

City Educationalist



March 2021

Newsletter of City of Leicester District of the NEU

<https://www.leicesterneu.org.uk/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/leicesterneu>

Not getting emails? Update your details at
<https://neu.org.uk/add-my-email>

Forthcoming Events

Committee meeting – March 17th	District meeting – April 21 st (Deputy General Secretary election hustings)
Committee meeting – May 12th	District meeting – May 26th
Committee meeting – June 16th	District meeting – June 23 rd TBC

Meetings usually start at 7.30pm, but this can vary. Due to ongoing restrictions connected to Covid-19, meetings will be virtual. If you are subscribed to NEU emails, you will receive information nearer each meeting. Meetings are open to all Leicester City members of the NEU.

Please let us know if you'd like to receive City Educationalist in a larger font, or if you need any support or adjustments to make it possible for you to attend district meetings.

If you would like to submit an article or letter, or have any suggestions about how to improve City Educationalist, please email jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk

City of Leicester NEU District Officers and Committee 2021 – 2022

At the AGM on 24th February 2021, the following posts were confirmed:

President	Julie Walters Nisbett
Ex President	Simon Robinson
Vice President	Sylvia McNeil
Secretary	Joseph Wyglendacz
Assistant Secretary x 2	Jessica Edmonds Jenny Day
Treasurer	Andy Haynes
Minuting Secretary	Jenny Day
Equalities Officer	Camille London Miyo
Health & Safety Advisor	Andy Haynes
Membership Secretary	VACANT
Independent Sector Officer	VACANT
Post 16 Sector Officer	Kerry Reeve
Support Staff Officer	VACANT
Supply Educators Officer	Samina Randall
Young Educators Officer	Minaz Shaffi
Black Educators Officer	Mahala Nemauro
International Solidarity Officer	Linda Bradshaw
Learning Representative	Mayuri Parekh
Retired Educators Officer	VACANT
SSCC Representatives	Megan Van Brugel Jen Pick
Other committee members x 4	Kuldip Hoonjan Kamaljeet Bhuhi x2 VACANT
Auditors	Erna Sullivan David Brownbill

If you are interested in any of the vacant posts, please contact Jennifer.day@neu.org.uk

'I am a Black teacher, not a teacher who happens to be Black.'

***Mrs. Nisbett
Science Teacher,
Transition
Coordinator
Started teaching in
2000-***

'I am a Black, Science Teacher. I think every child can learn. I believe every child should want to learn something new in every lesson, every day. I came into teaching to be a positive, role model. I am black woman, Caribbean born and raised. I came to England to study at 16 leaving friends and family behind. It was hard joining a new school. I came to Leicester to study my degree in Biomedical Science. I stayed, perceived, attended every lecture and achieved my first! I love teaching Black History and Culture. I love meeting our young people in their professions, contributing to society. Take the time to love your subject, get to know your students and your colleagues.'

What a bloody mess!

Period (yep – men please keep reading – you may not menstruate, but about 50% of the population do!) poverty affects millions of girls and women in the UK and across the world, with one in ten girls in the UK unable to afford period products. Instead, they use rags, socks, toilet paper or newspaper, or just miss school altogether.

Progress of any kind in talking about menstruation and matters connected to it is slow. After much campaigning, the 5% VAT has now been scrapped for all tampons, sanitary pads, and menstrual cups. In September 2020 menstruation was finally included on the relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) curriculum.

The government's decision to provide free period products in educational settings has only been taken up by 40% of schools and colleges – is yours one of them?

For more information and to register your school for the government's free sanitary products scheme visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/period-products-in-schools-and-colleges/period-product-scheme-for-schools-and-colleges-in-england>

To help teachers, parents and students encourage schools to sign up, Free Periods and The Red Box Project are providing a toolkit of practical resources at www.freeperiods.org



30 Black Teachers, 30 Stories

According to Oprah Winfrey, “For every one of us that succeeds, it’s because there’s somebody there to show you the way out. The light doesn’t always necessarily have to be in your family; for me it was the teacher and school.”

Leicester City NEU celebrates ‘30 Black teachers and their journeys’ as part of the national commemoration of thirty years since the introduction of Black Teachers Sections in the Legacy National Union of Teachers (NUT). Leicester Black Educators made a proposal to raise the profile of the presence of Black Teachers in Leicester schools, the art project received unwavering support from Leicester NEU and the East Midlands NEU Regional Council.

The 30 Black teachers photography showcase has the sole purpose of archiving the journeys of Black educators, to mark the celebration and inspire young people within Leicester City.

Leicester City Council 1990 education reports highlighted the fact that there were not enough Black teachers within the city. However, over the years, the Leicester Black Educators network has emerged and has grown to provide support to Black educators in the city, highlighting their concerns about the limited avenues for recruitment, progression and retention in Leicester schools, in addition to the historical underachievement of Black young people within the city.

This project was delivered by photographer MaryAnn Ofunneamaka Ezeh who is from Leicester and recently graduated from DMU in Photography. Additionally, the Lead Coordinator of the project is Georgina Payne, also from Leicester, she has also recently graduated with a degree in Visual Arts.

Due to COVID19 restrictions each of the thirty educators was allocated a time slot of ten minutes to take their photograph on Saturday 24th October 2020 between 10am to 3pm at the City of Leicester College. Educators were encouraged to provide an additional thought or quote to lay beside their picture. Proofs of the photographs and quotes were released on 1st December 2020. More recently, organisers have scheduled a special virtual screening of the exhibition ‘30 years of 30 Black teachers’ for Saturday 20th February 2021 at 6pm. The organisers hope that once Government restrictions have been lifted, the exhibition will be displayed in local museums and archived finally in the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre at De Montfort University. In the meantime, Leicester City NEU continues to lead on this wonderful idea and share with neighbouring districts within the East Midlands to raise the profile of Black educators across the region, with the hope to create a valuable resource for all communities across the region.

Mahala Nemauro, Black Educators’ Officer

You can see an example of these fantastic art works earlier in the newsletter, featuring our President Julie Walters-Nisbett.

NEU HEALTH & SAFETY PUBLIC MEETING

Protecting Schools & Communities: winning a safe return



◆ **Dr Deepti Gurdasani**
Senior Lecturer & Epidemiologist,
QM University London

◆ **Kevin Courtney**
Joint General Secretary NEU

◆ **Catherine Wilson**
Parents United

◆ **Dominic Harrison**
Director of Public Health, Blackburn

◆ **Janet Newsham**
Hazards Centre and Zero Covid

◆ **Dr Emma Runswick**
BMA National Council Member (pc)

◆ Chair: **Ian Watkinson**
NEU NEC Member,
Chair of National Health & Safety Forum

**Thurs 4th
March, 7pm
Register:
cutt.ly/TixCXVM**

#makeschoolssafe

East Midlands Region Officer and Rep of the Year 2020/2021 Awards

We are delighted to announce that Jessica Edmonds has won in the officer category.

We also had the following reps as runners up:

Bonnie & Gareth – Fullhurst Community College

Esther & Sheetal – Bridge Junior School

Jess – Ashfield School

Hannah & Hannah – Rushey Mead Primary

Anton (Michael) – English Martyrs

Sylvia – Moat Community College

Fatima, Julie & George – The City of Leicester College

Congratulations to you all!

The National Winners will be announced at Annual Conference (7-10 April 2021).

Online NQT/ITT event

national education union
EAST MIDLANDS REGION

online
NQT/ITT
event

20 March 2021
10:00 am

Workshops include:

- Behaviour
- Child Poverty
- Welcoming Refugees
- Social Emotional Mental Health
- SEND - quick teaching tweaks

free for NEU members

JOIN US NOW!
www.neu.org.uk/join-here

THANK YOU TEACHER

QR code

[Click here](#) to register

Mary Macarthur Lecture 2021



Angela Rayner MP to give the 2021 Mary Macarthur Lecture

Online – Friday 12th March – 7pm

Register [here](#)

Angela Rayner MP, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, is now confirmed as the keynote speaker for the 2021 Mary Macarthur Lecture.

Angela advanced through the trade union movement whilst working in social care, before becoming elected as an MP in 2015 and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party in 2020. Hers is an inspiring story about the vital roles trade unions play in giving opportunities to women to pursue their ambitions to their fullest and we are delighted that Angela can share her thoughts with us at this year's lecture.

This year, marking 100 years since the untimely passing of the great Mary Macarthur, we will also hear from a number of leading women in academia and trade unions, as we discuss what lessons we should learn from Mary's experience organising vulnerable working women, and how we build a more progressive future for working women.

Further keynote speakers include:

- **Mary Bousted**, Joint General Secretary, NEU
Born in Bolton, Mary was a secondary school teacher before becoming a lecturer at the University of York. Mary progressed to Head of Secondary Education at Edge Hill College and then Kingston University before becoming General Secretary of ATL in 2003 which merged with NUT in 2017 to form the NEU
- **Dr Cathy Hunt**, academic and historian
An academic focussing on people's lives in Britain in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century, Dr Cathy Hunt is an authoritative voice on the life of Mary Macarthur and the women whom she organised. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of her death, Cathy has worked with the TUC Library to create a special exhibition about Mary Macarthur's life.
- **Sarah James**, GMB national women's equality lead
Sarah works locally to the home of the women chainmakers at Sandwell Council. A powerful and articulate advocate for equality and justice, helping to form and drive forward the GMB's 'BOSS' group and taking on a national role on equality within the GMB, Sarah is a great example of articulate and brave trade unionism - a true legacy of Mary Macarthur and the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath
- **Louise Regan**, NEU & TUC Midlands Chair
Louise is a teacher who is the NEU's National Officer. A previous NEU President, Louise is the current TUC Midlands Chair and a leading voice in the midlands, constantly pushing for greater fairness, justice and equality
- Chaired by **Sylvia Heal** - Patron of the Women Chainmakers' Festival and ex Halesowen and Rowley Regis
Sylvia was famously first elected to the House of Commons at the Mid-Staffordshire by-election in 1990 in a contest that was largely fought over the Poll Tax. Elected in 1997 for the Halesowen and Rowley Regis she was a frontbench spokeswoman for health and women as well as spending time on the Education select committee. A passionate advocate of the TUC Women Chainmakers' Festival, Sylvia has supported and promoted the festival from its inception and is today the patron of the festival,

Leicester Schools Linking Project

Leicester Schools Linking Project works with young people across Leicester and Leicestershire to build connections and challenge stereotypes using thoughtfully planned and resourced activities and opportunities for dialogue.

We are part of a national network of organisations collectively known as The Linking Network.

In Leicester we have been supported over the last few years by Leicester City in the Community who provide us with venue space at The King Power Stadium to use for CPD sessions. LCiC and Leicester Museums, who provide venue space at Newarke Houses Museum, have generously hosted all our initial class meetings or "neutral venue days".

Due to Covid-19 linked classes are once again keeping in touch virtually and our entire project has been revised to be carried out entirely remotely. Although contact is virtual, the goal remains the same – to break down barriers, challenge misconceptions and prejudices, get to know new people and appreciate there is strength in diversity.

We appreciate the enormous stress schools are under this year and understand this may make committing to anything "extra" very challenging. However, we believe the project is more crucial now than ever before as we navigate these days of division and distrust. In Leicester and Leicestershire 18 schools are currently involved in linking, connecting in total 36 classes, both Primary and Secondary.

We are accepting new schools at any point during the year, so if you are interested at any time, please get in touch.

However, even if you are not in a position to join in with the linking aspect of our work at the moment, we can still offer a set of free, fully resourced lessons to all schools this year.

You can access our resources for Primary here <https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/>

and Secondary here <https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/shuttle-dialogue-linking-for-secondary-schools-2020-2021/>

There is also a new Remote Learning section full of useful PSHCE / SMSC/Citizenship resources here <https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/resources-2/remote-learning/>

And a Home Learning section for parents here <https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/resources-2/home-learning-resources/>

To find out more or get involved contact Ruth Sinhal



Email school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Tel 07957212122

Update your membership details

Visit my.neu.org.uk

It's vital that the NEU has up to date details for all its members. You may also be eligible for reduced subscriptions: for example, if you work part time, are about to retire, or take maternity leave. Have you moved? Tell us your new home or workplace address. It is also important to update your equalities information.

Thousands of members have already signed up for myNEU, the new online portal to manage your membership and access the many benefits which come with being a part of Europe's largest education union. To register, go to my.neu.org.uk and follow the prompts. myNEU is also a portal to accessing hundreds of exclusive discounts available to members through NEU Rewards. From savings on your weekly shop to holidays and special treats, you could save up to £1000 a year. For more information visit neu.org.uk/neu-rewards

You can also update your details by calling 0345 811 8111 or emailing membership@neu.org.uk

**Join The National Education Union at:
www.neu.org.uk/join
or call: 0345 811 8111**

Covid-19 safety in schools

Dos and Don'ts



Marking



DO ensure measures are in place to handle pupils' work safely, through online systems or with quarantine arrangements.

DON'T take books home for marking unless protective measures are in place.

Face coverings



DO argue that face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in year 7 and above when moving around school or college.

DON'T accept that anyone, staff or pupil, should be prevented from wearing a face covering if it helps them feel safer.

Ventilation



DO ensure working areas are well-ventilated and at a comfortable working temperature.

DON'T accept that it's impossible to achieve a balance between the two.

Sharing information when outbreaks occur



DO argue for a policy of maximum openness when cases or outbreaks occur.

DON'T tolerate the withholding of information about classes or year groups affected by cases or suspected cases.

Cleaning



DO raise concerns if your school isn't being properly cleaned.

DON'T take on cleaning duties if you are not employed as a cleaner.

Bubbles



DO insist that bubbles are kept as small as possible.

DON'T tolerate bubbles being routinely breached.

Handwashing and sanitising



DO raise concerns if hand washing/sanitising systems for staff and pupils aren't working.

DON'T allow hand washing and sanitising standards to drop.

Staff at higher risk



DO check your working arrangements are based on a risk assessment which take into account your circumstances and the prevalence of the virus locally. Clinically extremely vulnerable staff should work from home.

DON'T accept that individual risk assessments are set in stone - they must be revised as circumstances change.

Social distancing



DO argue for PPE where staff cannot maintain distance from pupils who cannot control behaviour.

DON'T accept that large gatherings - such as staff or parents' evenings - take place other than remotely.

Workload



DO ensure that normal entitlements, such as lunch breaks, directed time limits and PPA time, are adhered to.

DON'T agree to learning walks, book scrutiny and lesson observations, or other non-essential, in-school accountability processes that just cause stress and risk spreading the virus.

These are minimum standards for keeping everyone safe and ensuring reasonable working conditions. If you and members are concerned about what is happening in your workplace, use our escalation guidance available on the link below.



neu.org.uk/coronavirus-reps
October 2020

If you need help:

- 1) Ask your school rep. Don't have one? Hold a meeting and elect one! Reps have access to training and support in their role, and are backed by local officers and the national NEU.
- 2) If it's a new query, try looking on the NEU website first. There is a wealth of useful information there, especially for Covid-19: <https://neu.org.uk/>
- 3) If you can't find the answer, email advice@neu.org.uk or phone 0345 811 8111
- 4) If you are already being supported by a local officer, please contact them. Please do not contact a different officer as it causes confusion with casework. Please note that the NEU office in Leicester remains closed due to Covid-19, so please use email.

Local officers and the days they work:

Monday & Tuesday:

Jenny, jennifer.day@neu.org.uk

Wednesday:

Jenny, jennifer.day@neu.org.uk

Joseph, joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk

Jessica, jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk (PM only)

Thursday:

Joseph, joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk

Jessica, jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk

Andy, andrew.haynes@neu.org.uk

Minaz, minaz.shaffi@neu.org.uk

Friday:

Joseph, joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk

Jessica, jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk

Samina, samina.randall@neu.org.uk

Minaz, minaz.shaffi@neu.org.uk

The Back Page

Competition time: scan the QR code for a quiz. Winning entries will be put in a hat, and the randomly chosen one will win a £25 gift card (your choice of retailer within reason). Competition closes at 2359 on 26th March 2021.

