



2021 Spring Newsletter

Bradford

Contents:

- COVID Response
- Remote Learning
- Reps Advice
- Annual Conference
- Officer Feedback
- Exams/Testing
- Hardship Fund
- NEU Advice line
- Contacting us.

Next Online OGM Meeting

**Tuesday the 26th
January 2021.**

The meeting runs from
5pm to 6pm.

Future meetings:

- 9th March 2021
- 18th May 2021
- 29th June 2021

COVID Response

Stay Home, work from home if you can, Children with an EHCP should attend school if appropriate, Children of key and critical workers should stay home if they can. Parents will not be fined if their children stay home.

This guidance is intended to protect all of us from the potentially deadly virus and increasing transmissibility of the new variant. Yet some school leaders seem more concerned about Ofsted and the DfE than they are of the virus. We have heard stories of schools requiring all staff to be in and of some school leaders trying to get more children into school as a “risk worth taking!”

We agree that children need more support than ever during this pandemic as the mental stress of being “vectors of transmission” weighs on their minds, but every child or adult travelling to or in school puts all others at increased risk of infection or taking it home to infect loved ones. We need revised risk assessments which consider the new variant and the revised government guidance. For us to work safely we need remote learning to work and to iron out issues of digital poverty, engagement and isolation. Pastoral care at a distance will require effort and ingenuity so this is not a soft option for any of us.

It is good news that the vaccine is beginning to get rolled out, but it may be months before we get a sense of it being safe for schools to operate as they did pre-COVID. Testing will help to identify and isolate carriers and will mean plenty of upheaval over bubble closures for a while yet. School leaders are having to manage this along with the other pressures and we all need to be looking out for one another to be as safe as possible.

Remote Learning CPD Opportunities

We are all new to remote and blended teaching, so you are not alone! Nobody trained to teach in this manner. However, we can all be proud of ourselves, demonstrating resilience and continuing to teach our students remotely, as well as face to face.

To continue to support members, the union has adapted its approach and is offering online CPD for interested members. More details on CPD can be found here: <https://neu.org.uk/national-cpd>

The union has also started a remote learning hub for members; here you can find tips and pedagogical approaches you can use in remote education. There is also a resource-sharing social network for NEU members hosted by the Guild platform. More details can be found here: <https://neu.org.uk/remote-education-hub>

The NEU also offers a 10% discount on the course fees of 4 online programmes run by the [University of London](https://www.ucl.ac.uk).

There are also courses available from the [Open University](https://www.open.ac.uk) and the webinars by [NASEN](https://www.nasen.org.uk) (National Association for Special Educational Needs). Both these have been created in association with the NEU tailored for the needs to Teachers and Support staff members. Why not also try the BBC's own remote learning programmes? These can be accessed by students from the TV or online.

The NEU Annual Conference

This year's annual conference will be held virtually
7th – 9th April
2021.

More information about the conference can be found via the following link:

<https://neu.org.uk/annual-conference-2021>

Coronavirus - NEU Reps Role

These are difficult and challenging times for us all. As key/critical workers, teaching staff are working tirelessly to keep vital front-line services running for the community. As a School Rep and/or Health and Safety Rep, you are in a unique position to help and support your members during this difficult time. As a Rep, you have a right to engage with management in school in a spirit of partnership to ensure the concerns of your members are supported and listened to.

Here are some examples of things you can do to help your members:

- Ensure you have an up-to-date list of NEU members at your school.
- Check your schools risk assessment is a live document and is regularly being updated.
- Ask management to consult with you on matters that affect your members.
- Represent your members on issues that could affect their working arrangements.
- Check management are making reasonable adjustments especially for those who have underlying conditions or are considered vulnerable/clinically extremely vulnerable.
- Attend any coronavirus or reps training being offered.

Ultimately, a School Rep's aim is to ensure they keep themselves and their members safe during this pandemic. School Reps should try to keep themselves up to date on the latest Government advice on Coronavirus and ensure their school is following the Government guidelines.

Hunger and poverty

These are not words that should be a concern in Britain in 2021.

Welfare of children and young people has become a national emergency. We also need better strategies for making schools safer and for ensuring that children do not go hungry.

Members can get in touch if they need to access the Hardship Fund.

Exams and Testing for Summer 2021

Following the Government's announcement of the cancellation of the summer examinations- students will now receive their grades based on their teacher's assessment. The cancellation of examinations this summer is not because the pandemic has made them impossible to sit but rather because the unequal impact of the pandemic makes it impossible for them to be fair. The DfE and Ofqual have now launched a consultation seeking views on how to award grades in a way that reflects students' performance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021> (please note; the consultation closes on 29th Jan).

I became a local officer working for Bradford NEU in September 2020. I had been a member of the NUT for many years but became more active, attending the Branch meeting and joining campaigns, from 2010. This was the beginning of years of austerity under the Conservative Government. A long list of detrimental new education policies were introduced. These included academisation, pension changes and school budget cuts. Being involved in local and national campaigns showed the importance and effectiveness of acting collectively.

I later became the school rep and became aware of the vast experience and knowledge of the Bradford Officers. September is generally a quieter time of year for the local officers. However, this year Covid-19 has meant that the local officers have been working flat out since schools fully returned in September (and before). They have provided help and support to members during a challenging time as the rules and regulations are ever changing. It has been a steep learning curve but by shadowing the experienced officers I am finding my feet. Like everybody I am looking forward to life getting back to normal and to taking on my own cases and meeting colleagues and members in person rather than on Zoom.



NEU Advice Line: The line is open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm. Tel: 0345 811 8111.

You can also get help by following the link <https://neu.org.uk/employment-adviceline>

NEU Bradford
22 Edmund Street,
Bradford, BD5 0BH
01274 414664
contact@bradfordneu.org

www.facebook.com/neubrad/
Twitter @NEUBradford
www.bradfordneu.org



Contacting you

It is important to check that we have the correct contact details for you, such as your school and personal email address. If you go to www.neu.org.uk and click 'myNEU' in the top right corner, you can update your details.

Check out our Bradford District web pages at
www.bradfordneu.org