

East Riding of Yorkshire NEU Newsletter: May 2019

East Riding NEU: SATs Boycott Event

Monday 3rd of June at Armstrong Social Club, Beverley (On the edge of Flemingate – just across the road from the train station)

The event will consist of five parts; you don't have to come to all of them, but please do come along to as many as you can - preferably not just the buffet!:

- **15:45 – 17:00 Drop In** come along after school to talk to East Riding officers about the SAT's boycott
- **17:00 – 17:30 Power Point/Q and A/Discussion**
- **17:30 Free Buffet and Refreshments**
- **17:50 – 18:00 Power Point**
- **18:00 – Brief Discussion and Q and A**

ALL TRAVEL EXPENSES PAID. PLEASE CALL TO DISCUSS CHILDCARE EXPENSES IF NEEDED.

Please register for your free ticket, so that we have an idea of numbers:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/boycott-the-sats-teacher-drop-in-with-optional-meeting-and-buffet-tickets-62043997266>

NEU indicative ballot starts on June 4th

Whichever way you vote, make sure you vote!

The government needs to know that NEU members are fully engaged with the big issues in education. We are not a passive union; we are a body of passionate educators who care about the education and welfare of our children.

Why you should vote YES to end the high stakes testing system.

We have reached a crucial moment in the campaign for a change to the current system of assessment in primary schools.

Following announcements by the Labour and the Liberal Democrat parties, that they will get rid of SATs and league tables, the NEU is preparing to ballot all members on the question of boycotting all high stakes tests.

There is a widespread view amongst teachers, parents, politicians and education experts that the current assessment system is damaging education, because:

- The high-stakes nature of the tests causes stress for pupils and staff alike.
- The narrowing of the curriculum, resulting from pressure to teach to the test, means children miss out on a broad education.
- The focus on a small set of skills, which can be tested, treats all pupils the same and labels them as failures if they do not meet arbitrary standards.
- The tests are about comparing schools, not about assessing children in a way which helps teachers to support their learning.

High stakes tests increase workload

- 93% of teachers said that SATs significantly increased teacher workload at their school
- 84% of respondents reported that their school held additional booster classes for Year 6 children,
- 38% reported booster classes for children preparing for key stage 1 SATs
- 33% reported booster classes for five and six year olds to prepare for the phonics check

High Stakes increase the 'workload' and stress of pupils

70% withdrew students from other lessons

20% ran classes in school holidays

57% had classes after school

23% during children and teachers' lunch breaks.

Source: SATs – teachers' verdict (2017)

High Stakes Tests Discriminate

- 88% thought that children with special educational needs and disabilities are particularly disadvantaged.

- 66% thought EAL pupils, for whom English is an additional language, are particularly disadvantaged
- 54% believed summer-born children — the youngest in the class — are also at a disadvantage

Source: SATs – teachers' verdict (2017)

In a recent survey 97% of teachers say that preparation for SATs has a negative impact on children's access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

There are alternatives to this system and this is the moment to press for change - so we need all members in primary schools to be ready to vote in the indicative ballot,

Call a meeting in your school to discuss the ballot and make sure you are ready to vote. Please email damian.walenta@neu.org.uk or call 07720 293926 if you want to discuss any aspect of the ballot or arrange for a NEU officer to talk to members in your school.

VOTE FOR CHANGE: VOTE YES!

Engage for Change FREE Festival on 22nd of June in Queens Gardens: 12:00 to 18:00

Last year the Trades Union Congress announced that its membership levels among those aged under 30 had fallen from 20.1 per cent to 15.7 per cent in the last 17 years.

The decline led to the TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady to call for change warning there was the real possibility that trade unions would cease to exist within a few decades.

This is worrying news for young people leaving our schools to enter the world of work, and East Riding NEU have been working with other unions to try to raise union awareness amongst young people in the area.

Engage for Change festival is one way of raising awareness of unions. The young trade unionist organisers described the festival as:

'...an exciting, unique project commissioned by the Hull and District Trades Council, which aims to bring a new layer of fresh, young activists into the labour and trade union movement. The goal is to engage with disenfranchised local communities by giving a platform to political and influential speakers, artists, and musicians, and sending out a message of hope and solidarity. We are proud to have a committee full of young, hard-working activists who are

building on the successes of last year's festival and connect the trade union movement in Hull to a new generation.'

Also: children's entertainment, quality food and drink, bar...and much, much more!

Young Members Event NEU Hull and East Riding.

Come and join us to celebrate the end of the year. Exact venue TBC depending on numbers - but it will be a pub, and there will be FREE booze!

To qualify as a young member of the NEU you need be under 35 and/or within your first 3 years of teaching. Come along and meet other young members from the Hull and East Yorkshire.

Let us know on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/events/298886247703463/?active_tab=about

If you don't have facebook, please can you let me know by emailing stevescottnut@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can contact me, Anna, on 07454737586.

Anna and Steve,

(East Riding NEU Young Member Officers)

Hull Pride – Queens Gardens 20th July

East Riding NEU is looking to help make this the best Hull Pride ever. The banner will be held high on the parade and we will have a stall in Queens Gardens. The fabulous Richard Sleight, an East Riding music teacher, is also getting a parade band together again – those who came last year will know it was a real highlight of the parade!

There will also be lunch and refreshments following the parade for all those who take part.

If you want to get involved, please email: damian.walenta@neu.org.uk

All welcome, but if you are an LGBT@ educator, we would especially love to see you there – and you get an amazing free 'NEU Educator' T-Shirts.

Mary Grady, former ATL East Riding Branch Secretary

It is with sadness that I report a communication from Mary's two sons Martin & Andrew.

Mary passed away quietly on Friday 3rd May 2019 in hospital with family in attendance.

Mary left detailed instructions in her will including A Service of Thanksgiving. This will take place at Hull Collegiate School, Tranby Croft, Anlaby, East Yorkshire. HU10 7EH on Saturday 8th June 2019 at 2.30pm. All who wish to attend will be welcome.

Colin Cranmer

colin.cranmer@neu.org.uk

The Next East Riding NEU is on 22nd June at The Tiger Inn, 10:00 -12:00 followed by lunch.

Invitation and Agenda will be emailed in June.



Sent via Action Network, a free online toolset anyone can use to organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

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