

January 2018

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Message from the General Secretary

Dear EIS Representative,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year!

I hope that you have enjoyed your well-earned break over the festive period, and that it will stand you in good stead for the forthcoming term, which looks to be as busy and hectic as ever.

Let me take this opportunity to underline the importance we attach to your work as a school representative, and to re-iterate the invitation to let us know if there is anything we can do to support your efforts.

Best wishes and thanks,



Pay Claim 2018

The EIS and other unions will shortly begin negotiations with local authorities and the Scottish Government on the 2018/2019 pay settlement for Scotland's teachers via the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT). The next meeting of the full SNCT takes place on Thursday 8 February 2018 and will consider the pay claim from the Teachers' Panel of the SNCT.

The EIS Council meets on Friday 26 January and will determine the terms of our pay claim for 2018. This claim will then pass to the EIS representatives on the SNCT who, along with the other unions, will formulate the Teachers' Side pay claim at a special meeting of the SNCT Teachers' Panel on Monday 5 February 2018.

The EIS values the SNCT and remains committed to its future in the negotiating procedures. The EIS believes pay should be restored to pre-austerity levels, however, and will ask members to consider industrial action if negotiations fail to deliver this.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of upcoming pay negotiations.

Council Elections 2018/19

The EIS Council is the principal executive committee of the EIS. It meets around five times a year, usually in Edinburgh, and at the AGM.

Nomination forms for members interested in standing for election to Council for 2018/2019 are available from your Local Association Secretary and from the EIS website www.eis.org.uk. The closing date for nomination forms is 1 February 2018.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the elections.

GTCS Elections

Voting has opened in this year's elections to GTCS Council. It is crucial that you use your online vote to support all ten of the EIS-endorsed candidates who are standing in this election at a time when the very survival of the GTCS is under threat.

The Scottish Government's current proposal for the creation of an Education Workforce Council to replace the GTCS, poses many risks to the power of teacher voice in shaping teacher professionalism and professional standards.

The Government's proposal would disband the Council to which teachers are democratically elected, replace it with a board and remove the teacher majority - in other words, ensure less teacher input and more political direction.

The EIS is seeking to defend the GTCS from such damaging political interference. To this end, we are supporting ten strong candidates in this election. Please encourage members to use their vote to give them their full backing.

Booklets containing the EIS endorsed candidates' election statements as well as guidance on how to vote on the GTCS website, have been issued to all schools - additional copies are included. **Voting closes on Friday 2nd February.**

Action for Representatives: Please encourage all members in your establishment to vote for all EIS endorsed candidates whose election statements are contained in the Candidate Booklets. Information is available at www.eis.org.uk/GTCS_council/2018.htm

Action for Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware that FELA Vice-President Pam Currie has been elected unopposed.

Violence in the Workplace

Unfortunately violence in the workplace remains an issue for EIS members. We continue to campaign to ensure teachers/lecturers are not subject to routine violence at the hands of any school pupil or student.

Members are encouraged to report all abusive incidents – including violence, threat of violence and verbal attack, and to involve the police if necessary.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please display the enclosed poster prominently in your establishment.

Education Conference 2018 – Saturday 28 April – Change of Location

Please note the change of location for the 2018 EIS Education Conference scheduled for **Saturday 28 April**. We can now confirm that the venue will be the state of the art Technology and Innovation Centre at the University of Strathclyde in **Glasgow**.

As previously advertised, internationally renowned Finnish educationalist Pasi Sahlberg is confirmed as the main keynote speaker. In addition to what promises to be a highly engaging keynote presentation, there will be extended time for audience conversation and discussion with Pasi on the themes that he raises in relation to education and educational reform.

Details of further speakers and conference workshops will soon be confirmed, with registration due to open in February. For further information in the meantime, please contact Leigh Meechan (lmeechan@eis.org.uk).

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the change of location of the Conference and that further information is soon to follow.

New EIS Guidance on Distribution of Period Products

The EIS recently launched a new good practice guidance note on "Distributing period products in schools and colleges". This guidance aims to help educational establishments to support learners and staff during menstruation, which is a normal part of life. It contains some suggested 'Do's and Don'ts' for schools and colleges regarding the provision of sanitary products.

The guidance can be read alongside other EIS publications on gender equality such as, 'Get it Right for Girls' and links to ongoing campaigning to highlight the impact of poverty on education.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: The guidance is available at www.eis.org.uk/Gender_Equality/Periodguidance.htm Please use the guidance to raise the issue in your establishment, and make members aware of it.

EIS Page Scholarship 2018/19

Application forms are now available for the 2018/19 Page Scholarship involving a research visit to America, offered by the EIS in association with the English-Speaking Union. Besides being EIS members, applicants must also have 5 years' teaching experience.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to a teacher/lecturer in a Scottish school/college and is intended to promote small-scale educational research and exchange of ideas between Britain and America. The successful Scholar travels to the USA

to study a specific aspect of American education which interests her/him, and which is relevant to her/his own professional responsibilities here in Scotland.

The value of the EIS Page Scholarship is £2,400 which covers the cost of travel to and accommodation in, the USA. Throughout the visit, the Scholar is the guest of the American Branches of the English-Speaking Union. The closing date for submission of applications to the EIS Education Department is **Thursday 1 March 2018**.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make relevant teachers or lecturers in your establishment aware of this opportunity. Application forms should be addressed to the EIS Education Department at 46 Moray Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BH. For further information please contact Leigh Meechan (lmeechan@eis.org.uk). An article from the 2016/17 Scholar, Julie Anne McGhee was published in the December edition of the SEJ.

Page Scholarship Joint Event – English Speaking Union & EIS

The English Speaking Union (ESU) in collaboration with the EIS is hosting an event to hear from teachers who have most recently been awarded the Page Scholarship. The Scholars will share their experiences from their scholarship journey to the USA with you. The event is scheduled to take place on **Monday 19th February 2018** from 6-8pm, with refreshments served on arrival at the Offices of the ESU, 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 8HQ.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make relevant teachers in your establishment aware of this opportunity. For further information please contact Leigh Meechan (lmeechan@eis.org.uk).

EIS City & Guilds Masters Professional Practitioner Award – Masters in Education at SCQF level 11

In partnership with the EIS, City & Guilds offers this SCQF Level 11 Masters in Education (MPPA), designed for practising teachers and educators who wish to develop their skills and experience. The programme is a comprehensive qualification that offers structured support for self-study, work-based development activities and end of unit assignments. It is completed online via the City & Guilds Learning Assistant e-portfolio system.

For more information please visit the www.eis.org.uk/External_PL/masters.htm

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the City & Guilds programme.

Equality Rep Training

Having an EIS Equality Representative in your Local Association is extremely important, it is a key role and can raise many important issues locally and support the promotion of equality across establishments. The EIS is running two courses for Equality Reps shortly; a stage one course for new reps, and a stage two course for partially trained reps who have already completed stage one and are ready to complete their training.

Both courses will be delivered in EIS HQ at Moray Place, Edinburgh by TUC Education tutors. The course is accredited. For more information see: www.eis.org.uk/Become_Active/Equality_Reps.htm

Stage 1 course:

2nd March
20th April

Stage 2 course:

16th March
4th May

If you would like to take part in this training for the first time, please contact your Local Association Secretary for approval. To register please contact Ashley Gray (agray@eis.org.uk) or if you have any general enquiries, please contact Jenny Kemp (jkemp@eis.org.uk).

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members/partially trained Equality Reps aware of the upcoming training dates and encourage them to register for the relevant course (with LA Secretary approval for new reps).

EIS Action Research Grants

The EIS will again be offering action research grants in 2018-19.

Action research involves:

- Identifying an issue (related to learning in your classroom / setting)
- Reviewing any relevant literature around the issue

- Planning a simple research strategy
- Gathering and analysing data
- Taking action based on your findings
- Sharing your findings.

Applications will be invited soon. Please look out for information on how to apply for a grant in your next EIS bulletin.

For further information in the meantime, please contact Lesley Walker (lwalker@eis.org.uk).

EIS Learning Reps

Are you passionate about professional learning? Do you feel strongly about high quality learning experiences that meet your needs and those of your colleagues? If so, becoming an EIS Learning Rep could be an opportunity for you.

The primary role of the EIS Learning Rep is to engage with and support members on professional learning issues, as well as to take forward the professional learning agenda in the workplace.

The EIS offers training and ongoing support for this valued role. The next course begins on Monday 5th February 2018. For an information pack and application form, please contact Lesley Walker (lwalker@eis.org.uk) or visit www.eis.org.uk/LRs:_An_Introduction/Learning_Rep_Courses.htm

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the opportunity to become a Learning Rep.

Note to Representatives

If you are planning on having a meeting, please remember that you can utilise a visit from your area organiser. Organisers can provide advice and support on a range of topics or provide training and information giving opportunities on a subject important to your branch and members. Contact information for your area organiser can be found at www.eis.org.uk/Contacts/Organisers.htm

NQT and Probationer Recruitment

Membership are working through acquiring bank details for NQT's who finished their free membership in December 2017. If they are unsure if they have provided their bank details they can give the Membership department in Moray Place a call on 0131 225 6244.

Please remind current probationers that membership is free until December 18. If they joined while students, they must complete another application form. This is available at www.eis.org.uk/Join/application_form.htm

Alternatively, you can contact membership at HQ or your area organiser for probationer paper applications which can be posted out to you.