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GTCS

ELECTIONS

EIS CANDIDATES

2018

Representing Teachers in Scotland



Vote Online: www.gtcs.org.uk

I am writing to urge you to vote for the EIS endorsed candidates in the forthcoming GTCS elections. Now more than ever, it is crucial that you do so.

In light of the Scottish Government's proposal to disband it, the GTCS is fighting for its survival.

Despite the GTCS being an internationally regarded, teacher-led professional body that is almost fully funded by teachers' subscriptions, the Government has outlined plans to transfer the functions of the GTCS to a new Education Workforce Council whose membership will comprise all of the education workforce.

We don't always agree with the GTCS but we recognise it as an independent voice capable of saying 'No' to Scottish Government, when required.

Critically, the Scottish Government plans to get rid of the democratic process by which teachers are elected to Council, holding a slim majority. Instead, the Government intends that there will be no elections, that Council members will be appointed by Scottish Government, and that professionals will no longer hold a majority on what will be a Board, not a Council.

The EIS believes that this proposal from the Scottish Government poses a real threat to the professional status of teachers, to the custodianship of high standards, and to the support that the profession receives from the GTCS. As a bastion against moves to facilitate fast and faster-tracking into the profession, the GTCS must remain intact.

The threat to its existence must be resisted and the role of the GTCS defended by teachers. At this time of great change in Scottish Education and increasing pressure in our schools, it is important that the teacher voice is strongly maintained and clearly heard within our own professional body, the GTCS.

The EIS is supporting a number of candidates who are committed to meeting this objective and who are:

- classroom teachers and headteachers who are EIS members
- individuals who command the respect of colleagues in their schools
- committed to promoting the highest standards within the profession
- committed to defending teachers in the face of the many challenges faced on a daily basis in our schools.

I believe strongly that their experience, taken together with their personal integrity and commitment, equip them well to represent colleagues on the GTCS Council, not least in terms of fighting for its future.

When the elections open online in January, please vote for all EIS supported candidates.

Yours sincerely



Larry Flanagan, EIS General Secretary

Your vote counts

GTCS matters for every teacher

The EIS supports the work of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) in its significantly important role in Scottish education. The work of the GTCS impacts on teacher professionalism and the work of teachers throughout their careers. This role is of particular importance in light of Professional Update, the development of teacher professionalism and the need to enhance the status of the teaching profession.

Why strong teacher voice on GTCS Council matters

- To be able to teach in Scotland, every teacher must be registered, and remain registered, with GTCS.
- The GTCS accredits Initial Teacher Education as well as playing a critical role in the area of professional learning.
- The GTCS sets 3 professional standards; The Standard for Registration, The Standard for Career-Long Professional Learning and The Standard for Leadership and Management.
- Cases of alleged teacher misconduct or incompetence are reported to GTCS, which has the right to use the ultimate sanction of removing teachers from the GTCS Register.

Tom Britton / Class Teacher, Redhall School / City of Edinburgh



In seeking election as a teacher member of the GTCS Council I believe that it is crucial to have voices that reflect the feelings of teachers. The GTCS is led and funded by us. We need to protect the GTCS and reject any alternatives. I believe that it is important that the GTCS should continue to lead on professional learning and not Education Scotland. I believe that there should be no dilution of ITE and the GTCS should continue to apply the highest standards for future teachers in Scotland. We need the highest standards maintained.

Lilian Field / Headteacher, Strathdon & Crathie Primary Schools / Aberdeenshire



An active EIS member, I am seeking election to the GTCS Council because I wish to see it continue as a highly respected teacher led and teacher funded organisation which enhances the status and professionalism of teachers. I believe that the GTCS should continue to operate independently of government, leading on the management of teachers' professional learning and ensuring that initial teacher education is of the highest quality. As a representative of teachers in Scotland I would aim to ensure that teacher voice and equalities continue to be central to the vision of Scottish education.

Lorraine McBride / Headteacher, Greenhill Primary School / North Lanarkshire



Holding 28 years' experience in Primary education (the last 6 spent as headteacher), I am very aware of the challenges faced by teachers in today's climate, and of the current national developments around teacher education, education governance and teacher professionalism. I fully understand the crucial contribution of GTCS elected members in ensuring that such matters progress appropriately. If elected, I would work to ensure that teacher voice on GTCS remains strong; Scotland's high standards of teacher professionalism are defended; the professional status of teachers is protected; and public confidence in the GTCS as an internationally respected regulatory body is upheld.

Adela Mansur / Class Teacher, Ratho Primary School / City of Edinburgh



Formerly a member of the GTC in England before its abolition by government, I feel very strongly that teachers in Scotland must strive to keep our regulatory body intact to protect our professional status. Internationally recognised, GTCS focuses firmly on ensuring that Scotland's teachers reach and adhere to the highest professional standards. Scottish Government's proposal of an Education Workforce Council - one regulator, which would register and regulate the entire workforce in education - should be rejected. The professional voice of teachers as expert educators must be maintained on GTCS Council. If elected, I would be a strong ambassador for our profession.

Alison Palmer / Headteacher, Arrochar Primary School / Argyll & Bute



With 28 years' teaching experience, the last 12 as a teaching Headteacher, I believe I can contribute further to the development of the teaching profession in Scotland and that it is important for teachers to be represented by someone who understands the demands of the job, as I do.

I believe that the GTCS, being teacher-funded, must actively promote and enhance the professional status and professionalism of teachers. Its role in professional learning should be strengthened for the benefit of Scottish teachers, pupils and parents, and it is crucially important, also, that the GTCS retains independence from government.

John Rodgers / Class Teacher, Mearns Primary School / East Renfrewshire



A strong teacher voice on GTCS Council is imperative. We are entering an exciting time in Scottish education but must strive to ensure that teacher professionalism remains high on the agenda within GTCS. Scotland has an education system to be proud of but we must remain alert to the threats of the Governance Review, particularly the proposal of an Education Workforce Council and the consequential possible dilution of the GTCS Standards. The children of Scotland deserve to have a fully-registered GTCS teacher workforce, reaching the highest standards of professionalism, delivering their education. With your vote, I can help ensure this.

John Devine / Headteacher, Breadalbane Academy / Perth & Kinross



I am standing as an EIS supported candidate. I previously sat on Council between 2007 and 2009 and have been an appointed member of the Appeals Board since 2012.

As a teacher of 25 years, with significant GTCS and EIS experience, I am keenly aware of the importance of the GTCS in safeguarding standards and supporting professional learning. I fear, though, that proposed changes could significantly undermine this role.

If elected, I would be a strong voice for maintaining the role of GTCS in supporting our profession to address the massive agenda we have been set by government.

Aileen Lynch / Teacher of English, Hamilton Grammar School / South Lanarkshire



In an increasingly demanding and evolving period in education, I believe it essential that teachers are recognised for their distinct professionalism. GTCS registration is fundamental to teachers' professional status, the GTCS professional standards being consistently amongst the highest internationally. While Scottish Government pledges to improve education, it is crucial that GTCS continues to set the standards for high-quality recruitment and to lead on professional learning. It is also imperative that the voice of Scotland's teachers is strongly represented within GTCS Council. If elected, I will, as a South Lanarkshire Secondary teacher and active EIS member, endeavour to ensure this.

James Moore / Spanish & German Teacher, Clydebank High School / West Dunbartonshire



A Secondary teacher of 25 years, I have demonstrated significant commitment to the professional learning agenda and recognise the lead role that GTCS has played in strengthening this- a role I believe should continue. Scottish education is currently at a crossroads with GTCS custodianship of solely teachers' professional standards in question. It is imperative that the GTCS continues as a body funded by teachers, for teacher professionalism, ensuring that rigorous standards are applied to the accreditation of initial teacher education courses so that that new generations of teachers have the tools required to make a significant difference in the classroom.

Secondary EIS CANDIDATES

Vote for all
EIS Secondary
Candidates

Adam Sutcliffe / Principal Teacher Modern Languages, The Gordon Schools / Huntly



I have been teaching in Scotland since 2004, holding the post of PT Modern Languages since 2010. As an EIS member, I believe that:

- the professional status and professionalism of teachers is enhanced by the existence of the GTCS
- the creation of an Education Workforce Council would dilute this status immeasurably
- as an independent body the GTCS should continue to lead on professional learning
- it is vital that registration with GTCS is maintained as a requirement for teaching in Scotland
- the GTCS is crucial in ensuring high standards for Initial Teacher Education.

On this basis, I seek your support.

Further Education EIS CANDIDATE

Pam Currie / Lecturer, Glasgow Kelvin College / City of Glasgow

ELECTED UNOPPOSED



I have been a lecturer in Further Education since 2001, completed my TQFE in 2006 and registered with GTCS for the first time in 2016/17 session. I teach at Glasgow Kelvin College and am an active member of EIS-FELA.

I have a keen interest in the role of GTCS in the FE sector, in promoting the benefits of registration for FE lecturers, their engagement with GTCS - in particular, Professional Update - and in exploring potential routes for FE lecturers to gain full registration in the Secondary category. If elected, I would ensure that the interests of FE lecturers are well represented.

For the future of the GTCS

For a strong professional voice

Vote EIS

The Voting Process

Voting is solely online and your PIN to vote will be emailed to you directly by the GTCS.

All teachers on the GTCS register will receive an email with ballot instructions on **Wednesday 10 January 2018** and online voting will be open from that date until noon on **Friday 2 February 2018**.



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