

# East Riding Association of the NUT September 2009 Newsletter



## Meet the NUT National President

We have been very lucky in being able to arrange a visit to our area of the NUT National President, Martin Reed. Currently living in London, Martin is making a whistle-stop break in his travels to be in Beverley on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September when he will be at our meeting at the Tiger Inn on Lairgate from 10 am. He will speak about current issues and have time to answer your questions and discuss issues. To mark the special nature of this meeting our Association has decided to provide lunch at the Tiger for any member who attends the meeting. Please email our secretary [brian.swinton@eastridingnut.org](mailto:brian.swinton@eastridingnut.org) or phone 01482 448653 asap to register your wish to attend so we can arrange enough meals. Full details of the event which will include an opportunity to submit motions to annual conference are available by looking at [www.eastridingnut.org](http://www.eastridingnut.org) and clicking on 'next meeting'.

## Rarely Cover

By now your school should have in place structures to ensure that teachers only "rarely cover". This is an obligation under the latest pay and conditions of teachers. The school policy and procedure should be available for all staff to read but of course the heart of the matter will be how it is put into practice. If you are asked to cover you should ask why it is necessary, write down the reply and, if there is any doubt at all in your mind about it being an absolute, unavoidable, unpredictable emergency please call our County Secretary, Brian Swinton on 01482 448653.

## New Threshold Regulations

There has been a change in the way Threshold applications are assessed which comes into effect this year. Assessment for Round 10, that is the period beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, will be based solely on evidence gathered from Performance Management Review statements covering the two-year period leading up to the teacher's request for assessment. Previously, performance management has only contributed to the

assessment. (This does not apply to supply teachers who are employed on a day to day basis. For them, the method of assessment remains as it has been previously).

You need to be on M6 to apply to cross the Threshold but, because of the two-year assessment period, teachers currently on M4 and M5 who are planning to apply should be thinking about how they are meeting the criteria and ensuring this is recorded in their performance management reviews.

You no longer need to submit a portfolio of evidence but you do need to make a written request for assessment to your headteacher. A model request form is available from [www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/payandperformance/threshold](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/payandperformance/threshold) (some schools have their own version).

Assessment in this round may be requested any time between September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 and if successful will normally be reflected in pay from 1st September 2010. Assessment is usually, though not necessarily, based on two reviews. More detailed information, including the criteria which need to be met to make a successful application, can be found on the teachernet website above.

Guidance will be on the Union's national website soon [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)

## End SATs

We are, jointly with the Heads' Union the NAHT, campaigning for the abolishment of SATs. This is what our General Secretary, Christine Blower said about it recently: "*The NUT and NAHT joint campaign to end SATs is something we all need to focus our energies on over the coming months. We all know that SATs are bad for children, bad for education and bad for teachers. They narrow the curriculum, encourage teaching to the test and result in divisive and potentially misleading league tables.*"

*It is a good time for a campaign because we know that parents are in agreement with us that SATs are dominating their children's lives and their education. Support for our campaign is growing amongst academics, authors and*

*celebrities. We've been delighted by the messages of support we've received during August. As author Philip Pullman says of SATs, "They should be put away at once. Children, their teachers, their schools, and society itself will all eventually feel the benefit."*

To see the NUT & NAHT joint statement, go to our website [www.eastridingnut.org](http://www.eastridingnut.org) and click on 'End SATs'.

## Membership

The start of a new academic year is a time when many colleagues move schools, alter their hours or may be even get promotion. You will have recently received a membership record update form from headquarters. Please use it to notify any changes to your membership. It is most important to do this if you are reducing your hours or starting maternity leave as you may

qualify for a reduced membership rate and a refund. You can also update your details by phone or online, details for both are at the top of the form or at [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk). Alternatively pop it into the reply paid envelope and all the details will be updated.

## New colleagues

We have written to the 68 newly qualified teachers joining the East Riding Authority encouraging them to join you as NUT members. It would be a very friendly, welcoming gesture if you were to find a minute to chat with them and remind them of the need to be in an effective Union. Likewise with colleagues joining you from other schools or areas; just say hello to them and see if they are already NUT members. If they aren't you might show them the following:

---

## WHY CHOOSE THE NUT? HERE ARE TEN GOOD REASONS TO BE IN THE NUT

- The NUT is the largest and most influential teachers' organisation in England and Wales.
- Only the NUT seeks professional unity: one teachers' organisation to speak for the whole profession.
- The NUT provides access to a first rate legal service through its network of experienced and qualified staff, including practising solicitors in its offices throughout the English regions and in Wales to give immediate cover to teachers in trouble - legal and professional advice, guidance and support.
- The NUT has a network of representatives working on a voluntary basis to represent members in schools, colleges, services and units throughout England and Wales.
- The NUT offers a wide range of high quality, good value benefits and services from endorsed suppliers.
- The NUT offers its members a range of opportunities for high quality training and professional development in a 'no threat, no blame' climate.
- The NUT is a trade union and a professional association, working on professional and curricular issues as well as teachers' conditions of service and pay.
- The NUT recruits qualified teachers or those who are on courses or in posts that will lead to teacher qualification, so it is best placed to speak on behalf of the profession.
- The NUT has a long and proud tradition of campaigning for equal opportunities for teachers and for pupils.
- The NUT is affiliated to the TUC but **not** to any political party or the "social partnership" so it can speak freely and independently to the Government.

---

**For an alternative view of teaching & schools check out the latest "Thoughts of an old codger" [www.eastridingnut.org](http://www.eastridingnut.org)** (these thoughts are not those of the NUT nationally or locally). His latest thoughts start:

*"Rays breaking through the blinds of my room in "The Shady Pines" alerted me to the fact that it must be that time of the year again, the annual migration of thousands of bright, bushy-tailed individuals, uniforms and packed lunch boxes glinting in the sun, (swine flu permitting). A day of contrasting emotions. My mother ecstatic at regaining her freedom and me frantically painting spots on my face in a desperate attempt to avoid the inevitable. "Of course you have to go back!" she berated me. "You are the head teacher for heavens sake." .*

To read the rest of this and some really useful stuff check out [www.eastridingnut.org](http://www.eastridingnut.org)