

A Message from the President



Colleagues,

We are living through what may be the most disruptive period in Scottish Education since the Institute was established in 1847. Clearly, the two world wars were more significant events for EIS members and their families who lived through those wars.

However, in terms of disruption to how Scottish schools operate and how teaching and learning is overtaken, the last few months have been unprecedented. Colleagues, the truth is that the next period, particularly between August and the end of 2020, will be even more disruptive and challenging.

I want to pay tribute to all of our EIS staff who have worked tirelessly to try and ensure teachers, their families and the pupils and students we teach are protected too. The EIS has ensured that the voice of teachers has been heard and heeded in the deliberations that have occurred, continue to occur and will occur as we move through this crisis.

However, I will end on this note, that of democratic decision making within the EIS. The special hybrid AGM/Council is far from a perfect model but it will ensure that the EIS Council and crucially, its committees, are up and running as soon as is practicable under the circumstances. Session 2020-2021 puts an important duty on us, the activist base of the Institute, to ensure that the Scottish teachers and lecturers voice in all sectors and settings, shape Institute policy in what will be quite literally an extraordinary period in the history of the EIS.

Our motto is "the promotion of sound learning". Our job is to ensure that sound learning is re-established, but only when it is safe to do so.

Bill Ramsay

Bill Ramsay
President