

# City Educationalist



December 2021

Newsletter of the City of Leicester District of the NEU

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## Forthcoming Events

26 <sup>th</sup> January – Leicester District Meeting 7.30pm	Committee meeting – January 12 <sup>th</sup>
17 <sup>th</sup> February – National Climate Change Zoom 5pm Register here: <a href="https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pPuTXCRQtGg_mZNTnzt1Q">https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pPuTXCRQtGg_mZNTnzt1Q</a>	
9 <sup>th</sup> March – AGM & district meeting	Committee meeting – February 9 <sup>th</sup>
30 <sup>th</sup> March - Leicester District Meeting 7.30pm	Committee meeting – March 16 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup> May - Leicester District Meeting 7.30pm	Committee meeting – April 27 <sup>th</sup>

15 <sup>th</sup> June - Leicester District Meeting/Social (TBC) 7.30pm	Committee meeting – May 25 <sup>th</sup>
The next district meeting will be in the 2022/2023 academic year	Committee meeting – June 22 <sup>nd</sup>

At present, Leicester City meetings are remaining online, although we will be trialling hybrid meetings in 2022. You'll be emailed information about each meeting closer to the date.

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](mailto:jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk)

Don't forget the excellent range of CPD provided by the union. Click here for further information and dates: <https://nationaleducationunion.foleon.com/cpd/neu-cpd/newsletter/>

## Space to Shine: Supporting Children's Mental Health Through Play CPD



On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, a group of City of Leicester NEU members gathered for a CPD opportunity. The NEU believes it is every educator's right to have access to professional development at all stages of their career. Laura from Clear Sky delivered excellent input on play therapy to support children, and everyone went away with some new ideas to try in their settings. Feedback praised the theoretical foundations provided, as well as the range of ideas for games and activities suggested.

Clear Sky is a registered charity, and you can find more information on their website:  
<https://www.clear-sky.org.uk/>



The union believes it's time to Value Education, Value Educators and make this a focus in every workplace as we plan for the years after Covid-19.

Staff must have a voice and exercise professional agency in their workplace. Through Value Education, Value Educators we will help our members regain the professional confidence to shape teaching and learning, benefit from research and reflect on what their students need.

In the next term, the City of Leicester will be supporting NEU union groups to work together on eradicating unnecessary workload linked to accountability that exists in education. We are therefore offering remuneration towards holding a meeting surrounding VEVE.

Getting union groups together to discuss the campaign and using the digital resource centre will help you and other NEU members in your workplace.

<https://nationaleducationunion.foleon.com/value-educators/hub/home/>

We've already seen significant wins in pilot launches in Leicester. One particular primary has seen additional PPA time granted and another has seen significant improvements in their workload.

**Meet with your members and things can be achieved.** If you need help in this please contact the local office.

Kindest regards and festive greetings to all that celebrate it.

Joseph



Pictures of a recent primary members' meeting

## Tea Party for Cuba

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November, a fundraising event was held for a Braille machine to send to Cuba.





## Your newly elected Deputy General Secretary

Following recent elections, the first ever Deputy General Secretary of the NEU has been elected. Congratulations to Niamh Sweeney! Well done to Gawain Little and Martin Powell-Davies for their excellent campaigns.

## Poverty proofing the school day – new resource for schools

Child Poverty Action Group and Children North East have recently published a [Cost of the School Day calendar](#) resource for schools and school staff. The aim of the calendar is to help schools identify possible cost barriers during the academic year and think about some alternatives to make sure all children and young people can fully participate in education. Schools can download a free copy of the calendar from the CPAG website [here](#). Please do share this as widely as possible with reps and members. More Cost of the School Day resources can be found [here](#).

## No to the Coup - Cut Links with Sudan's Military

[MENA Solidarity](#) condemns the coup launched by General Abdelfatah al-Burhan on 25 October which seeks to return Sudan to authoritarian rule and calls for the immediate release of all those detained by the military. Stand in solidarity with Sudan's trade unions and professional associations which have been at the forefront of the struggle for democracy by [signing the MENA Solidarity Network open letter](#) against the coup in Sudan.

## Support the Process of Justice in Guatemala

On 11 October, Mrs. Consuelo Porras, Guatemalan Attorney General and Head of the Public Ministry, transferred the prosecutor leading the Human Rights Office of the Public Ministry, from her crucial role in the case of the massacre of over 300 men, women and children at the village of Dos Erres, and the case of 183 civilians who 'disappeared'. [Sign the petition](#) to demand that the Attorney General cease her actions against the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office and to demand her resignation.

## Hands Off West Gate!



**On 7<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm, we received the brilliant news that the academy order for West Gate School has been revoked. This is a real win for the school and its community, and a testament to the hard work of all the staff. It's also been a brilliant collaborative campaign with other unions, and I'd like to thank officers from GMB, the NASUWT and Unison for their commitment as well.**

Following an Ofsted inspection in 2018, West Gate School was given an academy order. Since then, the proposed sponsor has withdrawn, and an Ofsted inspection before the summer holidays graded the school as good. This means that the staff, leadership team, governing body and local authority have turned the school around in 3 years, in the middle of a global pandemic. It's an insult to the hard work of all those people that the DfE pressed ahead with a forced academisation and proposed a new sponsor based in Yorkshire with a single failing secondary school. It is unclear how academising the school would benefit it or its pupils.

The Chair of Governors of West Gate, the NEU, and sister unions all wrote to the Regional Schools' Commissioner or new Secretary of State for Education to request the revocation of the academy order.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, joint unions, parents and school staff lobbied city councillors to support the revocation of the academy order for West Gate school.



## Talking about menopause at work

It's important to challenge the stigma about menopause and have conversations in the workplace about symptoms and adjustments.

The NEU has created resources to support women experiencing menopause and perimenopause to maintain work and cope with the symptoms they experience. The local authority had produced guidance for schools who buy into its HR services (most maintained schools, but not all).

Staff need to be able to raise issues about their symptoms and ask for support and adjustments at work. We should feel comfortable talking about our menopause and how it might affect us.

There are 34 recognised symptoms of menopause and perimenopause that you may not be aware of such as dry or burning mouth, fatigue and joint pain. The symptoms of the menopause can cause women staff to lose confidence in their skill and abilities and sometimes lead to stress, anxiety and depression. These feelings can

lead women to leave the profession unnecessarily. The British Menopause Society has [a series of videos](#) can be useful for understanding what is happening and why.

Women over the age of 50 are more likely to be scrutinised under the employer's capability procedures than anyone else in the workforce. [NEU guidance, FAQs and Advice](#) on working through the menopause is available.

Talk to your NEU workplace rep, other women in your workplace and your employer about how NEU resources can take the stigma out of the conversations about menopause. Use the NEU checklists to get you started on making the workplace a better, safer place for menopausal and perimenopausal women. Changes to the workplace will make working life more sustainable for menopausal women and will benefit all staff.



As well as giving you a stronger voice in the workplace and the opportunity to shape the future of education, did you know that NEU membership also gives you access to a wide range of offers and benefits?

As well as deals on dining out and takeaways, cinema tickets, and magazine subscriptions, this month NEU members can get 25 per cent off English Heritage membership, 10 per cent off holiday cottages, and savings on Merlin attractions including Legoland and the Sea Life centre, Madame Tussauds, and Alton Towers.

Simply log in to your [myNEU](#) account at [my.neu.org.uk/login](https://my.neu.org.uk/login) and click on the [myRewards](#) tab to access the latest offers.

If you haven't set up your [myNEU](#) account yet, it only takes a minute to set it up by clicking on "activate your log in" link.

As well as giving you access to [myRewards](#), your myNEU account allows you to update your membership details.

## NEU and Save the Children Afghanistan Appeal

I'm sure that, like ourselves, you have been distressed by the news coming out of Afghanistan. Even before the recent political upheaval, Afghanistan was one of the world's toughest places to be a child or a teacher.

Right now, the situation is desperate. With overseas aid frozen, ten million children now require humanitarian assistance. Health care is on the brink of collapse. Secondary schools remain closed to girls. Women educators are unable to return to their jobs, disrupting education for boys as well as girls, and leaving families destitute. Over 3.5 million people are internally displaced and over two million have been displaced to neighbouring countries.

The director of the World Food Programme has said “the next six months will be hell on Earth” – 23 million people are facing starvation.

This is why the National Education Union (NEU) has partnered with Save the Children on an urgent fundraising appeal to help children and families in Afghanistan and those displaced to neighbouring countries to stay safe, healthy and learning.

We need your help to reach our £25,000 target. Please donate and spread the word about this appeal:

[https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/neu-afghanistan?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=782c733815aa7b323108abbe936f4dfd&source=email-neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal&email\\_referrer=email\\_1367842&email\\_subject=neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/neu-afghanistan?link_id=0&can_id=782c733815aa7b323108abbe936f4dfd&source=email-neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal&email_referrer=email_1367842&email_subject=neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal)

There's also a pack with ideas for fundraising activities available here, so you could organise fundraising in your setting:

[https://neu.org.uk/media/18571/view?link\\_id=3&can\\_id=782c733815aa7b323108abbe936f4dfd&source=email-neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal&email\\_referrer=email\\_1367842&email\\_subject=neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal](https://neu.org.uk/media/18571/view?link_id=3&can_id=782c733815aa7b323108abbe936f4dfd&source=email-neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal&email_referrer=email_1367842&email_subject=neu-and-save-the-children-afghanistan-appeal)

**Vice-President (x2): 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2026**  
**Treasurer and Membership & Equalities Officer: 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2024**

The Executive have agreed the election timetable for the two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Membership & Equalities Officer, which is set out below.

#### **Election Timetable**

- 1 September 2021 - Call for nominations via the e-Bulletin
- 1 November 2021 - Nominations open
- 15 December 2021 - Close of Nominations
- 22 December 2021 - Deadline for withdrawal of Nominations/Election Statements
- 1 February 2022 - Elections open
- 1 March 2022 - Elections close (midday)

Biographies for candidates can be viewed here:

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

Following the district meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, City of Leicester district of the NEU have nominated:

- Phil Clarke for Vice President
- Hazel Danson for Treasurer
- Louise Regan for Membership & Equalities

## Lit in Colour

Lit in colour has produced new English Language teaching resources for KS3 – 5 on exciting texts by authors of colour. Why not explore Sathnam Sanghera's *The Boy with the Topknot*, Guilaine Kinouani's *Living While Black*, Manjeet Mann's *Run Rebel* and Amanda Gorman's *The Hill We Climb* with your class? These resources develop students reading, writing and speaking skills, whilst giving them the opportunity to critically engage with writing by authors of colour.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/campaigns/lit-in-colour/teaching-resources.html>

## Update your membership details

### Visit [my.neu.org.uk](https://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.

For more information visit [neu.org.uk/neu-rewards](https://neu.org.uk/neu-rewards)

You can also update your details by calling 0345 811 8111 or emailing [membership@neu.org.uk](mailto:membership@neu.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer.day@neu.org.uk)

### Wednesday:

Jenny, [jennifer.day@neu.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.day@neu.org.uk)

Joseph, [joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk](mailto:joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk)

Jessica, [jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk](mailto:jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk)

### Thursday:

Joseph, [joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk](mailto:joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk)

Jessica, [jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk](mailto:jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk)

Andy (H&S), [andrew.haynes@neu.org.uk](mailto:andrew.haynes@neu.org.uk)

Minaz, [minaz.shaffi@neu.org.uk](mailto:minaz.shaffi@neu.org.uk)

### Friday:

Joseph, [joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk](mailto:joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk)

Jessica, [jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk](mailto:jessica.edmonds@neu.org.uk)

Samina (Supply Officer), [samina.randall@neu.org.uk](mailto:samina.randall@neu.org.uk)

Minaz, [minaz.shaffi@neu.org.uk](mailto:minaz.shaffi@neu.org.uk)



**Starting a family?**

Welcoming a new addition to your family is exciting but it can also be a time of work and financial worries so it's more important than ever that you have the protection of your union.

Did you know that members on maternity leave, shared parental leave, or adoption leave do not have to pay membership fees?

To find out more visit [neu.org.uk/neu-membership-rates](https://neu.org.uk/neu-membership-rates)

If you have a question about your maternity or parental rights or pay, contact your local rep, the NEU AdviceLine or take a look at our comprehensive guide to maternity rights at [neu.org.uk/maternity](https://neu.org.uk/maternity)

Please note: subscription holidays for maternity, parental and adoption leave can only be processed in the current subscription year (1 September 2020-31 August 2021). We are unable to backdate requests for previous subscription years.

national education union

## Do you want to apply for flexible working?

**Before** doing so, please ask either your school rep (if trained) or a local officer for support. There are key pieces of information you need to know before you submit the form, such as only being able to make a request once a year and only being able to use information provided in the original request at appeal.

Help us to help you!

## Thank you

So, here I get to abuse editorial rights, and extend my thanks to all NEU activists for their hard work over the last year. I am moving on to pastures new in January, so for all further queries please contact [joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk](mailto:joseph.wyglendacz@neu.org.uk)

Best Wishes, Jessica Edmonds.