

National Qualifications

The inaugural meeting of the Curriculum and Assessment Board (CAB) took place on 6 December 2017 and was convened to consider the roles, remit and work themes of the CAB, as well as the way forward for National 4. The NASUWT is represented on the Board by Mike Corbett, National Executive Member.

A proposal to amend National 4, on the basis of previous discussions at the Assessment and Qualifications group, was tabled. The NASUWT reconfirmed its policy position that National 4 was not fit for purpose and further set out that the timeframe for the review would be a key part in ensuring there was not a negative workload impact.

The Union stressed that we were at a critical point for deciding upon the appropriate way forward for the profession and for pupils and that simply tinkering with National 4, just now and then, having to make further amendments in another year's time, would be indefensible.

The SQA recognised there was a problem with using National 4 as a platform to assess the readiness to move to National 5 and agreed that work was needed to improve the verifying mechanisms and to overcome cultural challenges in schools. SQA hoped that the new benchmarks at S3, alongside a two-year pathway, would better support teachers in identifying the readiness of pupils to access National 5.

The SQA also agreed that some subjects were in a worse position than others, accepting some are capable of being taught at multi-level and others not, and it was suggested that subject content might be looked at on a subject basis moving forward.

The Chair of the CAB, taking into account the views of all parties at the table, remained unconvinced that there was any appetite for change and, as no agreement across the board was reached, the status quo will be maintained, while simultaneously trying to provide better communication and support surrounding National 4.

A package of measures will be expanded upon and circulated before the next meeting on 8 March with the hope that improvements in the credibility of National 4 will be a by-product of these actions.

Give us your views on National 4 reform by emailing rc-scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk.

Teachers' Pay

Pay Award 2017-18

Following the SNCT agreement to the pay award for 2017-18, members were sent a bulletin outlining the Union's position. The NASUWT opposed the award. This can be accessed online at www.nasuwt.org.uk.

Teachers should have received the backdated element of the pay award at the end of January 2018 and should expect the further 1% increase to March 2018 in their February salary.

Supply teachers are reminded that as of January 2018, the discriminatory two-tier system for short-term supply work no longer applies and supply teachers should now be paid at their full salary rate from day 1.

The NASUWT consistently opposed this discriminatory system and campaigned for the full restoration of supply teachers' pay since it was introduced. The NASUWT was the only union to do so and the restoration of equal pay rights for supply teachers is a vindication of the Union's campaign. However, this is not the end of the matter. Righting the injustice suffered by supply teachers will remain an important part of the Union's pay policy moving forward.

Pay Award 2018-19

The SNCT Teachers' Panel will meet on Monday 5 February to discuss and determine the Teachers' Side position for the 2018-19 pay award. The NASUWT will continue to press for a pay award to address the continuing serious erosion of teachers' pay since 2010 which has so negatively impacted on teacher morale and teacher recruitment and retention.

Members will be kept updated on developments.

Named Person

Further to representations from the NASUWT and other stakeholders, the Government took the decision in December to halt the progression of the legislation around Named Person until a full review has been undertaken.

NASUWT members are reminded that they should not be undertaking the role of Named Person and should contact the Scotland Centre for advice and support if required.





There are still some places available for any member who wishes to attend the NASUWT Annual Conference at the ICC in Birmingham from 30 March to 2 April. Annual Conference offers the opportunity to meet with members from across the whole of the UK and take part in the many activities that run over the weekend in addition to the main conference agenda.

All accommodation, travel and meal expenses are reimbursed by the Union within the agreed tariffs. If you are interested in attending, please contact the NASUWT Scotland Centre for details.

Love2Shop Promotion

Members who have recruited new members in 2017 should expect their Love2Shop vouchers to arrive in the next few weeks.

The unrivalled membership offer of free membership for one year from date of joining continues. To get your Love2Shop voucher, make sure any new recruit records your membership number on their application.



SAVE THE DATE

Places are still available on the training courses and events listed below.

Full details and information on how to register can be found on the NASUWT website or by contacting the NASUWT Scotland Centre directly.

6 February	Working Assertively	Scotland Centre
24 February	LGBTI Development Course	Scotland Centre
6/7 March	Reps Stage 3 (Casework)	Scotland Centre
10 March	Young Members' Development Course	Scotland Centre
17 March	Disabled Members' Development Course	Scotland Centre

FREE Membership

JOIN  **TODAY**

first year FREE

from the date you join*

Online www.nasuwat.org.uk

or

call 03330 145550



Already a member?

Generous Love2shop voucher rewards for all members who successfully invite other teachers to join them in the NASUWT.

Just give them your name and membership number to quote when they join.

*New members joining the NASUWT get the first year free when opting to pay future subscriptions by direct debit.

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN