



Enfield NEU News



December 2017

Wishing all our hard-working members a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Disabled Teacher's Conference 2017

This was a coming together of NUT and ATL disabled members from England and Wales. There were numerous workshops to attend and it was impressed on members how important it is to get trained in, and have more awareness of, the laws around equal treatment, (the Equality and Disability Acts).

Members were offered time to share experiences of working in education and I felt this was valuable as it gave support and good advice at the same time. For example, reasonable adjustments at work can be requested by members and always take someone with you when having meetings with management. And, of course, you can always ring the Union for advice!

Lastly, one motion was sent, unanimously, to Conference regarding the National Education Union promoting and supporting equality of disabled members (Richard Reiser). *Christine Bateson*

School staff are worth 5%. Children deserve properly funded schools

We think that after years of below inflation pay awards which have cut their living standards, staff in all our schools deserve a 5 percent pay rise.

More details [Sign this petition](#)

School Cuts Stories

I have noticed recently that when some staff have left (retired, moved away) there has been no ££ to replace them and another teacher has had to take on extra responsibilities. I also see evidence of some teachers paying for supplies out of their own pockets. Add your story [School Cuts Stories](#)

Thank you

to all the reps and members who attending the General Meeting. Your support enabled us to submit three important motions to Conference:

1. Use of Data to set Target Grades for Students and Appraisal Objectives linked to Performance Related Pay for Staff
2. School Ratings Website
3. Greater London Pay

Now we need your help at the next General Meeting to prioritise motions (from a list of about 70) so that issues that are most important to Enfield Members are heard first at Conference.

So save the date: **31st January 2018**

Claire Docherty

Deputy Secretary & Learning Rep, Enfield National Education Union, NUT Section



Top Tip
Take a break

NUT Advice Line

020 3006 6266

nutadvice@nut.org.uk

Cuba 2017



"We are one class, we are all Cubans"



Cuba was unforgettable! The students, teachers and schools were incredibly inspiring.

On our delegation we visited three Primary Schools, two Secondary Schools, two Music Specialist Schools (a mix of Primary and Secondary students), A School for visually impaired students and the University de Pinar del Rio - Hermanos Saiz Montes De Oca - which was founded in 1972 in memory of two teenage brothers murdered by Baptista's hit men for being members of the Revolutionary movement - teaching farmers to read and write.

On our first Primary School visit we were welcomed by a small party of teachers at the School entrance. The Head teacher dressed in jeans and a T-shirt; in complete contrast to our formal attire back home, yet his authority and passion for education was clear. I immediately realised how different their priorities are to ours.

As we observed lessons and spoke to teachers and students, what struck me the most was the sincerity of these establishments. They may have little, in terms of resources, flashy buildings, digital technology but there was a focused and determined attitude to achieve against the odds in every classroom we visited.

One teacher said 'the education of Cuba is about Love. The most important thing is the love a teacher can give a student'. Although the Educational climate is more 'exam factory' than forming loving bonds in the UK, it did give me hope

that we must continue the fight to defend our students from being treated as commodities. Education is a once in a lifetime opportunity for children and we as a Union cannot forget why many of us became teachers in the first place. To build young people's self-esteem and confidence, rather than diminish it. We are dealing with people not numbers.

Union engagement:

In Cuba there is only one teacher's union although there is a separate union for university teachers. The main points to take away.

" No legislation on education or teaching is able to be passed without the say so of the union.

" It is illegal for trainees or NQTs to be given any sort of grading on their teaching that is not a good grading. (for example they cannot be given an unsatisfactory rating)

" Education Ministry and Union work together to create curriculum - the Union are actively involved on a National level - a remarkable achievement for unionist

Although it would be naïve to idealise Cuban, it was an honour and privilege to be part of the 2017 Cuba Delegation. To experience a small taste of their society based on the principles of solidarity, love and respect for one



another. Humanity is alive and strong there. All of our Cuban colleagues, the students, the Unionists and everyone we met on our journey have given us the strength to continue to fight for justice and a humane quality of life for our students and their families. Even if we can take a small part of what we have learnt and share it with our Union, we can make a difference.

Valentina Furlong

