

## SEASON'S GREETINGS



Advent is upon us and we are thinking of the coming festive season. In many spheres good will has been challenged this year and we certainly need to focus on the values that Christmas represents as we share with each other the traditional greeting of:-

**'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.**

## A NEW UNION

The move to join with ATL in the formation of a new Union to be known as the **National Education Union (NEU)** has taken a further step forward. On Saturday 5th November, NUT held its one day **national conference** at Hamilton House. The National Executives motion in support of the new formation was put to the conference and after debate was **passed by a large majority**. Manchester representatives who attended report a good debate. The significance for NUT and for ATL of this proposal is huge and there is, and will continue to be, much to consider by the membership. Already concerns are being expressed about proposed restrictions on the participation of retired members in the conduct of Associations. For some small NUT Associations this would make them not viable. A fundamental problem for many members is that **qualified teacher status** will no longer be the sole criterion for membership. For those members who hold this as their reason for joining NUT there is **much soul searching to do**. Positive points are that both NUT and ATL have declared that a **qualified teacher for every child** will be **fundamental policy** for the new Union. In addition a very strong selling point is that the new Union will be **the largest education Union** by far and will be a

strong force in driving forward the best for children in our schools.

National Executive is now considering the next step in the process which will be to put the proposal agreed at the Special Conference to a **ballot of the whole membership**.

All members should look out for the ballot, study the issues in depth and be sure to **cast their vote. Yes, cast your vote!** This is not a decision to be avoided.

## PRIMARY ASSESSMENT CAMPAIGN

The NUT campaign for an independent review of Primary Assessment is proceeding. Secretary of State, Justine Greening, has already agreed to halt proposals to make Year 7 re-sits mandatory and to halt development of 'further tests'.

NUT is seeking to go further in reforming primary assessment and is supported in this by **ATL and NAHT**. The Union knows the importance of moving forward along with its sister Unions but is fully aware of the need to act soon especially if there is to be any boycott of tests. DfE has said it will carry out a **'consultation'** in January.

Meanwhile NUT is supporting the **'More Than a Score'** coalition with parents, academies and the Cambridge Primary Review Trust and others.

Write to your MP with your views on Primary Assessment and support your Union's call for independent review.

## FUNDING CUTS

The potential effect on individual schools of ongoing government funding cuts can be seen in a new website backed by **NUT and ATL**,

**schoolcuts.org.uk**

uses Government data and spending plans to allow any parent or teacher in England to find their child's

school and learn

the budget cuts that it faces, should funding plans remain as they are.



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## MTA GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of MTA NUT will be the Annual General Meeting and will take place on Wednesday **25th January 2017 at 5pm at Hough End Centre**, Mauldeth Road. Agendas will be in schools beforehand. Please try to attend.

## NEW MEMBERS

The start of the new calendar year and Spring Term in January is a good time to ask any colleagues who are not already members to join. MTA membership is at a high point with over three and a half thousand members; now is the time to make it even higher. **Details at [www.teachers.org](http://www.teachers.org).**

## FRED AND ANNE JARVIS AWARD

Members are invited to make nominations for the Fred and Anne Jarvis Award 2017. This award recognises the contribution to education of an individual from **outside the Union**.

“The award should be made to a person who has campaigned tirelessly on a **national or local level** on educational issues which are broadly in support of the NUT’s ethos and approach and accord with the example and commitment shown by Fred and Anne Jarvis.”

Nominations must be submitted on the form available on the Union website by midday 5th January 2017. **Go to [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)**

## RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

The annual Christmas lunch, always an enjoyable event, lived up to expectations again this year and the Section was pleased to share its enjoyment with friends, old and new. It rounded off a calendar year in which we have had much pleasure from a series of fascinating talks and events including the memorable dining train experience on Peak Rail.



The academic year continues and our programme has lots to look forward to starting with the next meeting on **Tuesday 3rd January 2017** which will take the form of a **social meeting** including a **buffet**, already ordered, and the chance to share Christmas holiday stories. If you have an **object** you wish to

talk about, bring it along and share what it means to you.

Meetings as usual at the **Hough End Centre**, Mauldeth Road (not the sports centre on Princess Road) **10.15am for 10.30am**. New members welcome.

## BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Behaviour Management in the classroom is still a major issue for many members and a focus of NUT in-service training.

A free behaviour management resource is available from NUT. Go to **[www.inclusivebehaviour.co.uk](http://www.inclusivebehaviour.co.uk)** with the user name **nut** and password **nut16** for tips and strategies for behaviour management in the classroom. NUT’s continuing Professional Development Programme is widely admired. Further information on the programme is available at **[www.teachers.org.uk/courses](http://www.teachers.org.uk/courses)**

## STOKE ROCHFORD HALL

Stoke Rochford hall, the Union’s **conference and training centre**, has been **sold** and will be reborn as a country house hotel. NUT may even rent it’s facilities now and then but the Unions’ **Mander Hall at Hamilton House** will be available as a meeting and conference centre which can also be hired.

Such use will bring in revenue and receipts from the sale will also relieve a financial burden. This will help



to offset the loss of such a **prestigious venue** but it represents the end of a chapter in the NUT’s long history. **Thanks** go to all those who served the Union through Stoke Rochford either in an organisational capacity or in the day to day provision of its facilities.



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