

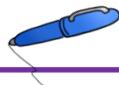
NASUWT North Tyneside

Newsletter Winter 2020

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Want to write for our newsletter or suggest an article? Get in touch and let us know!



www.educationsupport.org.uk

 08000 562 561
HELPLINE

Coronavirus support

Anxious

Isolated

Grieving

Supporting education staff

Stop the world I want to get off!

As I am writing this, we are in a second lockdown; Trump has yet to concede defeat and has thrown all his toys out of the pram; cases continue to rise nationally and internationally; hospitals are overwhelmed; the NHS is under extreme pressure; our government continues to give conflicting advice or last-minute guidance; and schools are still open with our profession apparently needing to show 'grit' and carry on.

However, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel with a possible vaccine on the cards and the 'controversial' Cummings has finally been chucked out of Downing street.

Mental health is a massive priority now for all of us, teachers and students alike. We need to be there for each other and we, as the NASUWT and the North Tyneside team, are there for all of you. You can contact us if you need support or do not feel safe in your school. Risk assessments should be constantly reviewed, and you may need your own individual risk assessment. Use the Education Support phone line or contact us if you have any queries, worries or need help.

NASUWT: Keeping schools and staff safe

The NASUWT is working tirelessly behind the scenes, consulting with and pressing government to make sure our teachers are able to work in a safe environment. We have submitted a **ten-point plan** to the Education Ministers of the United Kingdom to secure safe schools during the Coronavirus Pandemic. It calls on ministers to:

- 1. Demonstrate that they are following the scientific evidence and advice.**
2. Strengthen the guidance to schools and colleges on ensuring COVID-safe and COVID-secure working practices.
- 3. Secure the updating and publication of health and safety risk assessments and equality impact assessments by school and college employers.**
4. Publish weekly data on positive cases of COVID-19 infections of school/college staff and pupils by local government area.
- 5. Ramp up inspection and enforcement measures in schools and colleges, including more comprehensive use of spot checks and visits by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).**
6. Take swift action to protect public health in the event of an outbreak.
- 7. Protect vulnerable teachers and support staff and pupils.**
8. Strengthen the guidance to insist on effective social distancing in schools/colleges.
- 9. Establish a national plan for remote education/blended and distance learning.**
10. Provide significant additional financial support for schools and colleges urgently to ensure the safety of staff and pupils, including extra funding for cleaning, personal protective equipment (PPE) and supply teachers.

“I’m not very tech savvy” – Is this you?

Some teachers are uncomfortable with technology. Some teachers struggle with it. And then there are those who want to pick up their laptop and fling it out of the window. That's me.

I'm OK attaching a document to an email or creating a PowerPoint. However, this global pandemic has shown how desperately poor my IT skills are. Schools were using technology increasingly in their learning environments prior to COVID. However, the advent of remote learning and blended learning is leaving some teachers feeling frustrated and marginalised. They are aware of the new tools they are required to use but do not understand how to do so.

Then there's the terminology. Upload, download, share, stream, googlemeet, Teams, Zoom, BYOD. I'll admit, I only figured out the latter as I'm a fan of BYOB, (Bring Your Own Device). It can all be incredibly stressful. And, in a time when good mental health is already being challenged, it can, and often does, feel too much.

Those staff with a glimmer of IT competence often become hailed as experts and then find themselves unfairly put-upon to solve all IT ills.

The solution? Maybe this pandemic could signal the need for simple, relevant, effective, baby steps IT training in CPD sessions and staff meetings? And, if you are tasked with delivering this, poll your colleagues and ask what tech-related areas they would like to focus on. Select only one or two of these areas and make a concerted effort to help those teachers who are struggling.

Finally, we DO need to be encouraged to try new things, IT wise. It's no good burying your head in the sand. Every effort you make needs to be celebrated (just as you would do for your pupils). Onwards and upwards (if you can find the right key to press, that is).

Benevolence

Anyone can find themselves in financial difficulties but the NASUWT can help. If you would like more information, please contact the North East Regional Centre **0191 519 5300**

Secret Teacher of North Tyneside

TEACHER BASHING:

I was talking to 2 friends the other day; one of whom is a teacher, the other is not. My teacher friend and I were talking about 'teacher bashing', and our other friend was horrified. She said, "I can't believe people would say horrible things about teachers. I would love your job, to feel like I was doing something good and useful with my life and helping other people". I can give you her number if you would like her as your friend too.

So why is it that people have such strong opinions about teachers? I know the tabloids have a big part to play, encouraging the negativity some people have. "Bloody 13 weeks holiday, 3.30 finish and all those training days." Oh, how we laugh at their naivety. Or is it the amazing salary we get, even in the 6 weeks holiday, or that 'set you up for retirement' pension that we can look forward to? Or are people remembering the hard time they had at school, or the teachers they hated, whilst forgetting the great lessons they took part in, and the inspirational teachers they had? Or possibly the fact that they can read and write? Whatever the cause, it's a bit demoralising to say the least.

Did you all love some of the responses to school staff getting 10% off at Morrisons as much as I did? Why can't people just be happy for us that someone decided to give us a little thank you (albeit getting themselves a nice bit of publicity at the same time)? Besides, did you know that the 10% is not valid on spirits, petrol or lottery? I can't think of much else I need to get me through the week at the minute. I also half expected my street to come out and applaud me when I was on my way to work the first day back after term, but no. It's just Morrisons and me mam that think I'm a hero.

I've taken to responding to said teacher bashers by saying 'well why don't you do it?' I've never had a straight answer yet. If teaching is such a cushy job why doesn't everyone do it? Or maybe they all wanted to, and they're actually just jealous. I tell you, if they had to teach sex ed to my year 11 class last lesson on a Friday they wouldn't be jealous. In fact I'm pretty sure they would take back everything they said about holidays, salaries, pensions and 10% off. The keyboard warriors would probably allow me my 10% off and buy me a drink and a lottery ticket.

NORTH TYNESIDE ANNUAL SCHOOL

**SPOT
PRIZES**

RAFFLE



**MANY
GRAND
PRIZES**

You are invited to enter teams representing your school.

**WE HOPE OUR VERY SUCESSFUL EVENT WILL STILL GO AHEAD BUT IT
WILL BE SUBJECT TO GUIDANCE AND MAKING SURE IT IS COVID SECURE.
WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED WITH INFORMATION.**

Which school has the greatest general knowledge team?
Can Preston Grange Primary retain their crown?

**Friday 29th January 2021
7:30pm for 8:00pm Quiz Start**

Percy Park Rugby Club,
Preston Avenue, North Shields NE30 2BE

For more information or to confirm your teams (max 6 per team)
contact

Candy Mellor (cmellor.nasuwt@gmail.com) 07940820125

Come along for a great night out!

www.northtyneside.nasuwt-ne.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

BEFORE THE QUIZ

**NASUWT AGM at 6:30pm
for NASUWT Members.
(See agenda enclosed)**

The NASUWT North wish all our members Christmas and hope opportunity to and look after after an tough and term. You are all heroes and we applaud you.



Tyneside team a Happy you take the REALLY rest yourselves exceedingly stressful term. You are all heroes and we applaud you.

Health and Safety



Risk Assessments and understanding Risk Assessments is the most important role we have at the moment. We are always looking for members to be a Health and Safety rep in school. We would give you advice and training and you can help us at this time when all schools need to be COVID secure. If you are interested please contact Candy Mellor



@NorthTynesideNASUWT



Nasuwt North Tyneside



www.northtyneside.nasuwt-ne.org.uk

Keep in touch! Alongside this newsletter the ways to stay connected with what is going on locally and nationally is via the website, Twitter and our newly launched Facebook page.

Phil Kemp: 07879474255 pk.nasuwt@btinternet.com

Candy Mellor: 07940820125 cmellor@nasuwt@gmail.com

Claire MacLeod: 07799143085 cmacleodnasuwt@gmail.com

Suzette Thompson 07769696263 sthompson.nasuwt@gmail.com

NASUWT is launching new email addresses that you can use to contact us. These emails still come directly to us.

secretary.NORTH-TYNESIDE@nasuwt.org.uk

caseworker.NORTH-TYNESIDE@nasuwt.org.uk

treasurer.NORTH-TYNESIDE@nasuwt.org.uk

Regional Conference 2020 Saturday 21st November via Zoom

All members should all have received an invitation to our Regional Conference. You will be able to hear from our General Secretary and other speakers as well as being kept up to date with what is happening in our area. Come and join us from the comfort of your own home and find out what we do.

If you have not received an email with the link please contact Candy Mellor

National Conference 2021 Friday 2nd April- Monday 5th April 2021 at the Sage, Gateshead

This is the first time our National Conference has taken place in this region and our very own Phil Kemp will be made President. It is a great opportunity to get together with colleagues from the North East along with those from around the country. Debates, discussions, seminars and information on a variety of topics happen throughout the weekend. Why not have an influence on the education agenda and how your Union is lead and run. If you are interested in attending in **2021** please contact Candy Mellor and get all the details or go online to NASUWT.org.uk to get your own nomination form.

Dates for your diary...

- **Saturday 21st November 2020: Regional Conference. See article above**
- **Friday 29th January 2021: AGM @ Percy Park Rugby Club, 6. 30pm.** Buffet provided. Followed by the excellent North Tyneside schools' **Annual quiz**. This is subject to government guidance to be COVID secure.
See Agenda included and poster for the quiz
- **Friday 2nd April – Monday 5th April: Annual Conference**, at Sage Gateshead. Spend the weekend with colleagues from around the country to discuss educational issues. See article above
- **Thursday 15th June: OGM @Sandpiper, Farrington Road, 4.30pm** Buffet provided.
- **Saturday 10th July: Durham Miners Gala** Largest gathering of unions in Europe
- **Local Executive meetings:** Come along to find out more about what is happening in North Tyneside. All are welcome @ 6.00pm in the Sandpiper, Cullercoats or Zoom.
- Thursday 11th March**

All welcome. Contact details and information are in the newsletter and website.