

# TEACHERS IN WALES

Issue 60 autumn term 2018

## Education on the agenda at youth festival

NEW and old friends gathered at the annual Urdd National Eisteddfod at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells this year.

The National Education Union (NEU) had a stall at the week-long event – the largest youth festival in Europe. The Union was joined by Show Racism the Red Card, the UK’s leading anti-racism educational charity, which gave away wristbands, stickers and posters of football teams.

### Young stars of the show

There were two main attractions on the stall this year. A drawing competition held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday attracted more than 100 entries – the overall winner was Chloe Wright from Ysgol Bro Idris in Dolgellau.

The other was Show Racism the Red Card’s Keepie Uppie competition, where winner Harvey Morris managed an impressive 86 keepie uppies – winning a football signed by the Wales Euro 2016 squad.

NEU Cymru principal officer Stuart Williams said: “With tens of thousands of attendees, the Urdd National Eisteddfod

is a great opportunity for us to engage with parents and young people on what education means to them.

### Our role shaping the future of education

“This was especially important as this was our first year at the Eisteddfod as the newly formed National Education Union. We were able to discuss the huge benefits that we will have on shaping the future of education in Wales.”

Find out more about the work of Show Racism the Red Card in Wales at [theredcard.org/wales](http://theredcard.org/wales)



Chloe Wright from Ysgol Bro Idris in Dolgellau was the overall winner of the drawing competition



Harvey Morris, winner of the Keepie Uppie competition, with his prize



Cai Jones and Glesni Jones get ready to greet visitors to the Urdd Eisteddfod

## Register online for your pension update

FOR nearly two years, Teachers Pensions has not been sending out annual benefit statements to members of the scheme.

Therefore, it's very important that members register on the Teachers Pensions website so that they can access up-to-date benefit statements and receive their annual statement electronically.

The registration process is very simple. Just visit **teacherspensions.co.uk** and click on Member Registration. To complete the process, you'll need to have your Teachers Pensions reference number and your National Insurance number at hand.

Ensure you keep your monthly salary slips, or at least your P6Os, especially if you've transferred over to the Career Average scheme. These can then be used as evidence of your annual salary if you notice any discrepancies in your benefits. Discrepancies need to be resolved quickly as these figures are used to calculate your pension benefits.

For more information visit **teachers.org.uk** and click on Pay, Pensions & Conditions.

## Recruiting student teachers at uni days

NEU CYMRU is visiting all Welsh universities this term, to recruit new student teachers to the Union.

It is also delivering lectures including "How to stay safe on social media" to trainees.

A range of topics have been brought up and discussed by the students at the universities so far visited this term, with the devolution of pay and conditions to the Welsh Government being the most popular.

**Student membership is free, and newly qualified teachers can get a year's full membership for just £1.**

To find out more about both offers, visit **neu.org.uk/join/membership-rates**



## Dates for your diary

### TRAINING FOR REPS

One- and three-day courses for all new and existing school reps, giving them the tools and confidence to make a real difference to members' lives.

### Protecting you and your members in the classroom

21 September – The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

### Foundation

3-5 October – The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

### Advanced

10-11 October – The Village Hotel, Swansea

### Employment law

27 November – NEU Office, Cardiff

**If you're interested in becoming a school rep and attending one of the above, email [lisa.williams@neu.org.uk](mailto:lisa.williams@neu.org.uk)**

**Reps are legally entitled to attend these courses and the Union will support any rep that has difficulties getting time off work to attend.**

### TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

#### Intermediate part 1 Welsh

22-23 September – Future Inn, Cardiff

#### Intermediate part 2 Welsh

1-2 December – Future Inn, Cardiff

#### Intermediate part 3 Welsh

26-27 January, 2019 – Future Inn, Cardiff

■ **Mindfulness** taster sessions are being organised for the autumn term in Carmarthen, Caerphilly and Cardiff.

■ To help members develop their **digital competence**, weekend workshops will be organised during the autumn and spring terms.

### TRAINING FOR SUPPLY TEACHERS

#### First aid at work

30 October-1 November – Future Inn, Cardiff

■ Several accredited online courses including **food hygiene** and **health & safety at work** will also be available to supply teacher members.

**If you're interested in any of the above, email [beth.roberts@neu.org.uk](mailto:beth.roberts@neu.org.uk)**

**Check your email inbox for information on the latest training opportunities.**

**Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/neucymrutraining](https://facebook.com/neucymrutraining), follow us on Twitter at [@neucymrutrain](https://twitter.com/neucymrutrain) and visit [teachers.org.uk/learning](https://teachers.org.uk/learning)**

## Restraining a pupil: the legalities

A GOOD employer should provide staff training on restraint and safeguarding. But the Union is aware that there are a good number who do not.

As a result, many find themselves in situations where they may be called upon to intervene and restrain a pupil but not be acquainted with the legal framework for lawful restraint or be confident of having

the skills to do so appropriately.

The Education Workforce Council will be providing guidance to teachers and the Union will continue to support members faced with these difficult situations.

Our advice is to push for and attend training on restraint, make sure you are familiar with your school's policies and know where to go for help.

# Warm welcome for Prof's Estyn review

NEU Cymru has welcomed the publication of Professor Graham Donaldson's independent review of Estyn, the school's inspectorate in Wales.

His recommendations, if accepted and implemented, will represent a seismic shift in the school inspection arrangements in Wales, which will be welcomed by the profession as it wrestles with ambitious educational reforms already underway.

In particular, the Union notes concerns about the high stakes accountability measures that have caused significant pressures since being imposed on schools in 2011.

A welcome recommendation is the proposal for a moratorium on formal

**“We welcome the positive impact the recommendations could have on our education system”**

**David Evans, Wales Secretary**

inspection as inspectors, schools and other key stakeholders learn about, develop and implement the new curriculum.

The National Education Union (NEU) strongly pressed for this. It has always

wanted the new curriculum to succeed and it was of vital importance that practitioners were provided with every assistance to secure that aim.

“Inspection can be a stressful time for education professionals,” said David Evans, Wales Secretary. “We welcome these announcements and the potential positive impact the recommendations could have on our education system. We have long pushed for self-evaluation for the schools’ sector in Wales, and Professor Donaldson’s recommendations could help make this a reality.

“We look forward to working with Estyn and the Welsh Government to take these recommendations forward.”

## Spotlight on... Carmarthenshire

THE Carmarthenshire Division has seen a big increase in membership since the creation of the NEU.

Joint division secretaries Jason Dickinson and Tina Bowen took over in June 2014, inheriting a strong, active division led for many years by June Jenkins.

### **Balance between serious and social**

The division meets termly but has extra meetings if need arises. Events are spread around Carmarthenshire to allow all members the chance of going. They are well attended and enjoyable, with the right balance struck between serious and social.

New members become regular attendees and active reps. And members from nearby divisions often attend to share experiences and common issues.

Since the new Union was formed,



**Jason Dickinson, Emyr Brown and Kate James run a street stall on school funding**

there has been a marked increase in the number of school reps attending the Foundation Reps course. This has helped to increase the strength of the division.

There have also been challenges in the county, notably school funding and the associated threat of redundancies. The division has been very active in fighting these cuts through lobbying AMs and county council meetings, writing to the local press,

and street stalls and public meetings highlighting the impact of cuts on children's futures.

“It's been a significant challenge taking on the role but one which has given me a lot of satisfaction,” Jason Dickinson told Teachers in Wales.

“We have a great core team and take pride in the support that we can offer members. It's really pleasing to see more people getting actively involved.

“We're in a very healthy situation to fight for our members over the coming school year.”

### **Strength in numbers – so join in**

While the meetings are well attended, Jason is keen to get as many members involved as possible.

“Although we're strong, we can be stronger with more members engaged, trained and prepared to challenge unnecessary workload and unfair treatment,” he said.

To get involved, email **jason.dickinson@neu.org.uk**

## Sunshine and smiles at the Eisteddfod

THE NEU stand at this summer's National Eisteddfod in Cardiff was a whirlwind of activity, welcoming many guests and NEU members.

One of the guests visiting was Labour MP for Cardiff Central Jo Stevens (pictured with Stuart Williams), who pledged her support for NEU Cymru's ongoing

campaign on devolution of pay and conditions to Wales.

She supported the Union's call to ensure that the First Minister make good on his promise “that there is no question – no question at all – of teachers in Wales being paid less than teachers in England”.



# Here to help

AS the largest teachers' union, NEU Cymru (NUT section) is able to offer members an unrivalled service.

Our professional team is here to provide expertise to our network of school and college representatives and local association and division secretaries.

If you have a problem at work or want to know more about member services, contact:

- your school or college representative;
- your association or division secretary;
- NEU Cymru (NUT section) office.

## NEU CYMRU (NUT section)

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**Wales Officers:** Gareth Lloyd, Debbie Scott, Dilwyn Griffiths

**Principal Officer – Organising & Communications:** Stuart Williams

**North Wales Organiser:** Cai Jones

**Wales Solicitor:** Angharad Booker

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# Setting the agenda for Wales

THE key issues affecting education and those who work in it will be debated at the National Education Union's (NEU) first Wales Policy Conference.

Taking place from 20-21 October, at Celtic Manor in Newport, the event will allow members to set the agenda for the Union's work over the coming year.

Over 100 delegates will attend from every local authority in Wales. During the Saturday session, delegates will be addressed by Cabinet Secretary for Education Kirsty Williams AM, who will update members on her vision for the sector as well as hearing their views on the challenges they face.

Key motions include the role of regional education consortia, the implementation of a new curriculum, workload, pay and conditions, child poverty,



Kirsty Williams and David Evans

3-19 schools, supply teaching and funding.

Wales Secretary David Evans said: "This is really exciting for the Union in Wales.

"A conference to allow Welsh members to set policy on devolved issues will really help put the expertise and experience of members at the heart of our agenda."

# Rave review for behaviour course

TWO days training on the Union's Getting Behaviour Right course in Cardiff and Julia Brice went home filled with "belief, positivity and excitement" – keen to try out her newly learned techniques.

"BACK to school with a bump today, or so I thought. However, everyone was asking how the course went and I couldn't wait to share (so unlike me!).

"Every time someone asked, I told them about three brilliant guys who delivered one of the best courses I've ever attended.

"I smiled and smiled as I repeated mantras and explained strategies, tips and tricks.

"Late morning, as often happens, one of our less happy young pupils was sent with work to me.

"The fire in him was raging. I grounded my feet, breathed deeply, got down to eye level, set my boundaries and applied "liberal amounts of water".

"By session end, I had eight, well-constructed and neatly written sentences – previously rivalled by pages and pages of doodles and nothingness.

"He felt amazing and that was really good for everyone.

"I know it won't always work like this, but, just for today, it felt like I had a magic wand, in the same way it felt magic to be so



Julia Brice, who attended the Union's Getting Behaviour Right course in Cardiff

full up with belief, positivity and excitement coming home yesterday.

"Thank you. I just wanted to express my appreciation and let you know that, even if I do nothing more with all the wonderful stuff you have given me, today a very unhappy little boy smiled from ear to ear and said: 'I'm quite clever, aren't I?'"

Julia Brice, Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School, Beddau RCT

**"I wanted to express my appreciation. Just for today, it felt like I had a magic wand"**