



NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION

General Meeting

Wednesday 25th November, 5.00 - 6.00 pm
St Ebbes School, Whitehouse Road, OXFORD OX1 4NA

A G E N D A

- 1** *We will welcome Kevin Courtney and Hazel Danson, who will talk to us about the post of Deputy General Secretary.*
- 2** **Nomination of a candidate for the post of Deputy General Secretary of the Union.**
The election for this important national post will take place in January. Each Association may nominate a candidate. We already have three prospective candidates : Kevin Courtney, Hazel Danson, and Martin Reed. We, as members of Oxfordshire Association, could choose to support one of these national figures, or we might decide to propose a candidate of our own. If you wish to put forward the name of an additional prospective candidate, please contact oxon.nut@ntlworld.com before 25th November.
- 3** **Nomination of a candidate to serve on the National Executive of the Union**
The election for National Executive Members will take place in March. Oxfordshire member Chris Blakey is currently the executive member for our District, and will stand for re-election. If you wish to put forward the name of an additional prospective candidate, please contact oxon.nut@ntlworld.com before 25th November.
- 4** **SATs Campaign : latest news**
- 5** **Save Oxford School : latest news**
- 6** **Any other Business**

All members are urged to attend this important meeting

Refreshments will be available from 4.30 pm

A year on the general teaching Council

Alex Parker

I have now completed the first year of my four-year term of office as an elected primary teacher to the General Teaching Council. It has proved to be an interesting role and as a practising teacher I have been able to contribute positively to the work of the GTC.

The government has recently completed its review of the remit of the GTCE, making no changes to its status as an independent body whose overall purpose is to work in the public interest to help improve standards of teaching and learning. The GTC does this through its Registration and Regulation role alongside its advisory role.

As a member of the Council I have been part of the Investigating Committees whose function is to consider by a review of the papers whether there is "a case to answer" in respect of teachers who have been dismissed for reasons of misconduct or incompetence; some cases are dismissed at this stage and some go forward to a hearing where the teacher can give evidence and any sanction, or none, is decided. The Investigating Committees also consider cases where teachers have received a caution or conviction, and decide whether or not to pass such cases forward to a hearing as something relevant to a teacher's registration. In carrying out this role, I have become much clearer that it is a positive thing for teachers to be listed on a register of professionals who are not only qualified to teach, but who also behave in a manner suitable for people entrusted with the development of our children. As a practising teacher, I have been able to contribute to a balanced view when considering the issues, and know it to be very important that we have teachers involved in this function.

When I was elected to the Council last year, I was elected by Council Members to serve on the Policy and Research Committee for a year, and I have just been re-elected to this committee for a further two years. This committee, amongst other things, contributes to the responses made by the GTC to Government consultations and White Papers. I have been able to offer a teacher's perspective on such issues as the use of indicators on pupil well-being in Ofsted inspections, the proposed School Report Card, the various reviews of the Primary Curriculum, and the proposed Licence to Teach and entitlement to CPD. This does not mean that any of these proposals are endorsed by me or other committee members, and the responses submitted by the GTC reflect our views clearly.

Most recently the Full Council reviewed the GTC's response to the DCSF's White Paper on 21st Century Schools. The teachers on the council are universally pleased with its content and tone. For instance it says "There urgently needs to be a better balance in teaching between enabling teachers to use their expertise to enhance teaching and learning, and the legitimate act of holding professionals to account for their practice." This reflects the vision for teaching in the future as promoted by the GTC:

"Teaching in 2012 will thrive in an environment that enables teachers to exercise informed professional judgement and allows good leadership to flourish. The challenges faced by teachers in their day to day practice will be recognised and the practice of teaching celebrated as a complex and creative activity. The experience and expertise of the profession will influence national and local policies for teaching and learning in the interests of all children and young people."

Training days
for
School Representatives
and those interested in taking on the role,
will be held on
Wednesday 24th March 2010
Wednesday 23rd June 2010

The March meeting will be of special interest to Secondary colleagues. Book a date with your school NOW, so as to ensure that supply/timetabling arrangements can be made. Our training days take place at Milletts Farm Centre, Near Abingdon. There is no charge, and lunch and refreshments are provided. The cost of supply cover can be provided.

contact oxon.nut@ntlworld.com

For your diary:

**Oxfordshire NUT Annual General Meeting
23rd February 2010**

St Ebbes Primary School

NUT Oxfordshire Association : Officer Elections 2010

If you wish to nominate someone for an officer or committee member position in our local association please return the form below. Nominations may be made for Vice President (who will become President in 2011); Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Membership Secretary, Health & Safety Adviser; Assistant Health & Safety Adviser, Treasurer, Young Teacher Representative, Equal Opportunities Officer, Union Learning Representative, Committee Member.

Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 23rd February 2010

**NUT Oxfordshire Association : Officer Elections 2010
Nomination Form**

I nominate

for the position of

name of nominating member.....

membership no.....*signature*..... *date*.....

address

Proposed candidate's consent

I agree to stand for election to the position of

signature of nominee

membership no.....*date*

address.....

Home phone number

Completed forms to be returned to :
NUT FREEPOST, 157 Kennington Road, Oxford, OX1 5PE, by 18th December 2009

SATs Campaign

As reported in the last newsletter, the NUT and NAHT campaign for a positive assessment system will be stepping up a gear this term with the NUT conducting an indicative ballot of all members in primary schools to confirm that:

- they want to see the abolition of SATs, and
- they are willing to take action short of strike action to achieve this.

The NAHT will be conducting a survey of its members at the same time.

The ballot will take place between the 2nd and the 30th of November and Oxfordshire NUT are urging you to vote

YES

on both questions.

Key things to bear in mind when discussing this with colleagues are:

- Action on SATs will not involve taking strike action – teachers will be in the classroom as usual, the difference being that they will be teaching, not administering inaccurate and unsound tests;
- The abolition of SATs will not lead to increased workload – both the NUT and NAHT are committed to ensuring that teachers workload does not increase as a result of any changes in assessment procedures and the union will be providing guidance on alternatives such as APP;
- SATs are not reliable – research by the University of Durham shows that up to 25% of students are assigned the wrong level in SATs, most secondary schools re-test pupils when they arrive in year seven;
- Parents want to see the abolition of SATs – polls conducted by the NAHT show that the majority of parents are opposed to the use of SATs in schools and would like to see them replaced by a positive form of assessment;
- A positive result will strengthen the campaign – a strong yes vote in this ballot will show the government that we are serious about improving the education system by getting rid of SATs.

The Cambridge Primary Review has now been published, and provides yet more powerful evidence of the damaging effect of SATs.

We will be carrying out joint work with the NAHT during the ballot period, including leafletting the public and collecting petition signatures. If you would like to help with this work, or have any other ideas for promoting the campaign, please let us know.

If you have any questions about the ballot or if you have not received a ballot paper by the 9th November, please contact us asap on 07967392229 / oxnut.campaigns@yahoo.co.uk.

NUT OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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PRESIDENT Gawain Little gawainlittle@yahoo.co.uk

EXECUTIVE MEMBER Chris Blakey nut2@molesend.demon.co.uk

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REGIONAL OFFICE - 01444 894500

national NUT website www.teachers.org.uk

Joining hotline 0845 300 1669

website news

log on to:

www.oxnut.org.uk
and check out the new features!