

City Educationalist



October 2021

Newsletter of the City of Leicester District of the NEU

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



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

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

Forthcoming Events

2 nd November – National zoom for the Value Education Value Educators Campaign Register here: https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hek0g1x2T6qqlzMUh3l0Jq	
3 rd November – Leicester District Meeting 7.30pm	Committee meeting – October 13th
6 th November – City of Leicester SEND CPD Register here: https://actionnetwork.org/events/space-to-shine-supporting-childrens-mental-health-through-play?source=email&	
6 th November – National Post-16 Members' Conference Register here: https://glasgows-co-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R86f7SHXSEGaiDNqKC_R2A	
11 th -13 th November - National Black* Educators' Conference Register here: https://neu.org.uk/event/black-educators-conference-2021	

*The term Black is used for all members who self-identify as Black, Asian or any other minority ethnic groups who do not identify themselves as white. This includes Gypsy and Roma non-white people.

17th November

NEU / Save the Children Webinar on Afghanistan: What does the Future Hold for Women, Girls and the Right to Education? (partnering with Save the Children)

Register here: https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PhTR1jwmQ1ut-31san3YiA

20th November – National Independent Sector Conference

Register here: https://glasgows-co-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1PqwnwnAQdy3HrKk16F4SA

1st December – Leicester District Meeting 7.30pm

Committee meeting – November 17th

26th January – Leicester District Meeting 7.30pm

Committee meeting – January 12th

9th March - AGM

Committee meeting – February 9th

At present, Leicester City meetings are remaining online. 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

Hands Off West Gate!



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 Since then, the proposed sponsor has withdrawn, and an Ofsted inspection before the summer holidays graded the school as good.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 are still pressing ahead with a forced academisation and are proposing 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 has written to the Regional Schools' Commissioner to request the revocation of the academy order. The NEU has written to the new Secretary of State for Education requesting the same. We will work with members, other unions, the head and the governing body to oppose the forced academisation of West Gate.

In the meantime, please

- like, share and follow the campaign page: <https://www.facebook.com/Hands-Off-West-Gate-107606301670893/> and pass this information on to all colleagues in your setting
- sign and share the joint union petition: <https://action.unison.org.uk/page/90942/petition/1> and pass this information on to all colleagues in your setting



The National Education Union (NEU) is emerging from the pandemic with thousands of new members, workplace reps and levels of engagement not seen for a generation.

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.

This autumn term, we will be supporting NEU union groups to work together on eradicating unnecessary workload linked to accountability that exists in education.

We hope this digital resource centre will help you and other NEU members in your workplace.

Resources include:

A workload toolkit to enable NEU members to identify workload issues linked to accountability;

A model meeting PowerPoint will help you discuss these issues with other members in your workplace;

Model letters to raise workload issues you collectively identify with your leadership.

Working alongside NEU members, **Value Education, Value Educators** seeks to shape the education system in the best interest of our communities and the pupils we teach.

Join us. Together, we can shape the future of education.

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



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 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.

Leicester Pride 2021



After missing a year due to the pandemic, Pride was back and as fabulous as ever! City of Leicester NEU joined the march from Curve to Victoria Park with banners and flags, and some of us stayed to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy Pride.

Stephen Lawrence Network Meeting - Wednesday 20th October 2021

On a rainy Leicester half term our Leicester Black Teachers Network (COVID secure) met at The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre to discuss:

- The use of Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors in Secondary Schools as led by Natasha Boyce at the Life Academy Trust.
- How The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre can support teachers led by Sherilyn Pereira at The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre.
- How we continue to use the NEU Antiracist Charter in schools, and do we encourage schools to adopt a Black Curriculum led by Camille London- Miyo OBE – Leicester City NEU Equalities Officer.

If you would to be involved in the next network in February half term 2022. Please get in touch with Julie Walters-Nisbett. Please do visit the centre to see Leicester City NEU – 30 years of 30 Black Educators Display.



Julie Walters-Nisbett

SEND funding review

<https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/community/high-needs-block-funding-review-in-mainstream-settings/>

The Local Authority are reviewing SEND funding and the above consultation is open until early December. It affects maintained and academy sector settings. Please encourage members to respond as individuals, and then co-ordinate a joint response as an NEU group. When you click on the link, there is a list of all schools, and you can see how much each stands to lose or gain as a result of the proposed changes. Some schools could see as much as £100,000 reduction in their budgets.

New local NEU offices

You might have noticed that the local NEU office has moved. Our new address is 7-9 Every Street, Leicester LE1 6BF. At present, there's no phone line, so please continue to contact officers by email. Contact details are here:

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

On 3rd September we held a combined office welcome party and thanks to our reps, who have worked tirelessly through the pandemic. Drinks flowed, the jazz band played, and bellies were full of delicious food from Mitthaas (Narborough Road) and Divine Cuisine (Birmingham). Here are a few photos from the night.



Youth Fight for Jobs Rally - 9th October



The demonstration in Leicester was part of a national relaunch of the campaign. Youth Fights for Jobs seeks to push the government into actively focusing on sustainable, valued employment which isn't low paid, zero hours, temporary or limited in scope. Although small, it was uplifting to see young activists organising and communicating with the Saturday afternoon shoppers. This is a campaign the NEU needs to support and promote.

What was I doing there as an official oldie? I spoke and sent solidarity on behalf of the NEU and LDTUC.

Jenny Day.

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)

If you are interested in running for these positions and would like the support of the district, please speak to any local officer.

Haiti Earthquake Appeal

The recent earthquake in Haiti has caused terrible devastation and the heavy rains, due to tropical Storm Grace, have made the situation worse, leaving thousands of people without shelter and basic necessities. The Steve Sinnott Foundation has launched a fundraising appeal to buy solar radios to enable families to keep updated with local and national news. These radios also have a phone charge facility and a light. [Please click here for more information and to donate.](#)

Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) - Support Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

MAP has been working to support the needs of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon for more than 35 years, responding to immediate health needs while working towards sustainable long-term health development. They are upscaling their emergency response to address the health and healthcare needs arising from the current crisis in Lebanon. The emergency fund aims to support Palestinian refugees by procuring additional essential equipment for vulnerable pregnant women, providing more front-line workers, among other services. [Districts are encouraged to donate to the fund and spread the word amongst your networks.](#)

COVID-19 Medical Appeal for Cuba

The Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC) has launched an appeal to help Cuba access the vital medical supplies it needs to treat COVID-19 patients and vaccinate its population. The current emergency is a result of the ongoing US blockade, the effects of an additional 243 sanctions imposed by the Trump administration, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Districts are encouraged to donate to [COVID-19 Medical Appeal for Cuba.](#)

Steve Sinnott Foundation Partners with Rainbows Bereavement UK

Steve Sinnott Foundation, Rainbows Bereavement UK and Grief Encounter are working together to raise awareness in schools to try to ensure that all children have access to the support they need when they experience bereavement and loss. The organisations have partnered with World Wide Motion Pictures ahead of the release

of their new film, Emu Runner, which explores the relationship between a ten-year-old Indigenous girl, Gemma, and an animal following the death of her mother. The organisations are calling on pupils, in Year 6 and above, from schools across the UK, to design an eye-catching poster for the film's opening which creatively demonstrates how an animal or nature may have supported a child with their emotions, just how the emu supported Gemma during her bereavement. The winning submission(s) will see their poster form an integral part of the official film promotion and receive tickets to watch the film itself. [Find out more here](#).

Myanmar: Act Now to Prevent a New Military Offensive

The Burmese military is building up troops and equipment in Chin State and neighbouring areas in North-Western Burma. There are concerns this could be possible preparations for a large-scale military offensive against civilians, leading to a human rights and humanitarian catastrophe. [Tell the UN Security Council to act now](#) to prevent any possible military offensive.

Steve Sinnott International Solidarity Award

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Steve Sinnott International Solidarity Award, which recognises members who have made exemplary contributions to the Union's work on international solidarity over the last 12 months. [Find more information and download a nomination form here](#). The deadline for submissions is 5pm Monday, 10 January 2022.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.



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!