

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE CUTS

26th March 2011 in London

The NUT is joining the TUC sponsored demonstration in London to protest against the cuts in education spending and the public sector generally. Below inflation pay increases and the pay freeze could cost teachers £2-3,500. School funding is being cut in real terms with the pupil premium only helping those with high levels of children taking free school meals. The 3% pension increase will cost NQTs £43 per month. Savage cuts to local authority budgets will hit education services hard and put many centrally employed teachers' jobs at risk.

The NUT believes there is an alternative to cuts. See the web-site for more information.

If you would like to join the demonstration on Saturday 26th March, we are organising free or subsidised transport on the day. Please contact the Divisional Secretary by e-mail asap for details and to express interest.

SAY NO TO CUTS AND JOIN THE NUT CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT PAY, PENSIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Sponsored run in aid of London homeless youth

Gloucester District Secretary Garry Wheeler is taking part in a sponsored run taking in the bridges over the River Thames in London on Saturday January 29th 2011 to raise money for London's young homeless in support of the charity Centrepont which houses and supports homeless young people aged 16 – 25.

Whether damaged by neglect, escaping abuse or avoiding gang culture Centrepont are giving homeless young people a future every day. If you would like to sponsor Garry (every penny helps) please make contact on 01452 531342 or email garrywheeler@blueyonder.co.uk

At the NUT Annual Conference in Liverpool in 2010 Garry ran a half marathon in aid of the Teachers' Support Network along the banks of the River Mersey (no bridges) and next year hopes to complete another run at Annual Conference in Harrogate again for the TSN.

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Update your membership: 0845 300 1666



Newsletter of the Gloucester Association of the National Union of Teachers

January 2011

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19th January 2011

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 2nd March 2011

All General Meetings run from 7.15 to 8.30 pm

Venue: The Gloucester Farmers Club, Sandwell Road. Directions to the meeting can be found on the meetings page of our web-site. Can't make the meeting? Then let us know your views via www.glosnut.co.uk

If you would like to attend the annual conference or join the executive committee contact the Divisional Secretary for details of how to apply. Nominations close at the end of January.



Dear Colleagues

As I write, the teaching profession seems to be under attack in a way not seen for a generation. The newspapers are full of claims that teaching standards in schools have fallen dramatically in global league tables over the past 10 years – despite widespread agreement that the current cohort of teachers are the best we have ever seen. The academy programme is setting out to fragment and undermine the teachers pay and conditions we have fought so hard to achieve, Gove has asked the STRB to review all teachers pay and conditions and pension rights are likely to be reduced for the second time in less than 10 years.

Teachers need their union to be campaigning hard on their behalf and that is exactly what we have been doing. At national and local forums and through hard political lobbying we have managed to ameliorate some of the worst excesses and are working hard to challenge this attack on our terms and conditions of service.

As always, whilst myself and others are negotiating with elected representatives in the local authority and their

officers as well as other employers of teachers, we rely on your support. The NUT has always campaigned beyond simple self-interest and for the educational issues that are in children's best interest. Please do whatever you can to ensure our voice is listened to and taken seriously.

Our successful campaign against radical reform of teachers' pensions in 2006 was expected to protect our pension rights for a generation. Now we find that once again we will need to campaign. The National Executive will be mailing all members with details early in the New Year and you will have an opportunity to find out more at our General Meeting on the 19th January.

I realise that workload pressures on you have never been greater and it has been my pleasure to meet with hundreds of you this year to discuss your concerns and issues facing us as classroom practitioners. I am asking you to consider what you can do to help us work together to face the challenges facing us. Can you send a petition to your MP or attend a meeting to discuss campaigning issues? Would you be able to contribute some of your time serving on the Executive committee? Your Executive members will be standing for election in the coming months. Please support us in whatever way you can as we continue to work on your behalf. Remember, together we are stronger!

With best wishes
John Pemberthy - Divisional Secretary

Need someone to talk to?
Our free counselling service for teachers is open
365 days per year. Ring 08000 564 561

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Members' Articles and letters welcomed

Local Association website: www.glosnut.co.uk

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Pensions Campaign

Government proposals mean that teachers and other public sector workers will be asked to work longer, pay more in contributions and receive less in benefits. At a meeting of the National Executive, held on 11 November 2010, a decision was taken to put in place a campaign to defend teachers' pensions.

It is proposed that contact will be made with other General Secretaries of teacher organisations to seek maximum co-ordination of campaign materials, activities and ultimately industrial action should this be necessary and supported.

Pensions remain a big concern across the whole public and wider private sector. The Union will continue to work for the broadest possible coalition in opposition to the attacks we face on our pensions. The National Executive will send out details of the proposed campaign in the New Year.

Academies update

In Gloucestershire we have already got 3 of the new conversion academies (plus 2 of the old ones) and a further application is going through from Balcarrass. The Divisional Secretary has visited most of the outstanding secondary schools, as well as several others that have expressed interest, and in every case members have passed a resolution to send to Governors expressing their opposition to conversion. The academies seminar we are sponsoring for January entitled "A Good Local School For Every Child? – The Social Cost of Academies" is also attracting a lot of interest amongst Heads. Christine Blower has kindly agreed to speak and do local press interviews on the day. We will also visit a couple of Gloucester schools in the morning.

Survey of members

In our last newsletter mailing, members were asked to participate in a survey of views on the cuts and the academy programme. We received almost 100 responses of whom:

- 77%** Agreed there is a danger that government cuts will be deeper and faster than necessary.
- 67%** Agreed that we should join with other public sector unions to challenge government cuts to jobs and services.
- 82%** Agreed that we should oppose cuts to jobs and services in education settings.
- 44%** Agreed that we should restrict our opposition to political and media lobbying.
- 56%** Agreed that we should be prepared to take industrial action including strike action where legally balloted.
- 28%** Agreed that we should be prepared to take industrial action including strike action against schools seeking academy status.

Budget Briefing

Gloucestershire County Council calculates that it will have to save about £108m over the next four years. This is principally due to a reduction in government grants of 28% over this period. The reductions are "front loaded" with the requirement to save 11% in the first year.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2010/11, before academy recoupment, currently stands at £326.5 million, and is based on a Guaranteed Funding Unit of £4,046 per pupil. The Comprehensive Spending Review has indicated a real terms increase for schools of 0.1% in 2011/12. This is at a national level and includes the pupil premium, so it is not yet clear how much of this increase will be received in Gloucestershire's DSG settlement.

In previous years, information on the Guaranteed Funding Unit per pupil and on a number of key standards fund grants would already be available by this time in relation to 2011/12, and would be used, in conjunction with estimated pupil numbers, to enable budget proposals to be made and included within the MTFS. However, this year detailed proposals for allocating the DSG for 2011/12 and beyond cannot be given, as key information such as the GFU, the Minimum Funding Guarantee level, the amount that will be mainstreamed in relation to specific grants, and the pupil premium, have yet to be announced by the Department for Education as at the end of December 2010.

Proposed Cost Increase:

Impact of Funding Academies (£1m)

The change in Government policy to encourage all schools to become academies will result in a shift in resources from the Council to schools. Some of the services which academies become responsible for may be provided as a buy-back service from the Council and these services will continue. There will be other services where resources are transferred but they relate to fixed costs which in some cases can be reduced over time or in other cases will not be possible to achieve due to future cost commitments. The precise funding mechanism to calculate future transfers is still to be clarified by the Department For Education and the full impact on Council services is uncertain. This funding has been identified to support services in the interim because resources could be transferred in year as schools convert to academies with little notice to implement cost reductions.

Proposed Cost Reduction

School Improvement Funding for the national strategy support for schools will end in March 2011 from which point schools will need to buy their own support in English, Maths, Science, and ICT. With the change in national policy and the potential increase in those schools becoming academies the service has been re-focused. The service will be restructured to focus on the statutory core which includes monitoring schools through School Improvement Partners, swift intervention in schools of concern and targeting the narrowing of the gap in achievement for vulnerable children and young people. Savings will be released in both mainstream and area based grant.

In terms of services, the county council will move to a new operating model which is not directorate based. As a result, 33% of manager posts in the top 4 tiers will disappear. There will be major reductions of levels of service in Libraries and the Youth Service, and transport subsidies, including non discretionary school transport support (e.g. to Faith Schools), will cease. There will be a cash freeze on Social Service provision, resulting next year in the closure of 5 day centres.

A number of local NUT members as well as the Regional Secretary and Divisional Secretary participated in the anti-cuts rally in Gloucester in November. 2 NUT banners and a large number of placards were amongst the 500 strong crowd of demonstrators in the March from Gloucester Park to Shire Hall.

For details of our new Gloucester NUT banner design competition see the page opposite.



BANNER COMPETITION

We are commissioning a new banner for the Gloucestershire Association of Teachers - National Union of Teachers. If you have any ideas please send your concepts and a rough sketch to the Division Secretary. If you know where any of the past banners currently reside please let us know.