

QUO VADIS?

‘Whither goest thou?’ or collectively, what are teachers going to do for the next five years?

Following the result of the **General Election** it is highly likely that education will face **more assaults** on schools and teachers with the effects that will follow on teaching, learning and pupil progress.

Nicky Morgan will remain as Education Secretary but we are likely to see more rampant privatisation of the school system, more restricted pay increases and reduced pensions entitlement, lack of automatic progression and portability and overburdening workloads. She could make an immediate impact by reversing the policy that allows **unqualified people** to be employed as teachers in schools and backing up her expressions of concern about **workload** by relieving the structural causes.

A looming crisis in teacher **recruitment and retention** will have to be faced if children are not to suffer and already there is talk of schools having to share teachers. NUT will continue its campaign to protect teachers from these threats and this may include further action. There will be another ballot to **renew the mandate** and members really must **ensure that they vote** in any ballots or elections. The Union will have to consider very carefully the best way to carry forward the spirit of its much praised ‘**manifesto for education**’ and members will have to consider their response. Once again it is time to ‘**stay close to your Union**’.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Representatives who went to Harrogate this Easter report a **good Conference** with a high degree of **unity**. Discussion on the motions ranged over a variety of issues including pay and conditions and pensions. Increasing pension and National Insurance contributions will mean severe restrictions on school budgets if they are merely protected as they stand.

The problems faced by supply teachers, stress and bullying in schools, exposure to possible asbestos contamination were further topics. The ongoing

problems of Ofsted inspections, the inappropriateness of baseline testing, the international threats posed by the Global Education Reform Movement (GERM), issues of child protection and the fundamental requirement that only Qualified Teachers are allowed to teach our children in our schools were all on the agenda.

NUT is setting up a board of Trustees for a Benevolent Fund to replace involvement with the Teacher Support Network.

A more detailed Conference Report will appear on the Manchester Teachers Association website www.manchesternut.com.

MAY DAY FESTIVAL

The Manchester May Day Festival took place on Saturday 2nd May and was centred on the **Mechanics Institute**. There was a day long programme of events, films and entertainment. Manchester Teachers Association was represented at the starting rally in Piccadilly Gardens and with the banner on the march, led by the North West NUT band, to the Mechanics Institute where the Association had a stall where members of Officers and several Committee were present to talk with visitors and distribute many copies of the NUT Manifesto for Education. **The NUT message was well received.**



PAY REFORM

DfE has issued new advice on Implementing Pay Reform, it focuses on three themes:-

- Avoiding unnecessary workload and bureaucracy at certain specific points within the appraisal and pay process.
- Good CPD practice in the appraisal process.
- Efficient and timely communication to teachers in respect of pay decisions.

NUT welcomes this guidance, which was developed through the programme of talks, and believes it will be helpful to schools.

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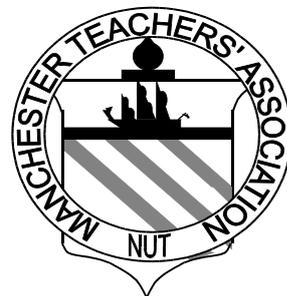
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WORKLOAD ACTION

NASUWT have recently given instructions to their members on marking and assessment policies generating excessive workload. NUT members in schools have been informed through Union guidance that this is not really new and is already covered by existing ASOSA (Action Short of Strike Action) guidance. For their protection members should abide by NUT guidance.

RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

The AGM of the Section was held on 5th May, the business was successfully carried out and, following debate, essential decisions were made. Subscriptions to the Section will rise to **£12.00 p.a.** from September this year. This is necessary to cover the rising cost of speakers, sundry expenses and charitable donations. It was also decided that a free drink for members and guests before the Christmas Lunch would no longer be offered. The Treasurer, **Eileen Flint**, submitted her annual report which had been audited by Association Treasurer **Jay Barry**, both were able to show all is well and the future secured.

All existing office holders were re-elected with thanks. **Lily Critten** submitted an interesting programme of talks for the coming year and **Laurien O'Brian** gave her Secretary's Report which was well received. To encourage membership, retiring members of the Association will be contacted with information on the Section and an invitation to join. From the Chair, **Raymond Flint** thanked all present for their participation in what is an enjoyable and flourishing Section of the Manchester Teachers Association NUT. The next meeting of the Section will be on Tuesday 2nd June when **Mr Brian Hallworth** will give a talk with the intriguing title of '**Everytime I Pass the Church**'.

All welcome, Hough End Centre 10.30am.

HEALTH & SAFELY MATTERS

Asbestos in schools is a serious and ongoing challenge and schools have to ensure training on how to implement statutory requirements to contain hazards. NUT is concerned that the recent report elicited a government response based on containment rather than a programme for the removal of asbestos from schools.

Due diligence and contractors. All contractors employing more than five persons are required

under the **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974** to have a written policy for Health & Safety and schools should only use contractors who comply with this legal requirement. The City Council has a useful checklist to establish compliance. Schools can contact the LA's Health & Safety Section for advice before engaging expensive outside consultants.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Manchester Environmental Education Network is working with children in some schools to promote learning about climate change and to consider the issues with each other and adults in their communities. In the process the children are exchanging ideas with parents and grandparents, gaining **science knowledge** and skills in expressing their views, **writing persuasively** in self-organising and **family learning**.

'Carbon classrooms' are planned to take place in the Arndale Centre on June 17th, 18th and 19th. If you would like to become involved or enquire if your school can be involved, further information is available on

[www.meen.org.uk/bloglist/environmental-education-](http://www.meen.org.uk/bloglist/environmental-education-blog)

[blog](http://www.meen.org.uk/bloglist/environmental-education-blog) or contact Lydia Meryll on **07796078310** or Raichael Lock on **07505172335**

EDU - BUSINESS

This is becoming an issue increasingly and globally. NUT recently lobbied the AGM of Pearson plc and has stated the need for negotiation to secure agreement on the appropriate role of 'edu-business' in education. A spokesperson for Education Datalab has favoured the outsourcing of homework to India as 'reliable' and a means of reducing teacher workload.

In a press release Christine Blower said:-

"Education is a human and civil right and a public good, for the good of learners and society not private profit".

NUT DIARIES

It is time to consider whether you will want a **NUT pocket diary** for the **2015-16 academic year**. If you do, they are available to buy from the NUT website www.teachers.org.uk/diary at a cost of only **£3.45**.



The professional and responsible union for all teachers