

June 2019

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## Message from the General Secretary

As this is the last bulletin of the academic year may I take the opportunity to thank you for all your efforts over the past session. School Reps and Branch Secretaries are the backbone of the Union and the EIS could not carry out its valuable work without your contributions so a very genuine thank you to you all.

I hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the summer holiday period.

Best wishes,

Larry Flanagan

## Time to Tackle Workload!

Following the success of the Value Education, Value Teachers campaign in securing the pay deal, the focus will switch over the next session to tackling workload.

This is a major agenda for members, as testified to in the survey we carried out, and the pay agreement itself spoke about tackling excessive workload through the empowering schools agenda. A strong initial focus will be on ensuring that WTAs are utilised effectively to exercise some control over excessive workload.

Branches are entitled to seek time on the initial inset days for an EIS meeting and it is strongly recommended that you seek agreement now for this to happen. Initial campaign materials to facilitate discussion at such a meeting will be sent out over the summer, alongside visual materials, so that we are ready to begin building the 'Time to Tackle Workload' phase of the VEVT campaign in the new school session.

**Action for Representatives:** Please seek agreement for an EIS meeting within the inset days, if this is resisted you should seek support from your LA Secretary, but seek to arrange an EIS meeting in any case. Look out on your return for materials which should have arrived over the summer.

## EIS-FELA Consultative Ballot Update

The result of the EIS-FELA pay ballot is 88% voting to accept and 12% voting to reject, on a turn-out of 66%. Whilst this is a significant majority, the improved offer was achieved only as a result of the sustained campaign of industrial action which you carried out. Thank you for your persistence and resilience throughout this campaign.

As a consequence of the ballot decision, the action short of a strike – both in terms of the resulting boycott and the withdrawal of goodwill – has now ended. Early implementation of the pay agreement will be sought from the employers. Thank you, again, for your support throughout this campaign.

**Action for Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the advice issued in relation to 'catch-up' work and arrange meetings with college management to determine how any backlogs arising from industrial action will be managed.

## Poverty Survey

The Equality Committee is eager to continue to capture members' perceptions of the impact of poverty and its effects within Scottish education. For this reason, we are asking members to complete a short survey to support EIS campaigning, policy and professional learning on this vital issue.

The survey can be accessed at [www.eis.org.uk/News/PovertySurvey](http://www.eis.org.uk/News/PovertySurvey) and will take around 15 minutes for members to complete. The survey will close on Friday 28th of June at 5pm. Members' views will contribute to EIS research on the effects of poverty within education and will support our work going forward in a number of associated areas. The survey can only be accessed via the members' section of the EIS website.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please encourage all members to take part in the poverty survey.

## EIS Learning Reps: New Course Launching This Summer

EIS Learning Reps work with members to support them on professional learning issues, ensure access to high quality training opportunities, and take forward the professional learning agenda in the workplace. This tailor-made new course for prospective EIS Learning Reps will also develop participants as activists to support organising and campaigning in their local context.

The new Learning Reps course begins this August, with online modules taking place from September onwards. Now is the time to encourage members and new activists to apply for this opportunity and ensure that you have a Learning Rep to support your activity in the coming year. You can find out if there is a vacancy in your Local Association or Branch on the EIS website. For more information about the new course and how to apply members can visit the Learning Reps section of the EIS website. Please note that applicants will also require approval from their Local Association when submitting their application.

**Action for Representatives:** Please make members aware of the upcoming opportunity to become a Learning Rep and direct anyone interested to the Learning Reps section of the EIS website.

## New Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Report

ASL provision has been the subject of intense scrutiny in Scotland in recent years. This scrutiny is likely to be sustained as the complexity of needs among the learning population grows, against a backdrop of under-invested public services. The EIS has published a new report which summates EIS policy on ASL and shares our concerns about undervaluing; under-investing; rising need; and the implications of broader educational issues. The report is available online at [www.eis.org.uk/Additional-Support-Needs/ASNGuidance](http://www.eis.org.uk/Additional-Support-Needs/ASNGuidance). If you have any questions or comments on this report please contact National officer (Education and Equality) Jenny Kemp ([jkemp@eis.org.uk](mailto:jkemp@eis.org.uk)).

**Action for Representatives:** Please make members aware of the new ASL report.

## EIS Calendar

Please find enclosed the EIS academic year calendar featuring artwork by talented pupils across Scotland. You can request additional copies of the calendar by contacting Karen Nicholson ([knicholson@eis.org.uk](mailto:knicholson@eis.org.uk)) at EIS HQ.

## Reps Training

A reminder for those participating in the 2019 spring Reps' training in Aviemore that Module 2 will take place in The Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th September.

The second Glasgow Reps' Training Course of 2019, Module 1, will take place in Glasgow on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th September at City of Glasgow College, Riverside Campus. Members can apply through their Local Association Secretary. Module 2 will take place on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November 2019.

If anyone is keen to discuss becoming a Rep they should contact the Organiser responsible for their area. You must be nominated by your Local Association Secretary to take part in this training.

**Action for Representatives:** Please make members aware of the upcoming training opportunity and encourage them to contact their Area Organiser or visit [www.eis.org.uk/EISreps/RepTraining](http://www.eis.org.uk/EISreps/RepTraining) for further information.

## Online EIS Reps Course

School representatives are asked to consider participating in a bespoke online training course for EIS representatives for 2019-20. The course will begin with a day's induction at the City of Glasgow College in mid-September and will run through until next April. Places are limited. The course is accredited by the Open College Network and recommended to EIS representatives that have not received EIS training.

**Action for Representatives:** Please contact Area Officer Pauline Buchanan ([pbuchanan@eis.org.uk](mailto:pbuchanan@eis.org.uk)) for further details or to register for this course.