

**September 2021**

**[www.eis.org.uk](http://www.eis.org.uk)**

## Covid Update

A full update was included in the recent member ebulletin, a copy of which is included as an insert with this bulletin.

The ebulletin also contained a number of important announcements and Reps are asked to draw members attention to the bulletin. An electronic copy can be found at [www.eis.org.uk/Member-Bulletins/17Sept21](http://www.eis.org.uk/Member-Bulletins/17Sept21)

## Pensions

The 2021 Annual Benefit Statements from the Scottish Public Pensions Agency are now available online. All members should check their statements thoroughly and ensure they are available by logging in or registering at <https://mypension.sppa.gov.uk/Login.aspx>

Members should check the following are correct and advise SPPA by email at ([SPPAcontactus@gov.scot](mailto:SPPAcontactus@gov.scot)) if there are any queries:

- Personal Details (date of joining is likely to be missing)
- CARE Earnings (this should be the actual pay earned in the scheme year April to March)
- CARE Pension to date (this is the total pension accrued)
- Final salary benefits - NPA (this should be 60 if you joined before April 2007 and 65 if you joined after April 2007 and before 2015)
- Total Pensionable Service (this is the service in the final salary scheme, this is pro rata if you have worked part time)
- Pensionable Pay (this should be the full time equivalent pay for the scheme year)
- Pension (calculated on 1/80th of pensionable pay for each year for those with NPA 60 and 1/60th for those with NPA 65)
- Lump Sum (3 times pension for those with NPA 60, should be blank for those with NPA 65)
- Check Survivor Benefits are as expected
- HMRC Lifetime Allowance - if total is over 90% seek Independent Financial Advice.

**Action for Reps:** Encourage members to thoroughly check their statements.

## Pensions Update: FAQs

Legislation for the remedy to the age discrimination issue is yet to be put in place and our website will be updated with any further developments as they happen at [www.eis.org.uk/Pensions/PublicServicePension](http://www.eis.org.uk/Pensions/PublicServicePension). The administrative and legislative changes required should be in place later this year. Updates on the remedy process will be posted on our website as we receive them.

**Action for Reps:** Please have a look at our FAQs at [www.eis.org.uk/Pensions/UpdateFAQ](http://www.eis.org.uk/Pensions/UpdateFAQ)

## Pay Update

The SNCT Extended Joint Chairs met on Thursday 2 September, to continue negotiations on this year's Pay Claim. The Employers' Side confirmed that they were currently unable to make an improved offer but hoped to be in a position to do so soon. The current offer of 1.22% across all SNCT pay grades, backdated to April 2021, has already been rejected by the Teachers' Side.

The Teachers' Side made clear the frustration of members over the continued failure of their employers to make a reasonable pay offer and indicated that failure to make a substantially improved offer before the next SNCT meeting on 30 September would lead to declaration of a dispute. The next meeting of the Extended Joint Chairs will be held in advance of the SNCT and members will be advised of progress following that meeting.

**Action for Reps:** Please keep members informed of latest pay updates.

## Call for Exhibits of Early Years and School Pupils' work on Climate-Related Issues

Would you be willing to support your pupils to digitally share their work on a national scale through an online exhibition hosted by the EIS? The exhibition will be open to virtual visitors from all over Scotland and even beyond! Have the children and young people in your Early Years, Primary, Secondary or ASN classes been inspired in their learning on climate-related issues? Are you planning to create opportunities for learning on climate-related issues this academic session?

If so, we'd be delighted to receive artwork, writing in various genres such as stories, poetry and essays, short drama pieces, short video pieces, music and song, science investigations - any kind of piece that can be scanned, photographed or recorded and hosted online. All pieces that are sent to us in complete and downloadable files will be included in the exhibition which will open week commencing **Monday 1 November. With this in mind, please send any pupil work to us by Wednesday 27 October.**

The online exhibition will be publicised within the wider education community, with EIS members invited to 'bring their pupils to visit' and see the work of other pupils from across Scotland. Visitors to the exhibition will be invited to make an entry in a digital Visitors' Book and each young person whose work is entered for the exhibition will receive formal acknowledgement from the EIS of their contribution.

**Action for Reps:** Members can register their interest in taking part by contacting Leigh Meechan ([lmeechan@eis.org.uk](mailto:lmeechan@eis.org.uk)), further details will follow.

## EIS Climate Education Webinars

As COP26 is to be hosted in Glasgow this coming Autumn, the EIS is hosting a series of twilight webinars looking at the climate emergency, and the role of education and trade unions in tackling this. These webinars will be hosted between 29 September and 3 November, and we encourage all members to book their places at these informative and engaging events.

**Action for Reps and Branch Secretaries:** Please display the enclosed poster and encourage members to find out more information on the webinars and how to register at [www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/ClimateChange](http://www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/ClimateChange)

## Climate Change Education Resources

We would be grateful to receive climate change education resources or materials from members. These should be materials or resources produced by members and may cover any aspect of climate change for pupils or students in schools, colleges or universities.

The materials will be collated but not edited by the EIS. If there is a large number of submissions, we will choose a selection of materials for publication. The selected materials will be shared on our website and, possibly, with other teaching unions' members where those unions are running similar initiatives. We hope to launch this portal in the run-up to COP26 and it will be available to members for the rest of the school year.

**Action for Reps and Branch Secretaries:** Encourage members to contact Lucy Murray ([lmurray@eis.org.uk](mailto:lmurray@eis.org.uk)) if they have any queries or to submit materials by the 8 October 2021.

## Gwen Mayor Trust

The Gwen Mayor Memorial Trust was established following the tragic events in Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996, when teacher, Gwen Mayor, lost her life along with 16 pupils. The purpose of the trust is "to advance education by providing financial support for projects in connection with the arts, culture, music or sport submitted to the Trustees by primary schools or departments in Scotland."

Applications are now invited from primary schools and departments in Scotland. Proposed projects should fall within the purpose of the fund as set out above. Requests for full or partial funding of projects will be considered. A letter is enclosed giving details of the Gwen Mayor Trust and how to apply for funding support.

**Action for Reps in Primary Schools and Primary Departments:** Please pass the enclosed letter to your Headteacher.

## TUC Training Courses for Reps

Training for Representatives is available for all School Reps, with many of our courses run in conjunction with the TUC. Whilst the courses starting in September/October are now full, there are still places for courses that are running later this year. The 4-day EIS TUC Reps Training course is offered in 2 x 2-day blocks and is aimed at Reps who are relatively new in the role or those who have had no formal union training.

There are also short Rep's courses delivered by Organisers, Area Officers and Local Associations that may be of interest. A full list of dates for the courses is available at [www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/Rep-Training](http://www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/Rep-Training)

**Action for Reps:** If you are a Rep, Health and Safety Rep or are a member interested in becoming one then please contact your Local Association Secretary to be nominated [www.eis.org.uk/Contacts/LocalAssociation](http://www.eis.org.uk/Contacts/LocalAssociation), who will then register with Jennifer Cook ([JCook@eis.org.uk](mailto:JCook@eis.org.uk)).

## SRUC Dispute

Colleagues in EIS-ULA are in dispute with management, this is now moving to the Industrial Action stage. They wish for management to agree on a date to enact a pay and grading review which they believe to be long overdue to pull SRUC lecturers' pay in line with the sector norm.

**Action for Reps and Branch Secretaries:** Support SRUC colleagues by sending branch messages of solidarity, following @UlaEis on Twitter and using the #FairPayForSRUC

## New Teacher and Probationer Teacher Recruitment

There may be current probationer teacher colleagues in your school who have not joined the union. EIS membership is free for all current probationers until December 2022. After that, probationers can get a further 50% discount on full membership for the following nine months if they update their direct debit details with us by the end of their 18-month free period.

**Action for Reps:** Please display the enclosed recruitment poster in your establishment and engage with probationers and any new teachers at your schools. If your probationers joined the EIS as a student-teacher then they should update membership details, for example, school details, at the start of their probationary year. Please check with your probationers that they have joined or whether they need to update their details if they are already members - this will assist us in continuing to support them.

If any of last year's probationers have found employment at your school, then please keep in contact with them. They still have free membership until the end of December 2021, but please encourage them to share their direct debit details with us.

## Updating Member Details

If you have new colleagues in your school who are EIS members, they should update their school base or personal contact details on the myEIS section of the website. Remind them to log on using their EIS number. It is quick and simple to set up a password. Alternatively, as a Rep, you should have access to member lists for your school and you can update details on their behalf.

**Action for Rep and Branch Secretaries:** Visit [www.eis.org.uk/Account/EISLogin](http://www.eis.org.uk/Account/EISLogin) to update member details.

## Contact your EIS Organiser

This is the ideal time to set up an EIS branch meeting, we are still working and living in challenging times and having an active EIS branch is essential. Your EIS Organiser can offer support with this by attending and speaking on a specific topic or answering member queries.

**Action for Reps and Branch Secretaries:** Visit [www.eis.org.uk/Contacts/Organisers](http://www.eis.org.uk/Contacts/Organisers)

