



# NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

## *DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION*

Dear Colleague

### **AUTUMN PAY BALLOT AND CAMPAIGN**

Since 2004, teachers' pay has continued up by less than inflation each year. The real value of teachers' pay has therefore decreased. In January 2008, the Government decided that teachers' increases would be restricted for at least another three years until 2011. This means up to six years of cuts in teachers' living standards. At the moment, inflation is over 4 per cent. Teachers have been told their pay will go up this year by only 2.45 per cent. The NUT thinks teachers deserve better.

At its meeting on Friday, 5 September the Executive agreed to proceed with a ballot of members for discontinuous, unsustainable, action. The ballot will involve members in England and Wales who are statutorily covered by the School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document.

The ballot will open on Monday, 6 October and close on Monday, 3 November. The Executive will meet on Thursday, 6 November to consider the outcome of the ballot and to take decisions, including in relation to the date for any action. Statutory requirements mean that any action must be held prior to the end of November. Notices to the employers will be sent out in the week beginning 22 September.

In order to encourage the widest participation of members in the ballot, secure a 'YES' vote the issues need to be kept at the public eye and brought back to the attention of our members and the general public. You could do the following:

*Arrange a meeting in your school to discuss the issues.*

Full details of the issues and the campaign as well as resources are from the union website. Discuss the issues with other staff and member of other unions.

*Talk to Parents*

Leaflet homes in the school's or your home area or leaflet and talk to parents as they bring children to school

*Contribute to the debate.*

Send an E-mail to your local union or MP add to the online debate at the union website, [www.teachers.org](http://www.teachers.org).

You could focus your discussions around the following areas:

- The plight of young teachers
- The effects that the lack of increase in UPS3 is having on the pay of more established members of staff.
- The effects on recruitment and retention
- The resulting effects on class sizes, workload and the increased use of unqualified staff.
- The resulting effects on the young people we teach.
- The failure of the Government to implement the trigger mechanism

This mechanism triggers a review of pay if inflation has risen above 3.25%. The STRB said the review wasn't necessary as there was no shortage of teachers.

Campaign materials and information are available on the union Website [www.teachers.org](http://www.teachers.org) and the Derbyshire teachers Website [www.derbynut.org.uk](http://www.derbynut.org.uk). These materials will be up-dated and added to regularly. You will receive further mailings both from the national union and your local branch.

Thank you for all your continuing work in this very important campaign for the Union and for teachers. *It is essential that we get a large turn out for the ballot and a substantial YES vote.*

If you have any further queries please contact the Derbyshire NUT Office on 01629 585086.

Yours sincerely,

John Holmes

### **JOHN HOLMES**

**Division Secretary**

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