

## STAND UP FOR TEACHING

**What a cheek** for the Secretary of State for Education to accuse teachers of talking down the profession and thus adding to the current shortage of teachers.

### What a colossal cheek!!!

Yes, Nicky Morgan, we will, and do, stand up for teaching, it is a **great profession**.

A qualified teacher is a highly educated and highly trained professional - **don't forget that!**

A professional teacher is not just another job holder in a school to be harried, denigrated and yes, even bullied until they toe the line.

A professional teacher is often a highly qualified subject specialist and always a specialist in education.

A qualified teacher knows about child development, about curriculum and methodology and about assessment.

A qualified teacher will often have a knowledge of the History and Philosophy of Education far beyond that of a transient minister of any political persuasion.

It is you, Nicky Morgan, and most of all your **infamous predecessor Michael Gove** who have done so much to foist upon children, young people and schools, unqualified people to usurp the role of teacher.

Excessive workload, attacks on the covenant that is a professional pension and a refusal to seek meaningful consultation with professionals on professional matters continues and puts new entrants off. Teachers are not blind to the challenges ahead but we say to those who would join us - become qualified, enter the profession and experience not only the undoubted problems and challenges, but also the joy and privilege of spending your days with young people, generate and share their enthusiasm and optimism and their successes and be that one thing that binds us together - **a qualified professional teacher**.

## WELCOME BACK

Welcome to the new term after what for some was a fragmented Easter holiday.

You will have heard various pronouncements from the government some of which are alluded to elsewhere in this issue. There are still many issues to face, ongoing

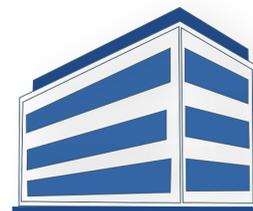
workload problems and baseline testing to name but two. You will have noticed that it is envisaged that just as **teachers** are no longer required on governing bodies, now **parents** are no longer to be seen as essential members of the governing body of their child's school.

Membership of MTA continues to rise and it remains good advice that you **'stay close to your Union'**. Best wishes for a good summer term.

## MTA OFFICE MOVE

As detailed in the February issue, the Manchester Teachers Association NUT has moved its office. The move has been **successful** and any teething problems have now been overcome. Telephone and email details have not changed, but just in case you missed it last time, have mislaid it since, or just not yet put it in your address book or diary, here is the new address again:-

**Manchester Teachers Association NUT,  
302a Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, Manchester  
M21 8AY.**



## ELECTION RESULT

It is disappointing to record that our General Secretary, John Morgan, was not elected to represent Greater Manchester in the recent National Executive elections. Thanks to the many members who voted for John and now we must redouble our efforts to ensure that members vote in ballots.

Congratulations to the two successful candidates Nick Wigmore of Rochdale and Dawn Taylor of Stockport.

## GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of MTA NUT will be on Thursday **19th May 2016 at 5pm at Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road. Please note this one off change of day** which is to accommodate our guest speaker, **Mike Kane**, MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East. As well as the normal business of the meeting and the latest news from the General Secretary, this visiting speaker promises to be very interesting. Please try to attend - there will be refreshments available .

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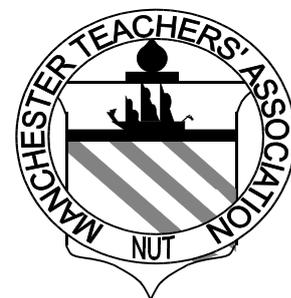
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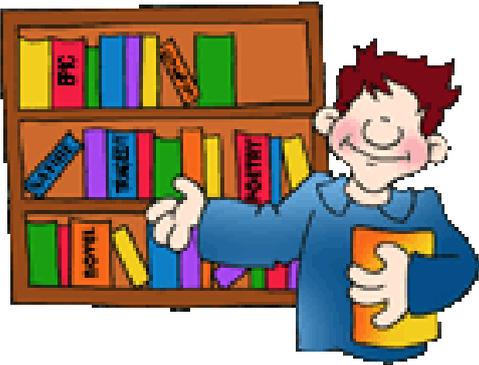


## ALAN GIBBONS - WELL SAID

The previous issue announced that the award winning children's author and teacher was to speak at the February General Meeting. Members at that meeting will confirm what an **enthralling** and **inspiring** address he gave.

Alan spoke from his experiences in schools in Britain and elsewhere in Europe and made some very pertinent and topical observations. He **stressed** the importance of children, from an early age onwards, having access to and reading from a wide variety of books. He **lamented** the threats to libraries in schools and in the wider community and referred to the value

of **a book in a child's hand**. Alan urged fellow professional teachers to have the **confidence to speak out** against the eroding of such a vital source for the development of our children



because we are the professional teachers and in **speaking out**, sometimes against the fashionable, we are **speaking up** for the children we teach. For us that is why we are members of NUT where the only membership requirement is that of being, or training to be, **a qualified teacher**.

### RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

The next meeting of the retired Teachers Section will be held on **Tuesday 3rd May** at the **Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road 10.15am** for 10.30am.

This will be the Section's **AGM** where there will be reports from Secretary and Treasurer and election of of Sections post holders. There will also be discussion of the programme of speakers and events for the coming year including details of an exciting visit already proposed.

There will be time for members to exchange 'news and views' before refreshments which bring the meeting to a close.

New members are always welcome and remember:- **Just because you retire from teaching does not mean you have to retire from NUT.**

### ACADEMIES

**George Osborne** declared in his **Budget Speech**, the government's intention to require all schools to become academies by 2020.

This in itself underlines the fact that this is **not an**

**education policy** but part of the government's **privatisation dogma**. Could it be connected to a finance measure to protect the House of Lords from voting it out?

It has been **heartening** to witness the breadth of opposition to this policy. Civil Servants have questioned whether it is practical because of a lack of enough sponsors and trusts. Many Local Authorities oppose the wholesale loss of their schools and Headteachers in many areas have been incensed at the slight on the success and popularity of their schools and have been supported by parents. The loss of the requirement to have parent governors has also been vigorously attacked.

There is no **evidence** to suggest that academy status is necessary for success and this has been proved by examples of academies that have received very unsatisfactory Ofsted reports.

NUT maintains its policy of opposition to Academies but support for members in those schools and members in schools threatened with conversion.

### NUTBF

Have you donated to the Union's Benevolent Fund yet? Remember, this replaces the Union's link with the Teacher Support Network. Details of how to contribute or how to apply for a grant are available at [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk).

### NUT/BMA MUTUAL SUPPORT

As the bitter dispute with the government over a new contract continues, MTA showed support for the **BMA Junior doctors strike action** by marching with them at lunchtime in Manchester City Centre on 26th April.

### NUT REPS BRIEFING

There will be a briefing for NUT Reps to discuss the upcoming strike ballot which will take place in May. The meeting will be on **11th May, 4.30pm** at the **Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road**. The industrial dispute will be based on the potential **ending of national pay and conditions** if all schools become academies, as stated in the White Paper. It is **essential** for every rep who can to attend this meeting. Please try to attend. Refreshments will be available.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At Easter Conference a report was presented outlining the discussions so far between the NUT and ATL on creating a new union. This became the basis of a priority motion that was discussed by Conference. Conference instructed the Executive to continue negotiations to produce detailed proposals on creating this new teaching union.

Conference also agreed that if these negotiations were successful then a **special conference** should be called to consider balloting members on the process.



**The professional and responsible union for all teachers**