



Nominate Duncan Blackie for Post 16 Sector Seat, National Executive Committee

Duncan Blackie: Rep at Longley Park SFC Sheffield; Joint DS NUE Sheffield; Vice Chair NEU Post 16 National Council

I am seeking nominations for the Post 16 sector seat in the forthcoming elections. If your district gets the chance to consider supporting me, I will be very grateful.

Leading in action

I have been a rep at my college in Sheffield for the last 16 years, a joint district secretary and a member of the leading Post 16 bodies in our union for many years. I am currently vice chair of the NEU Post 16 Council, and formerly a member of the NUT Organising Forum and Working Party.

I have been one of the key figures in initiating and sustaining the 2019-20 campaign of strike action to secure pay and funding for our sector. This long battle, waged on picket lines by many teachers and lecturers last winter has recently come to fruition with the restoration of pay parity between school teachers and the SFCA scales.

This battle was all about campaigning at every level: rank and file organisation in the colleges; respect and solidarity from the rest of our union; appropriate pressure through the NEC when necessary.

I want to generalise this experience across post 16 with a fight for a national contract which restores decent conditions and pay for our members in every college.

Fighting for safer education, for real education

I am a socialist. The Covid crisis has thrown open the hatches to many dark dungeons of injustice and inequality. It shows we need more teachers, more funding, more social respect for students. I want to fight for these.

It has also posed the question of our priorities. I believe we can't get through the current crisis with colleges operating as exam factories – there is just no fair way of doing it. Moreover, I believe that we should never go back to putting League Tables ahead of real education for life – for broad curricula and choices to suit every student, with our teachers and lecturers at the heart of this.

Fighting for a better world

I am proud to be a part of a union which fights for justice and equality. The NEU has also played a fine role in the recent battles to educate safer. We have done well, but we have titanic challenges ahead.

If we want decent funding for our colleges, we will have to organise and fight for it.

If we want colleges to open new worlds for all our students, we will have to be at the front of that battle.

If we want to deliver a braver, more inspiring curriculum, yep, that's our job too.