

Haringey parents say:

NO TO ACADEMIES!

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National Union of Teachers

Primary school parents in Haringey, north London, are in the front line of the battle against the Con-Dems' destruction of our education. Five Haringey schools, which supposedly do not meet the government's 'floor' targets for results, are threatened with being compulsorily turned into academies.

Over 600 people attended a Haringey meeting to organise against the bullying tactics of the government. Saturday 28 January will see a massive demonstration through the streets of Haringey.

Already education secretary Michael 'Royal Yacht' Gove has had to back down: one of the schools, Downhills School, where results have improved recently, will undergo an Ofsted inspection before any decision about a change of status.

New Labour used bribery to turn schools into academies with up to £2 million promised from a business sponsor. The coalition government are now using compulsion.

The Con-Dems argue that academies are the only way to raise standards in under-performing schools. Yet recent research publicised by the Anti Academies Alliance shows that in London, on the measure of five GCSEs including English and maths, the best performing schools are NOT academies. Nationally, 20% of academies failed to improve on their GCSE results in 2010.

Haringey parents are right to call academies 'privatisation'. Already bigger academy 'chains' run more schools than some local authorities.

Oasis Community Learn-

ing, for example, runs 12 high schools all over England. Nine teachers were sacked at its Media City Academy in Salford at Christmas.

And ultimately, academies can pay staff whatever they like.

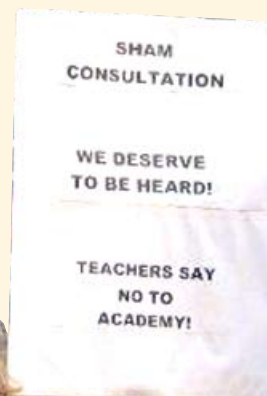
Despite business involvement, eight academies recently had to be 'bailed out' by the government for nearly £11 million.

An academy at Backwell near Bristol recently failed to enter 100 pupils for GCSE science exams. A parent commented: "I feel badly let down... now the school is an academy, who is it accountable to?"

Academy plans can be defeated. At St Leonards RC School in Durham staff voted 105 to 15 against academy status and the plan was dropped. Protesting parents stopped an academy project at Varndean

School in Brighton. Teachers from Lancashire to Gloucestershire, from Coventry to London, have

taken strike action against academy proposals. If the NUT and NASUWT teaching unions



Demonstrate against academies!

Saturday 28 January, 12noon

Assemble at Keston Road N17 (Next to Downhills School)

March to Haringey Civic Centre

mobilise promptly, they can kill the plans before they get underway.

- For coordinated strike action across schools threatened with academy status, backed by strong community campaigns
- No to academies and free schools. Bring all schools under local authority control
- We need high quality local comprehensive schools, under democratic control including students, parents and education workers
- Haringey Labour MP David Lammy is opposed to compulsory academies, but not to academies themselves. None of the main parties opposes Academies. Elect trade union and community candidates to the London assembly and in town halls to defend comprehensive education.

STOP PRESS:

NUS calls national student walkout Name the date and build for mass action

The National Union of Students (NUS) has finally announced a series of actions to fight against the sweeping privatisation and cuts threatened to hit our universities if the government get their way. This comes after a week of twists and turns in which the government 'dropped' its controversial Higher Education white paper.

Unfortunately, however, much of what was contained in the paper is being implemented on campuses without the need for government legislation. The dropping of the paper is yet another signal that the government intends to take forward its agenda by more underhand means - perhaps due to a fear of a repeat of 2010's mass student protests.

NUS is organising a parliamentary lobby on 7 March and a 'week of action' from 12-16

March. The centrepiece of the student action should be the national walkout that has been announced. Liam Burns, NUS president, has called for this to take place this term. This development should be welcomed by all students who want to campaign against the whole range of attacks currently underway on our campuses.

Clearly, the NUS leadership has been forced to take this action by pressure from below. It cannot be forgotten that last term's two most successful protests aimed at students and youth, the Jarrow March for Jobs and the student demo on 9 November, were organised outside of NUS structures.

We demand that NUS immediately names the date for the walkout. Socialist Students activists will be organising on campuses

across the country to make it a success, but NUS must organise and build for this strike to be nationwide and solid. To do this, the most important first step would be to name a date.

NUS should be mobilising to support teachers and lecturers in their battle to defend pensions. When these workers next take strike action NUS should mobilise student solidarity on the picket lines and rallies, calling on all students to join the strike. While very important, student action alone will not be enough to stop the higher education slaughter. Unity with workers, particularly when they strike, is key. Workers and students unite and fight!

Check www.socialiststudents.org.uk for updates as details become clear and plans are made



photo Paul Mattsson