



East Riding Association
National Union of Teachers
September/October 2016 Newsletter

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Dear East Riding NUT Member,

Welcome to this academic year's first edition of the East Riding Association Newsletter. The start of this academic year sees schools across the country in a state of crisis and confusion as a result of government education policy. Many schools face difficulties recruiting staff, as overworked teachers exit the profession, and even more schools are struggling to balance their budgets. There is also considerable and widespread concern about primary assessment and the proposed reintroduction of segregation in the form of grammar schools.

This newsletter includes information about **pay and appraisal**, news about our **local campaign** against the government's destructive policies, an update on the **NUT campaign against primary assessment** (and how **the high level of 'failures' can impact negatively on teacher appraisal and accountability**), and information about the **nationwide tour of the *This is Hull! Rock Against Racism Posters UK Exhibition Tour*** – of which East Riding NUT are very proud sponsors.

Pay and Appraisal

The Local Authority has instituted the **1% uplift to all teachers** in accordance with recommendations from the STPRB. The STRB has recommended that a "substantial increase" is needed next year to address recruitment and retention – so watch this space.

If you are moving to the UPS, either because you are now on M6 or simply because you think you deserve that level of increment, then **you need to apply**.

Check the Pay Policy that your school has adopted (the vast majority of schools in the East Riding, including academies, use the Local Authority Policy) and use the appropriate form together with the relevant evidence to make your application.

As the appraisal cycle begins in the next few weeks, be aware of the importance of agreeing reasonable objectives with your appraiser; your pay next year may depend on this.

Remember that schools should not refuse pay progression on financial grounds, and there should be 'no surprises' – you should have been notified of any intention not to award pay progression during the performance management cycle. Let your rep or myself know if this has not been the case, or you have any other issues regarding pay progression.

Primary Assessment: NUT joins parents in calling for an end to SATs

The chaos around this year's KS1 and KS2 SATs has highlighted just how damaging our system of assessment and accountability has become. Assessment and accountability are separate things but the government's obsession with using one to inform the other has created a system that is not working for children or teachers.

There are now real concerns amongst head teachers, parents and class teachers about the appropriateness of the primary curriculum and tests, and also the manner in which the outcomes are reported.

Year 6 children this year were simply given a statement, which simply stated whether or not they had met the required standard - this resulted in nearly 50% of children being told that they were not at the required standard for secondary school – think for a moment about what effect that can have on an eleven-year-old who should be excited about going to secondary school.

The NUT is joining forces with parent groups, other unions and education experts to campaign for an end to SATs and a full review of the primary assessment system. A major conference will be held in December and it is likely that there will be a ballot for a boycott at some stage.

Please get in touch with me if you would like to be involved in the local campaign for an end to SATs.

KS2 Data being used for accountability purposes

The high levels of 'failure' of those sitting the KS2 tests is clearly the result of badly designed tests, and unreasonably stringent criteria for teacher assessment. The distress they cause to pupils, parents and teachers is obvious.

As well as being concerned about the obvious negative effects on pupils, the NUT is worried that even more pressure will be put on teachers that have not 'made the grade' – around half of all KS2 teachers.

If you are aware of KS2 data being used for Performance Related Pay or accountability purposes, please get in touch with me.

East Riding Campaign Stalls

This governments policies are a disaster for the vast majority of our children:

- **Government spending cuts mean:** class sizes up; less individual attention for children; fewer subject choices for your child; teachers and support staff being cut or not replaced.
- **Grammar schools mean:** segregation at 11; selection for the few; rejection for the many.

We are planning stalls throughout the East Riding to engage with the public on the above issues. Previous stalls have been very successful, with many members of the public showing support and signing petitions – and large numbers of concerned citizens expressing surprise at the shocking reality caused by government policy. ***Please join us: contact me or any of the East Riding officers to express interest.***

This is Hull! Rock Against Racism Posters UK Tour

This is Hull! Rock Against Racism Posters UK Tour kicked off at Manchester's People's History Museum with a launch event attracting over 200 people, including Billy Bragg. With The Hull Daily Mail and the Manchester Evening News providing full page colour coverage, the exhibition is reaching new audiences at a time when it's message of hope not hate is as relevant now as it ever has been. Sponsored by East Riding NUT, the posters will be shown in schools and colleges in Hull and the East Riding in 2017, inspiring students to get involved in creative activities that promote, tolerance, equality and respect for human rights.

Tour Dates

Manchester: People's History Museum - 3rd Sept to Oct 9 2016

London: Rich Mix, Bethnal Green- 3rd to 26th May 2017.

Edinburgh: Summerhall - August 2017

Hull:

Wyke College - Feb/March 2017

Hull College School of Art & Design - July 2017

St Mary's College - Sept/Oct 2017

Cottingham High School - Nov 2017

Artlink- Dec 2017

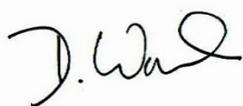
Richard Lees

(Richard is an East Riding NUT Officer and local artist who created many of the Rock Against Racism posters that are displayed on the tour - <http://www.richardleesprints.co.uk>)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on November 19th at 10:00 am @ The Tiger Inn, Beverley. Remember, everyone is welcome; you don't need to be a rep. A free lunch and a drink is provided for all who attend. Hope to see you there. In the meantime, you can find news, photographs, blogs, and contact details for all East Riding NUT officers, at our website: <http://www.eastridingnut.org/>

Best regards,



Damian Walenta
Divisional Secretary