

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

Dawn Taylor

Greater Manchester
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THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the election earlier this year. It's a honour to represent you and be a part of the **ten new members of the Executive.**



The Chicago Teachers Union with the Banner Theatre

THE WHITE PAPER -THE WRONG PRIORTIES

The Union is proceeding with a formal ballot for strike action against the White Paper threatening to force all schools to become academies. That includes the schools which have chosen to stay within the local authority in the past. The White Paper proposals were expected to be mentioned in Queen's speech on 18 May and most likely be incorporated into a Bill just before Summer recess.

The timetable for the ballot has now been agreed by the NUT Executive. The ballot will open on 23 May and close on 22 June with strike action in the first week of July.

In order to keep the voice of teachers and parents in the debate about the future of education we have organised a Manchester Parents meeting. The basis for political party manifesto will be a revised Stand Up for Education.

We need to ensure we have the biggest possible turnout in our ballot. In schools with an NUT rep, ballot returns are historically high. However, there are many Primary Schools without a rep, so in order to contact these members directly a 'phone bank' will be set up to enable us to call members in schools without access to a rep. This is a crucial piece of work in building the ballot and wider campaign. All NUT Division and Association Secretaries have been asked to work to secure a high turnout and a YES vote, including holding reps' briefings, texting and emailing.

BUILDING ALLIANCES

On 6 April I was asked to address BMA rally in Manchester, as their struggle is part of a wider struggle to defend working conditions and public services. Teachers face similar threats too and a messages of solidarity was given.

Manchester Peoples Assembly held a Question Time event on 12 April to promote the national demonstration later in the week, which I Chaired.

THE CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION VISIT

After months of negotiations, I arranged for Tara Stamps and Matt Luskin from the Chicago Teachers' Union to join us in Manchester's for the biggest International Workers' Day festival for years. During their visit, they met up with Trafford NUT at their reps briefing, went to Lancaster for the Let Our Kids Be Kids event, and had a tour of a school in Stockport.

Both members of the CTU spoke of the struggle to reform the union, and how they built for the strike action in 2012 taking the community with them.



*NUT boots at the Peoples Assembly
Question Time*

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THE TRADE UNION BILL

The House of Lords have made various amendments to the Trade Union Bill including the concession on check-off; the delay in changes to the opt in for Political Funds; removing the reserve power to impose a cap on facilities time and an independent review of election balloting.

LOCAL ACTION

I attended a well supported picket line of the NUT members at Prestwich Arts College, who voted to reject the employers' "final offer" of two compulsory redundancies instead of four. Their fight continues to date.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

As part of our ongoing amalgamation with the ATL, Divisions will be receiving joint student application forms so that joiners' data will be shared by both unions.

MORE REASON TO VOTE YES!

The Executive noted with alarm and disbelief a research paper from the Centre for High Performance (a collaboration between the Universities of Kingston and Oxford) on 'how to turn round a failing school' which recommended eight changes for academies including 'student quality – exclude poor quality pupils, improve admissions and acquire a local primary school'.

Learnings for academies

The findings suggest academies should make eight changes in the following order:

1. Leadership and objectives - appoint new leaders and narrow objectives
2. Market perception - rebrand school and communicate change
3. Resources - expand service offering and improve admissions
4. Student quality - exclude poor quality students, improve admissions and acquire a local primary school
5. Structures - centralise activities and improve facilities
6. Process stability - improve student attendance and behaviour
7. Process capability - improve teaching capability
8. Systems - introduce performance development systems