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December 2017

www.eis.org.uk

Message from the General Secretary

Dear EIS Representative,

I would like to take the opportunity with this final mailing for 2017, to thank you for your work on behalf of members over this session, and indeed calendar year, and to wish you a restful and enjoyable break.

As you can see from the enclosures, we anticipate that the 2017 pay deal will be signed off on the 18th (the proposal is for a 1% plus 1% deal i.e. 1% backdated to April and then 2% moving forward from January). This is still below inflation, however, so, with the public sector pay cap now being lifted, the 2018 Pay Campaign will be launched with the aim of building membership engagement around a restorative pay claim, potentially leading to members being balloted on industrial action.

More to follow in January – before that enjoy your holiday!

Best wishes and thanks,

Action for Representatives: Please display the enclosed poster prominently in your establishment

SNCT Update

A meeting of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) has been arranged for Monday 18 December 2017. This meeting is to continue discussions on the pay award for teachers 2017/18.

Details will be issued to Representatives in due course. Members are asked to check the EIS website for the latest information.

Action for Representatives: Please draw members' attention the enclosed poster and display it prominently in your establishment.

GTCS Elections

As in previous years, the EIS is supporting a number of our members as candidates in the forthcoming GTCS Council elections. We are supporting 11 nominations with the aim of seeing an EIS-endorsed candidate in each of the 11 vacancies for GTCS Council.

This year, the GTCS elections are of even greater importance. The Scottish Government's 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. It would remove the teacher majority on the Council and replace it with a Board, similar to the current arrangement for the SQA – In other words, less teacher input and more political direction. The EIS will seek to defend the GTCS from such political interference. It will be essential, therefore, that EIS members give full backing to the 10 EIS-supported candidates (one has been elected unopposed in the FE category) when voting gets underway in January.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware that candidate details can soon be accessed via the GTCS website <http://www.gtcs.org.uk>

Please look out for the relevant EIS publicity on the EIS supported candidates which will arrive in your school to coincide with voting opening on 10 January 2018. Thereafter, please ensure that materials are distributed to all members.

Council Voting

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

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

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). Look out, too, for an article from the 2016/17 Scholar 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 Action Research Grants 2018

The current cohort of EIS researchers met after the Professional Learning conference in September, and will report on an interesting and varied set of research topics in May 2018. The EIS will again be offering research grants in 2018 with application information to be circulated in the new year.

Educational establishment-based action research is a simple set of techniques used to help improve teaching and learning. It is usually undertaken by the teacher or educator in their own classroom / setting. 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.

If you would like to note interest or find out more, please visit <http://www.eis.org.uk/CPD/ActionResearchGrants.htm> or contact Lesley Walker (lwalker@eis.org.uk).

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the action research grants.

EIS/TUC Health & Safety Representatives' Training 2018

Having an EIS Health & Safety Representative in the workplace is extremely important, it is a key role and can make a tangible difference to working conditions. The EIS is encouraging H&S reps to take up the opportunity to participate in the two-day EIS/TUC Health & Safety Representatives' Training Courses.

Location	Date	Deadline
Aberdeen (Double Tree by Hilton Aberdeen City Centre Hotel):	25th and 26th January	Friday 22nd December 2017
Glasgow (STUC):	22nd and 23rd February	Friday 2nd February 2018
Edinburgh (HQ training suite):	10th and 11th May	Friday 20th April 2018

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.

If you are an existing H&S Rep who would like to take part in this training, please contact your Local Association Secretary. If you are a H&S Rep who is looking to retire in the near future, you may wish to discuss this training with another member in your workplace with a view to succession planning.

To process this please contact your Local Association Secretary as soon as possible. In the case of FELA and ULA, please contact your Branch Secretaries. If you have any general enquiries regarding this training, please contact Jennifer Cook at EIS HQ jcook@eis.org.uk

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make H&S Reps aware of the upcoming training.

EIS/TUC National Representatives' Training 2018

Having an EIS Representative in the workplace makes a real difference and the role you play is an extremely valuable one. The EIS is encouraging Reps to take up the opportunity to participate in EIS TUC Representatives' Training Courses.

Location	Module 1	Module 2	Deadline
Edinburgh (HQ training suite):	25th-26th January	22nd-23rd March Friday	22nd December 2017
Glasgow (STUC):	15th-16th March	31st May-1st June Friday	23rd February 2018
Inverness (Ness Horizons Business Centre):	24th-25th May	27th-28th May	4th May 2018
Glasgow (STUC):	13th-14th September	22nd-23rd November	24th August 2018

The National Representatives' Training is intended to give newly elected EIS Reps an introduction to their new EIS role and to assist in building their knowledge and confidence for that role.

If you are a relatively new school Rep and would like to take part in this training, please contact your Local Association Secretary. If you are a Rep who is looking to retire in the near future, you may wish to discuss this training with another member in your school with a view to succession planning. If you have any general enquiries regarding this training, please contact Jennifer Cook jcook@eis.org.uk

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make Reps aware of the upcoming training.

EIS Learning Reps

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 initial training and ongoing support for this role. Induction for the 2018 course will take place on Monday 5th February and the deadline for applications to be received is Friday 12th January 2018.

For an information pack and application form, please contact Lesley Walker (lwalker@eis.org.uk) or visit http://www.eis.org.uk/Learning_Reps/LearningReps_Intro.htm

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

Education Conference – Save the Date

An Education Conference will take place on Saturday 28 April 2018 at an Edinburgh venue. Internationally renowned Finnish educationalist Pasi Sahlberg, is confirmed as a main keynote speaker. Pasi Sahlberg is Director General of the Centre for International Mobility in Helsinki, Finland and a member of the Scottish Government's International Council of Education Advisers. His expertise lies in educational reform, training teachers, coaching schools, and advising policy makers.

Venue and conference programme are to be confirmed for what promises to be a highly engaging and popular event. Further details will be made available as soon as possible. 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 Conference and that more information will be available soon.