

The Academies Bill

The greatest threat to our education system

The Academies Bill has been published. The new Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove has written to all schools about the Bill. All schools with an "Outstanding" Ofsted judgement have been invited to register an interest in becoming an academy by September 2010.

To date over 1100 schools have registered an interest and no doubt the list will grow. This does not mean that any final decisions have been taken as yet.

If schools go down this route there is no requirement to go through the normal consultation process and the employer will change from the local authority to the Governing Body (unless the school in question has already gone Foundation / Trust).

This is the most serious threat to state education and to the Union that

we have faced in a very long time. We need to know from school reps what the attitude of the Head teacher and the Governing Body is on this issue and the Union is asking all school reps to talk to staff and local officers about the views of their school as a matter of urgency.

The Bill is currently with the House of Lords and it is possible that it will reach the House of Commons by the end of June. However, even though the Government would like the Academies Bill to get Royal Assent by the time of the Summer recess (end of July), normal time scales would suggest it may not get Royal Assent until the Autumn.

It is most important, therefore that all NUT members and local officers gather as much information as possible about their schools and

use the Union's website to contact their MP to register their objection. In the website www.teachers.org.uk click on [campaigns/current/academies](#) to access the links to enable you to do this.

A joint NUT, ATL and NASUWT letter to Chairs of Governors and Head teachers is on the union website www.teachers.org.uk that members can use. If members would like an Officer (local or regional) to visit their school to speak to staff before the end of term please contact your local association secretary.

Don't forget if a school becomes an Academy the Governing Body then can start to not only move away from the National Curriculum but can also set your terms and conditions of employment.

Durham Miners' Gala, Saturday July 10th 2010



For the last two years the NUT has had a growing presence at the biggest trades' union gathering in the North of England, The Durham

Miners' Gala. For many years it has attracted the banners and marching bands of Durham collieries, trades unions from across England including

the NUT and other education unions. Local primary schools have also designed and carried their own banners. Last years the streets were thronged by around 80,000 marchers and observers. The rally is followed by speeches, live music, information stalls and plenty of refreshment. There is also a fairground plus all the other Durham sites to see!

We want this year to be the biggest NUT turn out yet, come along, bring family friends and children and join us in the greatest annual trades union event in the North of England.

Meet from 9.30am. Look for the NUT banner in the area of the Durham Market Place. Look for the NUT greeting in the Programme of events .

Au revoir to the GTC

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove has announced his intention to introduce primary legislation in the late Autumn to abolish the General Teaching Council for England.

The Union believes that the GTC has struggled to overcome the fact that teachers felt it had been imposed on them. The annual fee of £36.50 has also remained a sore point. The NUT has consistently argued that teachers should not have to pay the GTC fee.

Vetting and Barring Scheme

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): has announced that the commencement of voluntary registration with the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which was due to begin on 26 July, has been halted with effect from 15 June 2010.

The Government has made clear its intention to bring the criminal records and Vetting and Barring regimes back to common sense levels. Until this remodelling has taken place, those aspects of the new Scheme which are already in place will be maintained, but no further elements will be introduced.

The new Government has stressed that the safety of children and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance and the current arrangements under which the Independent Safeguarding Authority is able to bar from "regulated activities" those considered unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults will be maintained, and appropriate cases must be referred to them.

Criminal records checks will also remain available for those eligible to receive them, and will continue to be required for certain posts where

Last year the GTC issued a 'code of conduct' encompassing activities and behaviour outside of work. It sought to turn aspirations for best practice into rules. The Union is of the view that any replacement for the GTC needs to distance itself from the belief that a watchdog can also reserve the right to make intrusive judgments on teachers' personal lives and that all teachers ought to be consulted on whether they believe a professional council for teachers should be maintained.

regulations are already in place.

The terms of reference for the remodelling of the VBS and of the criminal records regime are currently being considered and further announcements are expected to be made by the Government in due course.

Threshold 2010

The threshold application process for Round 10 (2009-2010) has changed. Assessment will now be based on whether a teacher meets the post-threshold standards based on the outcomes of their last two performance reviews.

Teachers who want to be assessed in Round 10 must do so on or after 1 September 2009 but no later than 31 October 2010.

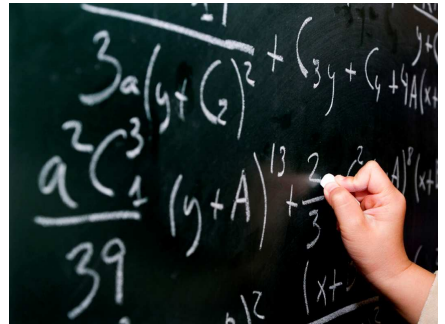
Teachers must be on M6 in the 2009/10 academic year (1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010) with a valid request for assessment submitted by 31 October 2010. Teachers who are first placed on M6 from 1 September 2010 are not eligible to apply in Round 10 but will be eligible in Round 11.

National training delivered locally

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES STAGE 1
OCTOBER 20th and 21st 2010
The North lakes Hotel. PENRITH

A two day course for any representatives or aspiring representatives who have not previously attended the Stage 1 course. WATCH OUT FOR THE INFORMATION COMING INTO SCHOOLS. If you are a School Representative we need your email address. Please contact Regional office to confirm on northern@nut.org.uk or 0191 3890999.

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One-day CPD seminars for teachers *qualifying* in the summer of 2010.

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Bolton (6 July)

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Birmingham (8 July)

London (9 July)

Cambridge (13 July)

Brighton/Southampton (14 July)

Taunton/Bristol/Plymouth (15 July)

Cardiff/Wrexham (16 July)

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