

CONFERENCE 2020

The Annual Conference 2020 should have been held in Birmingham over the Easter weekend but because of coronavirus it was held on-line and took place in private session on the morning of Good Friday only. A random selection of the elected Delegates attended the Virtual Conference to conduct the critical business of the NASUWT in accordance with the Union's Rules. Part of that was the Induction of Michelle Codrington-Rogers as President for 2020-21.

The President thanked the outgoing General Secretary, Chris Keates, on behalf of the Officers, National Executive and members for her outstanding service to the NASUWT. The President said that she knew that Conference would have wanted to be able to celebrate the election of the new General Secretary who had already given such excellent service to the Union in his role as Deputy General Secretary for the past ten years. She said that she had no doubt that he would carry out his new role with the same dedication and commitment. The President then formally introduced the incoming General Secretary, Dr Patrick Roach, pictured left, and announced that he would formally take up the office of General Secretary on 12th April 2020. See report on next page.



At the close of the Virtual Conference our new National President, Michelle, pictured right, observed that only a few weeks ago no one would have imagined the crisis the country and the world would be facing and there was no doubt that some aspects of our lives had now changed for ever. What will not change is the NASUWT's dedication to its members.



A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM OUR RETIRING GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Colleagues,

Today is my last opportunity to write to you before I finally step down, after over 16 years, from the role of General Secretary. In all of my involvement with the NASUWT, as a member since 1976, as a lay activist and, since 1998, as a member of staff of the NASUWT, I have always felt immense pride in being part of this great Union.

I had hoped to be seeing at least some of you to say goodbye in person at our Annual Conference 2020 but who could have imagined, even a few short weeks ago, that our lives would be changed so dramatically by a national and global crisis. But unprecedented as the times may be, I am proud to say that, at these worst of times, I have once again seen the NASUWT at its best, lay activists and staff working together to do everything they can, against the odds, to provide support, advice and guidance to our members, who have found themselves, as key public service workers, thrust into the front line supporting our NHS and caring for the most vulnerable children and young people in our schools and colleges.

Rising to meet a challenge on behalf of members is what the NASUWT and its activists, do. This Union has endured many different governments, numerous Secretaries of State and Ministers for Education and innumerable policy changes and initiatives and we have thrived. No other union has had the year on year success that we have secured and sustained.

You have all played an important part in that success. I have been continually inspired by our activists and members who I have met in their thousands at local, regional and national events during my time in office. I thank you all for everything you have done. Never forget that the actions every one of you, members and activists take, however big or small, are never wasted, are never in vain and are crucial to making a difference to the lives of teachers.

I consider myself very fortunate to have worked with all of you, some of you for very many years, and I will treasure the support, comradeship, kindness and friendship you have shown to me. In the face of immense change and challenge, together we have made a world of difference to the working lives of teachers and to the life chances of children and young people and I know you will continue to do so.

The NASUWT and its members will always have a special place in my heart.

With all good wishes for the future.

Yours,

Chris Keates (Ms)



NEW NASUWT GENERAL SECRETARY TAKES UP POST

Dr Patrick Roach has formally taken up the post of General Secretary of the **NASUWT-The Teachers' Union** on Sunday 12th April 2020. Formerly a teacher and a member of the union, Patrick has been Deputy General Secretary of the NASUWT for the last 10 years and has worked for the Union in a number of positions since 1998. He paid tribute to the vital work of teachers, particularly at this time of national crisis when teachers and school leaders are at the forefront of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and has called on the governments and national administrations to prove they genuinely value the profession by ending the decade-long attacks on teachers' pay and conditions.

Patrick said:

"I am deeply honoured to be taking up the position of General Secretary. I can think of no greater privilege for me than to have the job of General Secretary of a union that is dedicated to putting teachers first, particularly at this time when it is so vitally important that the voice of teachers is heard and listened to by governments, schools and employers.

"Governments have lauded teachers' efforts in response to COVID-19. Now ministers need to recognise that the decade spent undermining the pay and conditions of teachers must end, by valuing teachers, securing competitive pay and rewards for teachers, ending the misery of crushing and debilitating workload pressures on teachers and ensuring that teachers and headteachers can go to work every day without the fear of being bullied, harassed or verbally or physically assaulted.

"The importance of treating others with respect and dignity has been a resounding message over the last few weeks. Those on whom we rely the most-our nurses, doctors, teachers, care givers and other public service workers-deserve the very best. And the public and politicians cannot continue to expect teachers and other public service workers to be there for them unless they in turn demonstrate they are valued and respected.

"My aim as General Secretary is to put NASUWT members first and to continue to fight for working conditions which support and protect every teacher so they can continue to inspire and make a positive difference to the lives of our children and young people."



BRINGING PUPILS INTO SCHOOL TO UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENTS IS UNACCEPTABLE

Commenting on reports that some schools are bringing pupils onsite to complete mock examinations or other assessments, **Dr Patrick Roach, General Secretary of the NASUWT – The Teachers' Union** said:

"The Government has been clear that schools are open only for the children of key workers and for those pupils who have been identified as vulnerable.

"Therefore, it beggars belief that some pupils are being required to travel to school to complete mock examinations and other assessments to support the process of producing centre assessed GCSE and A-level grades for exam boards. Ofqual and the Department for Education have confirmed that there is no need for any additional assessment material to be produced to support this process and that examination centres must act in accordance with Government instructions. Such practices must cease immediately.



"The UK is currently in the midst of a public health emergency and attention has rightly been drawn to those individuals who are putting their lives and those of others at risk by ignoring the measures that the Government has put in place. While the vast majority of schools are behaving sensibly in this respect, it is profoundly disturbing that some have decided that the lockdown provisions that apply to everyone else shall not apply to them.

"The NASUWT urges all parents to ignore any requests for their children to attend school to undertake a mock examination or other assessment and to report any such requests to the Department for Education directly. The Union will also intervene robustly to protect any of its members who are instructed by their employer to participate in such reckless and wholly unnecessary activity."

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WIRRAL ASSOCIATION NASUWT

SCHOOL REPS TRAINING DAY

Thursday 2nd July 2020
At TRFC Prenton Park

If your school does not have a Workplace Representative you should nominate a member to attend the Training Day or think about becoming the **NASUWT School Rep** yourself.

YOUR UNION AND MEMBERS IN YOUR SCHOOL NEED YOU!

NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

MEMBER SUPPORT ADVICE TEAM

The dedicated number for all members to access help and advice has been temporarily suspended.

Members are now being asked to e-mail:

advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

Visit the Wirral NASUWT website
www.wirralassociationnasuwt.org

NASUWT
The Teachers' Union

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. Members are asked to share the **NEWSLETTER** with colleagues on your NASUWT Noticeboard.



CORONAVIRUS SUPPLEMENT

THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW PACKAGE TO SUPPORT ONLINE LEARNING

I don't know if you watched the Coronavirus Daily Bulletin on Sunday 19th April when the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, chaired the broadcast but he was far from confidence boosting when he made his announcement regarding the Government's new package to support online learning. Dr Patrick Roach, our new General Secretary, was quick to comment:

"We welcome the Government's recognition of the need to take concerted national action to support children's education whilst schools remain closed to the generality of pupils.

"Teachers have already worked phenomenally hard to provide continuity of care for vulnerable children and to children of key workers as part of the country's COVID-19 emergency response, whilst also providing access to online learning for the majority of children who are not in schools.

"No more could be asked of teachers and it is essential that the Government ensures that all teachers have the tools, support and guarantees they need to continue to support children during the current crisis.

"In addition, the NASUWT has previously made clear that the Government has an important role to play in bringing together a range of providers including media and technology companies, to complement the work being undertaken by schools in the national interest. It is right that the Government takes action to do so now.

"As we enter the summer term there has been growing speculation about when schools will reopen to pupils. It is clear that the answer is not to rush to reopen schools contrary to public health considerations.

"The Government must adopt a balanced, proportionate and coordinated approach, working with online publishers, media and technology companies to provide a wraparound learning offer that is accessible to every child, irrespective of their home background or circumstances.

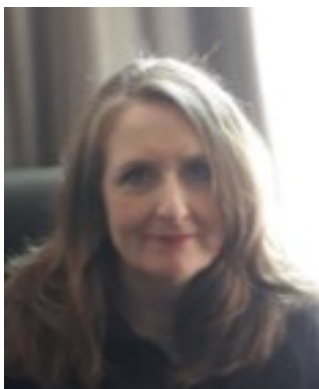
"It will be essential that every child has access to the hardware and connectivity they will need to access learning online and on air. Ensuring immediate access to technology for every child will be critically important and the Government will need to demonstrate that it is prepared to put in the additional investment where and when it is needed.

"The Government will also need to ensure that teachers have access to the tools they need to support children's learning whilst schools remain closed and without imposing unreasonable burdens on them."

Members should contact the NASUWT Help and Advice Team by email:

advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

if you are being affected by the Coronavirus measures in school or talk to your workplace NASUWT School Representative who is in contact with **Anne Rycroft, the Wirral Local Secretary.**



HONOUR KEY WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO CORONAVIRUS ON WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

The NASUWT-The Teachers' Union is supporting the call for a minute's silence at 11.00 a.m. on Workers' Memorial Day - Tuesday 28 April - to remember all those key workers, including teachers and school staff, who have lost their lives to Coronavirus.