



BRADFORD NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS Newsletter



September 2009

The End of Cover

Welcome back to a virtually cover free school year. School Teachers' Pay and Conditions stipulate that from this September teachers can only be required to cover irarelyŷ. This means in **genuine emergencies** and does not include covering for teachers who are sick as the school should now have a system to deal with this. So irarelyŷ might mean once a year. This is an important change to our conditions of service ñ let's make it stick.

Calling M4, 5 & 6

There has been a change in the way Threshold applications are assessed which comes into effect this year. Assessment for Round 10, that is the period beginning September 1st 2009 to October 31st 2010, will be based solely on evidence gathered from Performance Management Review statements covering the two-year period leading up to the teacher's request for assessment. Previously, performance management has only contributed to the assessment. (This does not apply to supply teachers who are employed on a day to day basis. For them, the method of assessment remains as it has been previously).

You need to be on M6 to apply to cross the Threshold but, because of the two-year assessment period, teachers currently on M4 and M5 who are planning to apply should be thinking about how they are meeting the criteria and

ensuring this is recorded in their performance management reviews.

You no longer need to submit a portfolio of evidence but you do need to make a written request for assessment to your headteacher.

A model request form is available from <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/payandperformance/threshold> (some schools have their own).

Assessment in this round may be requested any time between September 1st 2009 and October 31st 2010 and if successful will normally be reflected in pay from 1st September 2010. Assessment is usually, though not necessarily, based on two reviews.

What if live been absent?

The regulations allow you to apply however long you have been absent in the two year assessment period as long as you are employed by the school on the day you submit your request to be assessed (and you can be absent on that day too). The regulations also allow evidence to be collected from periods which aggregate to two years drawn from the last five years preceding the application. More detailed information, including the criteria which need to be met to make a successful application, can be found on the teachernet website above.

Please contact the union office for any further clarification. There will be guidance on the Union's national website soon ñ www.teachers.org.uk

Ending the Lunacy

The NUT and NAHT are currently engaged in a joint National campaign to end all KS2 SATs.



You might have seen us holding stalls in Bradford and Ilkley town centres last Saturday to take the message to parents that these tests damage children.

In order to maximise our chances of success we need the active support of members in schools. We stand a very good chance of getting these tests scrapped once and for all.

There are two opportunities for you to get involved:-

- **There is an Anti-SATs Campaign Meeting** on Thursday 24th September. This will be a working meeting for no more than 1 hour, 4.30 to 5.30, at the NUT Office. It is open to all interested teachers and we will be planning how to build the campaign in schools for more appropriate, educationally sound assessment.

• **We are holding a half-hour briefing meeting** before the next general meeting for all teachers

BRADFORD NUT, 22 EDMUND STREET, BRADFORD, BD5 0BH

TEL:01274 414664/FAX: 01274 414665

e-mail: inamei@bradfordnut.org website www.bradfordnut.org

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- in primary schools, especially year 6 teachers and curriculum leaders for English and maths. This is at 4.30 to 5.00 on Tuesday 29th September, at the International Restaurant, Morley Street.

If you can't get to a meeting but want to get involved, please email and let us know.

Geoff died in 2006. This made the trip more poignant on several levels: Geoff was an ex history teacher at Grange, he was a committed member of the Union and he was heavily involved in anti-fascism.

The main purpose of the visit was to go to Auschwitz-Birkenau which is about an hour away from Krakow. All the students could apply the experience to their school subjects. However, an added dimension to the trip was that all the pupils were Muslim. With recent events in the Middle East in mind, the group used the opportunity to discuss issues surrounding the creation of Israel and the Palestinian situation. Conversation then turned to the question of how much we have progressed since 1945. The students are now researching into more recent genocides such as Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda.

However, Geoff would also have been pleased to see the pupils enjoying the beautiful city of Krakow and to hear them say that they wanted to bring their family back, experience more travel and to work abroad. This is the real educational outcome of a visit abroad and trips to Poland are now on the calendar as an annual event!



Students at the execution wall, looking at flowers left by relatives

Your Chance to Get Involved with the Union

There are several meetings coming up in the near future to which all NUT members are warmly invited. You are the Union. Why not come along, make your voice heard and meet colleagues?

Thursday September 24th
Anti-SATs Campaign Meeting at the NUT Office, 22 Edmund Street,
4.30 -5.30

Tuesday September 29th
General Meeting at the International Restaurant, Morley Street
Starts at 5 (refreshments from 4.30)
The meeting will be followed by a FREE MEAL at 6.30
(Other General Meeting dates for 2009/10:
November 10th
December 8th
January 19th
March 2nd
May 4th
June 22nd)

Thursday October 1st
Young Teachers' Meeting (but all members welcome)
At Bradford Central Library
7 till 9 (tea and biscuits from 6.30)
Featuring the author David Peace

Meet the Author



Renowned author **David Peace** will be appearing at a Bradford NUT Young Teachers event on Thursday, 1st October.

David is the author of the *Red Riding* quartet of books (made into a TV series) and *The Damned United* (also a successful film starring Michael Sheen). He was named by *Granta* magazine as one of twenty 'Best of Young British Novelists' in 2003. Although it is a Young Teachers' event all members are very welcome to attend what promises to be a really interesting evening.

The event will be held at 7pm, with tea and biscuits from 6.30, at Bradford Central Library.

Entry is free and we hope to have some copies of David's novels to give away to young teachers.

Anti Racism Project

In July, Grange Technology College took a group of eight History and Sociology students to Poland. This was aided by the Geoff Robinson Memorial Fund, established by Bradford NUT, which provided £1000 towards the experience.

Seen Bradford NUT's website?

Go to www.bradfordnut.org for information on conditions of service, health and safety, equal opportunities, Ofsted, and many other subjects relevant to teachers