

December 2011

Merry Christmas



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Successful strike against pensions robbery



A big thank you for striking alongside other teacher and public sector unions on 30th November. A very-well attended joint meeting of NUT, ATL, NASUWT, NAHT and UCU members expressed their rejection of the Government's plans to raid our pensions. We then moved across to a packed Centenary Square to join the rally of other public sector unions. The strike nationally was a huge show of solidarity amongst public sector workers and of their determination to oppose this disgraceful attempt by the Government to use our pensions to help pay for the financial crisis. Further action is now being planned by the Union in case future negotiations are unsuccessful.



Unreasonable Workload? Get NUT support

The NUT will defend members who are subjected to an unreasonable workload. You don't have to put up with it.

If you believe you have to attend too many meetings, or if you are expected to cover in non-emergencies, or if you are subjected to too many observations or "drop-ins", or if you are expected to carry out bureaucratic tasks or put up displays, or if there is any other aspect of your workload which is causing you and your colleagues concern, please contact the NUT office. We have a team of experienced officers who are there to help. **We will negotiate with your school management and, if necessary, back you in taking action.**

Government turns its fire on Health and Safety

Employee's protection by Health and Safety Legislation is under attack. David Cameron signaled his intention before the election, justifying it by resorting to myths about conkers and village fetes beloved of the Sun. Now the Coalition Government is following the Tory line.

If 2010 was a bad year:

- 60% cut from the DfE capital budget
- the publication of Lord Young's report

2011 has been worse:

- Schools to be freed from "over prescriptive" building rules
- The Health and Safety Executive's useful info line closed

- The HSE's total budget cut by 35%
- The whole of the public sector taken out of the HSE's scheme of unannounced visits by inspectors

And 2012 could be worse still:

- Removal of pupils from scope of Health and Safety at Work Act?
- Teachers and Governors, rather than employers, to bear responsibility under the Health and Safety at Work Act?

The Government talks about removing burdens. Predictably, the focus is on removing the burden on employers of having to provide a safe workplace rather than the burdens faced by employees who are injured at work.

Join the NUT, the largest teachers' union. FREE membership for first-time joiners until 2012

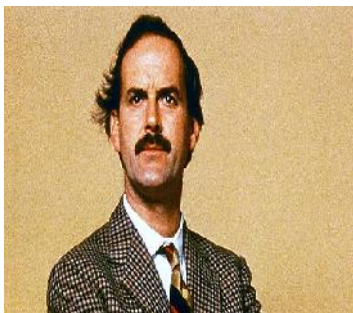
Just ring the Joining Hotline on 0845 300 1669 or 020 7380

Bradford NUT, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford BD5 0BH

Tel: 01274 414664 / Fax: 01274 414665 Email: contact@bradfordnut.org web

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So what has Health and Safety ever done for us?



The following conversation was overheard between David Cameron and a teacher. It bears an uncanny resemblance to a scene from a film featuring John Cleese.

Cameron: Let's face it, what has health and safety legislation ever done for us?

Teacher: Well, it does mean equipment has to be safely maintained.

Cameron: Er, yes, apart from that?

Teacher: And dangerous substances have to be locked away so children can't get at them.

Cameron: A small point . . .

Teacher: And fire safety equipment has to be in place and in working order, and fire exits have to work and there have to be practice evacuations.

Cameron: OK I'll let you have that one. But apart from that . . .

Teacher: Trip and slip hazards have to be avoided.

Cameron: You should look where you're going.

Teacher: And there's electrical equipment. That has to be checked annually so people aren't electrocuted.

Cameron: Well just wear rubber boots.

Teacher: And then there's construction work.

Cameron: What are you on about, construction work?

Teacher: There are rules which stop builders walking through your classroom carrying girders, or pouring hot tar onto you through holes in the roof.

Cameron: All right, all right! But apart from keeping equipment safe, locking up substances (Aside: And it's not just substances I'd like to lock up, I can tell you), fire safety, avoiding slip and trip hazards, stopping people from being electrocuted, keeping classrooms safe during building work . . . what has health and safety legislation ever done for us?



Pupil behaviour risk assessment now on-line

Bradford Council's Children's Services Support Service has produced a risk assessment pro-forma for use with pupils with severely challenging behaviour who might pose a threat to the safety of members of staff. Bradford NUT has been arguing for some time that if teachers are at risk from some pupils they need to be aware of the level and type of risk, and the school needs to take action to reduce it. So this is a document to be welcomed. The pro-forma can be found on our website at www.bradfordnut.org Go to Health and Safety in the Useful Information panel, then click Bradford Council Risk Assessment pro-forma.



Free behaviour management guide

The NUT has produced a CD-Rom, "*The Interactive Guide to Behaviour Management*", intended for trainee and newly qualified teachers. We have a number of these at the NUT office, and they are absolutely free. The CD includes classroom scenarios, a Video Room where you can listen to other teachers talking, and excellent advice from experienced practitioners.

If you would like a copy just give us a ring and we will put it in the post.

Disability Awareness Event

A new initiative to encourage more employees to take up Disability Awareness is now available in Bradford.

Working with Bradford Council, Signs4Life have set up an introductory workshop to help staff to communicate and engage with their disabled colleagues, service users, students and clients in Bradford. The Disability Awareness event will take place on Tuesday 24th January 2012 in Room 1, City Hall, Channing Way, Bradford (BD1 1HY) from 9:30am-12:30pm. This local initiative is to help explore different types of disability, identify disabilities, seek ways to remove barriers and introduce best practice, debate and ask questions, and also to encourage inclusion of all people with sensory, physical or learning disabilities in Bradford.

For further information please contact Fozia at info@signs4life.org.uk



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