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Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire has been home to the NUT's National Education and Training Centre since October 1978. The idyllic and tranquil environment offers delegates a perfect retreat away from the demands of school and home, and provides a peaceful atmosphere for concentration and learning.

Members of the NUT are welcome to visit Stoke Rochford Hall whenever they wish, either for a holiday break with the family, perhaps exploring the delightful counties that make up the East Midlands Shires, or for one of the special events held regularly at the hall. There are special rates for members so a trip to Stoke Rochford may be more accessible than you think.

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Members requiring assistance should visit www.glosnut.co.uk and click on the help and advice tab for answers and details on how to send us details of your case or enquiry.

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Members' Articles and letters welcomed

Local Association website: www.glosnut.co.uk



Wednesday June 16th 7.15 pm GENERAL MEETING

This is an opportunity to hear about recent campaign news as well as local authority and casework issues.

Venue: Gloucester Farmers Club

Directions to the meeting can be found on the meetings page of our website.
Can't make the meeting? Then let us know your views via www.glosnut.co.uk



Dear Colleagues

Whilst we wait to see what the detail of the coalition government plans are for education we can reflect on a successful campaign against SATS which will hopefully prove fruitful

in persuading the politicians to finally abolish them. The Lib Dems were in favour of replacing them and although the Conservatives were not, they seem open to the idea of placing more trust in teacher judgements which is what we have been asking for. Naturally we will keep a careful eye on the workload implications of any system of assessment that replaces SATS.

The local authority has been kept busy restructuring itself as part of the ironically named 'Building Our Futures' programme. CYPD have not been immune and many of our centrally employed teacher members are facing uncertain futures or radically difference workplace challenges. The undermining of the LA through increased emphasis on the unfair Academies programme will place further strain in central services as they will lose the

funding that comes from top-slicing the delegated schools budgets as local schools, especially the Grammar schools, choose to take the additional funding that comes from signing up for the Academy programme. It will be a major challenge for myself and other NUT officers and reps to ensure that members in those schools are not disadvantaged. It will also be important to try and ensure that admissions arrangements do not further disadvantage other schools that remain within the LA umbrella.

The school redundancy season has been busier than ever before with significant numbers of teachers facing compulsory redundancy on statutory terms. Allegations made against teachers by students, parents and even support staff are also on the increase.

I hope that some members will be able to attend our General meeting later this month. We need to have people willing to stand up for our profession in increasingly challenging times. I wish everybody a restful summer break and look forward to communicating with you again in the Autumn.

With best wishes

John Pemberthy - Divisional Secretary

Local Association website: www.glosnut.co.uk

URGENT - CAMPAIGNING ON THE ACADEMIES BILL

You will know that the Academies Bill has been published. You may also be aware that the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has written to all schools about the Bill and separately to all schools with an outstanding Ofsted judgement, inviting them to register an interest, with a view to becoming an Academy by September 2010.

The process the Government identifies is alarmingly simplistic – the Head teacher registers an interest and the governing body passes a resolution. There will be other bureaucratic stages that have to be gone through but these are unlikely to stop the move to an academy taking place. Outrageously, the Government is saying that there is no requirement on the head or governors to consult with parents, staff, pupils, the local authority or other local schools before the governing body passes a resolution. We think there should be full consultation.

At a meeting of the Gloucestershire Division Executive at the end of May it was decided to set up a sub-committee of members, chaired by NUT President Garry Wheeler from Beaufort School, to support efforts to campaign against the probability that a number of schools in Gloucestershire will be persuaded by the financial incentives to consider becoming an academy. Gloucestershire is in a particularly vulnerable position as there are large numbers of schools operating selective admission and which would be pre-approved to become academies. This would potentially damage members' terms and conditions and would certainly further disadvantage other schools trying to compete for pupils and resources.

I would like to encourage you to exert influence on your school, if appropriate, not to take up Michael Gove's offer to become an Academy.

An e-mail has been sent to school representatives, asking them to do all they can to encourage their head teacher and governing body not to go down the Academy route.

Advice to school reps:

- 1) Please give the e-mailed letter and briefing to your head teacher and photo-copy it for your teacher governor and other governors if possible.
- 2) Find out from your head whether they are intending to register an interest in becoming an academy and let your division secretary know (see below).
- 3) Begin to discuss with colleagues their views on any move to an academy and how to express these views to the head and governors.
- 4) Look out for other materials which will arrive by post from the Union.

For further information on our campaign against the threatened huge expansion of academies, go to www.teachers.org.uk/academies.

Please feel free to contact me for further assistance at secretary@gloucestershire.nut.org.uk or Garry via the web-site.

OFSTED GUIDANCE ON KEY STAGE 2 TESTS BOYCOTT

During our recent SATS boycott a number of Headteacher members expressed concern about what the situation would be with Ofsted.

Ofsted has now issued guidance to inspectors on the inspection of schools which participated in the recent boycott of the Key Stage 2 tests. The Ofsted guidance is attached to this circular.

Key aspects of the Ofsted guidance include:

- "The boycott will have little or no impact on inspection this term."
- "In the absence of provisional SAT results towards the end of this summer term ... inspectors should exercise professional judgement in weighing all the evidence they have gathered and setting this against the credibility and accuracy of the school's teacher assessment data."

Ofsted intends to issue further advice to inspectors in the autumn term, when the extent of the impact of the boycott in terms of national results will be known fully.

OVERHEATING IN SCHOOLS – RESEARCH PROJECT

I know of a number of schools in Gloucestershire where summer temperatures can lead to intolerable levels of heat in certain classrooms without adequate ventilation or cooling. The Union is currently considering a research project on the subject of heating and cooling in school buildings, in conjunction with two academics, Professor Mike Nichols and Professor Fergus Wilson, who are experts in thermal comfort in buildings and have a particular interest in schools.

To assist with this research the Union is asking health and safety representatives to complete a short questionnaire on overheating in schools. We are seeking to identify a selection of schools which have experienced problems with heating and cooling, which might be the subject of further investigation. That investigation might include a visit to undertake a more detailed inspection. The aim is to identify common features in different styles of school buildings which lead to problems with overheating, to assist the Union in its work on healthy environments in

which to teach and learn.

The questionnaire is available on the NUT website at the following location: [Home > Research and Information > Surveys](#)

Health and safety representatives are requested to complete the questionnaire which asks respondents to keep a log of any days during June and July when overheating in their school was problematic. We are, therefore, circulating the link to the questionnaire now for members to complete during the summer term and return by the end of July.

Thank you for your assistance with this. We hope that the findings of the research will provide the Union with useful information on which to focus its work on high classroom temperatures. Please note that NUT classroom temperature gauges are available via the national website for a small charge to cover costs.

CAMPAIGNING FOR A NEW NATIONAL CONTRACT – CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS

One of the priorities for the Union is to campaign for a new framework of teachers' rights. This will be both an effective organising tool and will assist with national and local negotiations.

The 2009 Conference resolution which called upon the Executive to develop a model for a collectively-bargained National Contract for Teachers instructed that such a model should be developed through consultation with members and school representatives.

That process of consultation is now about to begin and the support of local officers is needed in order to publicise a questionnaire for school representatives, which will elicit the views of school groups, and a similar questionnaire for NUT members which will provide us with the views of individuals.

A link to a survey monkey questionnaire will be e-mailed to all school representatives for whom we have an e-mail address and is available from www.teachers.org.uk in the 'stronger together' section. Respondents are asked to indicate the top five measures to reduce workload which they would like to see implemented and also the top five measures which would most improve the quality of their working life.

The survey for members has been highlighted in 'The Teacher' and is available from www.teachers.org.uk in the 'stronger together' section.

Please take some time to complete the relevant questionnaire.