

CHANGES TO THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION



A NEW LOCAL SECRETARY
At the AGM in February Anne Rycroft was elected as the new Wirral Association NASUWT Local Secretary. Anne replaces Neville Reilly who will continue to carry out casework for members and be on hand to help Anne settle into her new role. She does have plenty of experience herself as a Local Executive Committee Member and in recent years as the Honorary Treasurer of the Association.

Anne has already written to members at their home addresses outlining the changes that she has made to the schedule of local meetings being held this year. We are holding them around the borough more and changing the days and we hope that members will now be able to attend at least one meeting during the year. All members are welcome to attend any or all of the meetings to share problems and get to know the Local Executive and other members. Refreshments will also be available.

Empowering Teachers

Empowering You

Every member was sent this document to their home address during the summer break. It is an essential tool in helping all members in tackling your workload. It outlines all the things that you may be asked to do that you are not contractually obliged to do and are not being paid to do.

We hope you have all read it very carefully and are also implementing the instructions in full. If you experience any difficulties please contact your local officers immediately. You will find our contact details and the National NASUWT HELPLINE on page 2.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

This year's results mark the last year in England in which all GCSE results are graded using the letter-based system, with the introduction from September of numerical grades. This apparently minor change masks the most substantial reform in a quarter of a century to the key general qualification offered to learners in England. The content and structure of the new GCSEs are very different from those they are replacing.

Whatever view is taken of the new GCSEs, it is clear that their implementation has been rushed, poorly thought through and undertaken without meaningful consultation with the teaching profession. The late release of exam specifications and other key information about the new GCSEs has created excessive and wholly avoidable burdens on already overstretched teachers and school leaders.

The rationale for these reforms has never reflected the evidence about the effectiveness of existing GCSEs and has been characterised by unsubstantiated and misleading assertions that these qualifications had been increasingly dumbed down over time.

Despite all these shortcomings in way in which GCSEs have been reformed, teachers and school leaders have continued, as ever, to ensure that pupils receive high quality learning experiences and can secure the best possible chance of exam success tomorrow.

However, the central lesson that future governments must learn from the experience of these reforms is that never again should such substantial changes to qualifications that are critical to the life chances of young people be handled in such an incoherent and ill-considered way.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

THE NASUWT COMMUNITY

To improve communication with members the NASUWT North West Regional Centre has set up a closed Facebook page for members. If you want to join find us on Facebook by searching "NASUWT North West". Members use this page to share information



and post queries. Local and regional officials provide advice, share relevant news posts and discuss education issues.

Locally we have a School Representative and Local Executive page, contact annerycroft@gmail.com if you wish to join. You can also follow us on Twitter @WIRRALNasuwt.



NASUWT National Executive Districts

Our District, **District 6**, covers Cheshire, Halton, Isle of Man, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens & Newton, Warrington, and Wirral. The District recently held an election to select our two representatives to the National Executive Committee. These officers attend meetings of the full National Executive at NASUWT National HQ at Rednal, near Birmingham, and undertake to deliver the priorities set at the NASUWT Annual Conference.



They also support us locally on more serious matters and escalation of any action. **Damien McNulty** (Knowsley) was re-elected to office and **Bevanie Robinson** (Cheshire West and Chester) was elected to replace Mick Burrows who had served for many years. We wish to thank Mick for his support over the years and look forward to working with Bev and Damien.



EARLY YEARS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA PROPOSALS

The Early Years National Funding Formula consultation was announced in August. High investment in early years education is essential. It is vital the sector gets the highest levels of support to ensure children have the best start to their education and their lives. The NASUWT has continually challenged the



hourly funding rates and identified them as being too low. While any rise to this rate is welcome, it is unlikely that the small increase proposed will address the funding issues for early years providers.

It is also deeply concerning to see proposals to reduce the funding floor protections by 10% which could create considerable problems for some school-based early years provision. The Government's proposal to use a universal base rate to fund providers implies that all providers are the same, which of course is not the case. As it stands this proposal could place the future of maintained nursery provision at risk.

The NASUWT believes that a differentiated approach would be preferable and would allow different providers to be supported in ways that best suit their needs and the expectations placed on them in terms of the services they deliver. The proposals set out a rapid timeframe for the transition to the new national funding formula and the universal base rate. The Government's desire to introduce these changes should not be allowed to jeopardise its stated commitment to improving access to quality early years provision. The NASUWT will fully engage in the consultation process to represent the views of its members, the early years sector and the teaching profession.

Wirral Association NASUWT AUTUMN TERM MEETINGS

- Wednesday 14 September at The Mosslands School, Wallasey, CH45 8PJ
- Tuesday 11th October at the Village Hotel, Bromborough, CH62 4UE
- Wednesday 9 November at the Holiday Inn, Hoylake, CH47 1HE
- Tuesday 6th December at The Mosslands School, Wallasey, CH45 8PJ.

Further details are available on the Wirral NASUWT website (see below).

All members are welcome to come along to any or all of our meetings which start at 4.15 and finish at 5.30 p.m. Refreshments served at 4.00

Wirral Association NASUWT LOCAL OFFICERS

If members need to call for local help and advice you can contact the Local Secretary or the Assistant Secretary on the following days:

Thursday & Friday call Anne Rycroft

07910 026695

annerycroft@gmail.co.uk

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday call Mick Robinson

07739 422 181

mickrobinson@nasuwt.net

NASUWT

**MEMBER SUPPORT
ADVICE TEAM**

The dedicated number for all members to access help and advice.

Calls are free from all landlines and mobile phone networks:

03330 145550

Members can also e-mail to:

advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk



If any member would like to contribute to the **Wirral Association NASUWT NEWSLETTER**, please contact Mick Robinson. Mob: 07739422181 or E-mail: mickrobinson@nasuwt.net
Previous recent issues of the **NEWSLETTER** can be viewed on our website.

Visit the Wirral NASUWT website
www.wirralassociationnasuwt.org