



DEFEAT FORCED ACADEMISATION

BUILD A MASS CAMPAIGN SO MORGAN HAS TO RESIGN TOO

NUT CONFERENCE MUST VOTE FOR NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION

STOP THE TORIES WRECKING EDUCATION

A Tory Government in chaos is out to inflict further chaos on state education. Their announcement that all schools in England must become academies is a declaration of war on comprehensive public education and on national pay and conditions for teachers and support staff. It exposes the academy project as the means for the wholesale privatisation of schooling that it has always been.

There is an ever growing body of evidence confirming that forced academisation has nothing to do with tailored school improvement. Trade unions, anti academy campaigners and the Socialist Party ourselves have regularly detailed the poorer exam statistics, fewer qualified teachers, higher exclusion rates, worse employment conditions, excessive leadership salaries and narrower curriculum in academies.

The Tories' plans would take away any democratic accountability from parents, teachers and communities. Local authorities certainly need further democratisation but at least we still have the opportunity to elect the councillors ultimately responsible for maintained schools. Not so for academies - and the White Paper even wants to remove the requirement for schools to have parent governors!

An assault on all teachers' pay and conditions

It's not just staff in maintained schools that stand to lose, so do staff already working in academies. Even though fragmented and under attack, the continuation of national pay and conditions acts as a counter weight on the academies and chains. Most feel compelled to peg their pay rates and other policies to those of local authority schools. The combined attacks of school budget cuts and forced academisation will create a free for all, driving down wages and further increasing workload. Just look to Chicago where



teachers in the Charter schools (academy equivalents) face earning up to 40% lower wages than their counterparts in public schools. In fighting academies, we should also fight for a national contract for all teachers and support staff, something staff in academy schools can rally behind as well.

NUT Deputy General Secretary Kevin Courtney correctly maps out where this is all going: "The Government's ultimate agenda is the privatisation of education with schools run for profit." This is why the education unions must respond with determined action to defeat this agenda. There is already an enormous groundswell of opposition. In just a few days, over 100,000 people have signed a petition demanding a public inquiry and referendum. Emergency demonstrations have sprung up nationally and social media is awash with anti academy posts. A mass campaign must be built that exposes how these attacks are part and parcel of the Tories'

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wider agenda of cutting and privatising public services.

Build a mass demonstration in the summer term

Forced academies are just part of an all out assault on teachers and education in general. Primary staff are discussing boycotting standardised tests (also designed to ‘fail’ children and their schools) and campaigns are also building against the threat of massive cuts to school budgets. Of course, education workers, parents and students are not alone in fighting to defend public services. The government have ‘gone nuclear’ with the Junior Doctors too, threatening to impose unacceptable contracts by August, attacks that also endanger the NHS as well. The NUT and other education unions should bring these different strands together and call a mass national demonstration in defence of education in the summer term, linking up with the Junior Doctors in a mass movement to defend Health and Education.

But marching and campaigning alone will not be enough.

Like the doctors, teachers need to pose the academy dispute as a social movement to defend high quality education and public services - but that battle must have industrial action at its core. An emergency meeting between the education unions should be organised to build professional unity in action.

For a national strike to defeat these attacks


The solid NUT strike against cuts to Sixth Form Colleges showed that teachers are willing to act if a lead is given. The NUT’s High Court victory confirmed that the NUT can establish a legally recognised strike in defence of education, because the action was also about terms and conditions.



These academy plans are an even greater threat to teachers and education. If we can have a legal national dispute in 6th Form Colleges, why not on academisation? NUT Conference over the Easter weekend must take the lead and call for a national strike.

Let’s take confidence from the IDS resignation and the turmoil inside the Government. They have overplayed their hand in trying to push through such a massive onslaught of further austerity and privatisation. For the sake of the children and communities that we teach, these plans have to be defeated - and, if unions act decisively, Nicky Morgan and the Tories can be forced back at last.



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10th NSSN conference

#KillTheBill –

Stop Tory Cuts, Defend Unions

11 - 4:30 Saturday
02 July

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