

March 2017 / www.eis.org.uk

FELA Ballot Result

College lecturers across Scotland have voted overwhelmingly for industrial action in a dispute over the non-delivery of a pay agreement that was reached almost exactly one year ago. Full details of the issues that have led to this ballot can be found here <http://www.eis.org.uk/FELA/Honourthedeal.htm>

An indicative ballot which closed on 3 March, ended with 97% of lecturers backing industrial action, on a turnout of 64%.

We are now moving towards a statutory ballot. This postal ballot will be launched on Friday 24th March.

Action for Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the statutory ballot and encourage them to vote.

CPD Event – International Teach Meet

The EIS, in conjunction with the GTCS, is organising an International Teach-Meet event to coincide with the International Summit on the Teaching Profession being held in Edinburgh in March.

The Teach-Meet takes place on Wednesday 29th March, from 6.00pm – 7.30pm, in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Tickets are free but early application is encouraged as they are limited in number.

Any member who wishes to attend is invited to apply for a ticket by contacting Leigh Meechan: lmeechan@eis.org.uk

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of this CPD opportunity and encourage attendance.

New Grants to Support Members' Action Research

A funding stream that will support practitioner research amongst EIS members is in the process of being established to incentivise research work by EIS members. Individual grants will normally be in the range of £500 to £1,000 with an agreement for the EIS to have the right to publish, disseminate and archive the research.

Research topics will not be restricted but the thrust of the scheme is to support research into aspects of classroom practice and the dynamics of teaching and learning, with a view to findings supporting continuing professional development and enhanced practice, and future EIS policy development. A further possible useful research dimension could be to support the efficacy of teacher trade unions/professional associations.

To support the first round of research, a workshop-style launch event will be organised to address the principles of action research and to support candidate approaches and methodologies.

Further details will follow shortly. In the meantime, early expressions of interest should be made to Leigh Meechan: lmeechan@eis.org.uk

Full article and details for reference are in the February edition of the SEJ.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of this new initiative.

Period of Notice

At the October 2016 SNCT meeting it was agreed that periods of notice across councils should be determined at national level.

This change took effect on 1 January 2017 and, arising from this change, the minimum period of notice to terminate employment to be given by a teacher on the main grade scale, a teacher on the Chartered Teacher spine, Music Instructor or an Education Support Officer, Quality Improvement Officer or Education Psychologist shall be **4 working weeks**.

All other teachers, quality improvement managers, principal and depute educational psychologists are now required to give 8 weeks' notice, which include 4 working weeks.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of these changes.

EIS Legal Helpline

At the most recent Finance Sub-Committee it was announced that the legal helpline will no longer be available for members, due to the service being cancelled by the service provider.

The legal helpline will cease to be operational from the 16th May 2017. The Executive Committee will be looking into alternatives prior to the date of cessation. Further information regarding these changes will be announced in due course.

In the meantime, if you require legal guidance or assistance please contact your Local Association Secretary or School Rep.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of these changes.

EIS BME Member Engagement Event – 6th May 2017

Following the success of the BME Member Engagement event in May of last year, it has been agreed to schedule this event annually. EIS Black and Minority Ethnic members are invited to attend the STUC, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6NG on Saturday 6th May 2017. Discussions will be based around the issue of Anti-Racist training in educational establishments and BME teacher leadership; delegates will participate in workshops throughout the morning, giving a good opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. More details can be found on the EIS website (<http://www.eis.org.uk/Equality/Anti-racism.htm>) or obtained from Ashley in the Education and Equality Department (agray@eis.org.uk).

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please encourage BME members within your establishment to attend and take part. Members can register by emailing Ashley Gray (agray@eis.org.uk), stating any dietary or access needs.

EIS Representatives' Training

One further training course for EIS Representatives has been added to our programme for this session in conjunction with TUC Education. This course will be held in Glasgow, with the first 2-day block on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 May, and then a further 2 days on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 June 2017.

It is aimed at reps who are relatively new in the role and/or those who have never had any previous rep training.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: If you are interested, please contact your LA Secretary for further details.

Health & Safety Representatives' Training

A two-day course will take place on Thursday 18th May and Friday 19th May 2017. The course is designed to provide Health & Safety representatives with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and develop the skills required to fulfil the role. This is a pilot course and is targeted initially at Health & Safety Reps who have not received any Health & Safety training to date.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware that they will be hearing from their local association regarding this course very soon.

EIS Financial Services – Win-A-Car Competition

EIS Financial Services recently launched their Win-A-Car Campaign in conjunction with our General Insurance partner, Cornmarket Insurance Services. All members need to do to enter is register their details at www.eisfs.co.uk/winacar or click on the respective links on the EIS Facebook page. Terms and Conditions apply (see website for full details).

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please display the posters included with this bulletin prominently within your establishment, make members aware of the competition and encourage participation.