Secretary has set out a series of measures, including:

- Piloting a new student loan reimbursement programme for science and Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teachers in the early years of their career, targeted in the areas of the country that need them most. The pilot scheme will benefit around 800 MFL and 1,700 science teachers a year. A typical teacher in their fifth year of work would benefit by around £540 through reimbursement, and this would be more for teachers with additional responsibilities. This is in addition to the benefit that teachers will get from the newly-announced student loan repayment threshold rise.
- New style bursaries in maths will also be piloted, with generous upfront payments of £20,000 and early retention payments of £5,000 in the third and fifth year of a teacher's career. Increased amounts of £7,500 will also be available to encourage the best maths teachers to teach in more challenging schools.
- £30 million investment in tailored support for schools that struggle the most with recruitment and retention, including investment in

professional development training so that these schools can benefit from great teaching.

- Supporting our best teacher trainer providers, including top Multi Academy Trusts, with Northern Powerhouse funding to expand their reach in to challenging areas in the north that do not currently have enough provision so more areas benefit from excellent teacher training, and help increase the supply of great teachers to the schools that need them the most.

Tackling inequality and boosting opportunity across the country

Tackling the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers is a crucial part of unlocking the potential of every child and, for many children, we know this gap is already in place before they even start primary school. In particular, research shows that five-year-old children who struggle with language are six times less likely to reach the expected standard in English at age 11 than children who have good language skills at five, and ten times less likely to achieve the expected level in maths.

To help tackle this, the Education Secretary has set out:

- A new national network of English hubs will be established across the country with a specific focus on improving early language and literacy – starting with £12m in the north.
- £6 million further investment to expand Maths Hubs to more challenging areas, spreading excellence in maths teaching.
- The latest round of the £140 million Strategic School Improvement Fund which will include a new focus on boosting literacy and numeracy skills in Reception year.
- £5 million investment to trial evidence-based home learning environment (HLE) support programmes in the north of England, which focus on early language and literacy.
- Plans to transform alternative provision so that no pupils outside of mainstream education are left behind – working with school leaders, parents and local authorities to ensure it is fit for purpose and ensures every child has access to good education, regardless of their background or their ability.

Building the next generation of skills our economy needs to thrive in a modern, post-Brexit economy

We want to deliver the skilled workforce our economy needs to stay competitive. Today's announcement includes a number of steps to continue to diversify the training and quality of qualifications on offer and ensure we remain at the forefront of higher education:

- A boost for degree-apprenticeships – with 27 new projects tasked with promoting and increasing this high-quality route into employment – which allows apprentices to earn while they learn, while gaining a full degree that has been developed in partnership with employers and universities. Projects will be spread across the country and are part of a £10 million fund launched in 2016 that has already supported more than 2,000 people

to begin a degree apprenticeship.

Press release: Minister for the Americas to visit the Midwestern United States

In his first visit to the Midwest, Minister for the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan will travel to Illinois, Columbus and Indianapolis next week to meet key politicians from the States: the Governor of Illinois, Bruce Rauner, the Governor of Ohio, John Kasich, the Governor of Indiana, Eric Holcomb, and the Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emmanuel. He will also meet UK businesses investing in the US and US companies investing in the UK. The Minister will deliver a keynote speech on Britain's global role at the Chicago Council of Global Affairs and address students at the Ohio State University and the University of Notre Dame.

Sir Alan will end his visit to the US with a stop in Washington DC, where he will meet senior political figures in the Senate, House of Representatives and the Trump Administration.

Speaking ahead of the visit, Sir Alan said:

I look forward to my first visit to the heartland of America. All three States have significant cultural, political and economic ties to the United Kingdom. Chicago, Columbus and Indianapolis are three of the largest cities in the US and contribute hugely, not just to the lifeblood of their respective states, but to America as a whole.

The relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States is one built around a common language, the common principles of freedom and democracy, and common interests. On security, defence, trade and investment, the United Kingdom and the United States are the closest of partners.

This visit is a chance for me to witness the ubiquity of the special relationship to the lives of all Americans, as well as to discuss ways to further enhance the special relationship as the UK leaves the EU.

[News story: Criminal law changes to online copyright infringement](#)

The maximum sentence for online copyright infringement has changed from two years to ten years.

What's changed?

The criminal law provisions relating to online copyright infringement have changed. The maximum sentence that can be levied is now ten years. This change brings the law in line with what is already available for physical copyright infringement.

The changes affect sections 198 1(A) and 107 2(A) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act. These sections outline criminal offences arising from infringement of a performers making available right, and their communication right.

An additional mens rea has also been introduced. It must now be proved that a person "knows, or has reason to believe that the act of infringement will cause loss to the owner of the right or expose the owner of the right to a risk of loss".

The facts

These offences do not criminalise the downloading of material, although civil action can be taken against any infringer in these circumstances.

In some circumstances the downloading of material can also involve the re-upload of the same material, which may mean the requirements of the offences are met.

To avoid the risk of any civil or criminal action being taken against you our advice is to access content legally. If you are unsure how to do this [Get it Right from a Genuine Site](#) can help you.

[News story: IP \(Unjustified Threats\) Act comes into force](#)

From 1 October 2017, changes will be made to the law on unjustified threats of infringement

The new law on threats is clearer, consistent across all relevant IP rights, and will help businesses to avoid expensive litigation.

An unjustified threat is made when someone unfairly threatens someone else with legal action for infringing their intellectual property, when no infringement has actually taken place. These threats are costly and disruptive, drive customers away and stop businesses trading legitimately in goods and services.

The IP (Unjustified Threats) Act 2017 will:

- help businesses negotiate fairly over IP disputes, and protect businesses who can be most harmed by unjustified threats
- make it clear what you can and can't say when approaching another business about an alleged infringement
- help IP owners and third parties understand when an approach is a threat
- encourage IP owners to approach the source of the alleged infringement, rather than customers or retailers
- encourage a culture of allowing businesses to "talk first", rather than head to court
- bring consistency and certainty across this complex area of IP law

Why did we make the changes?

The law was complex, unclear, and inconsistent between the various IP rights involved. It made IP owners, particularly SMEs, reluctant to try and enforce their IP. It also made it difficult for businesses to make legitimate attempts to settle an IP dispute before going to court. The changes follow from detailed proposals put forward by the Law Commission for reform in this area of law.

Read our business guidance to find out more information on [unjustified threats](#) and how they affect the actions you can take.

[News story: Use a website address instead a registered design number](#)

Designers can now use a website address to show their products are protected by registered designs.

What's changed?

From today registered design owners can mark their product with a website address to show the product is protected by a registered design. Previously the only way to do this was to put the registered design number on the

product. The webpage must clearly set out the registered design number(s) relevant to that product.

Removing the need to mark the registered design numbers directly on the product will reduce burdens and costs for businesses and individuals who own registered designs.

Why is it important to show the design is registered?

Marking the product as protected by a registered design is optional, but it gives the design owner the best chance of being awarded financial remedies if their design is infringed. Using a website address will also make it easier for the public to access up-to-date registered design information in relation to a product.

Read our guidance on how to [display your rights](#).