

Classroom Teacher



**STOP THE
PENSIONS
ROBBERY!**

ALL OUT TO WIN THE BALLOT!

This Government may have hoped that they were going to get away with their savage cuts to jobs, services and pensions without a serious fight. They were wrong.

The massive turnout on the March 26 demonstration gave the Con-Dems a clear warning that they had better back off. A united national strike of teachers and other workers - with the threat of further action to come - will send an even stronger message!

Thursday June 30 - pencilled in for the first strike day - should see around three-quarters of a million - NUT and ATL teachers, lecturers in UCU, civil servants in PCS - on strike to defend their pensions. We also have to make clear that this could be just the start. If the Con-Dems won't back down, we must escalate our strike action next term - with other unions like the NAHT then joining in too.

Unions should make plans now for local joint union rallies in the lead-up to the strike and for big regional demonstrations on June 30. Invites should go out to other unions and anti-cuts campaigners to come along too. We must explain that a victory

over pensions can help give confidence to everyone else fighting against cuts to their jobs, conditions and services as well.

First of all, the ATL and NUT must win their strike ballots. Let's win them with such a decisive majority - and with a solid turnout - that there can be no doubt as to the determination of teachers to fight this blatant robbery. Ballot papers will be posted to home addresses from May 17 onwards. Make sure you send back your YES vote straight away. But don't just remember your own vote - make sure all your colleagues are voting too!

- **Call a school union meeting.** Why not hold it in the ICT room so that colleagues can log on to the 'pensions loss calculator' on the national NUT website to see exactly how much they stand to lose!
- **Keep a register!** Have a list of NUT and ATL members in your school ready. Tick-off who has received their ballot paper - and, above all, who has sent it back. Keep reminding everyone to vote until the YES 'marks' are all back in!
- **Remind colleagues in other schools** to vote too. Pop in to a nearby school; remind your facebook friends; send an e-mail, text or tweet - whatever it takes to get the message far and wide - **VOTE YES TO DEFEND YOUR PENSION!**

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

The majority of teachers in England and Wales are preparing to ballot to take action this term - and rightly so.

Regrettably, NASUWT members are being told that their ballot can wait until negotiations with Government are completed. But as the 'Classroom Teacher' distributed to NASUWT Conference delegates explained:

"Some unions are still urging a delay while talks continue with Government. However, this is playing into the Con-Dems hands. They are trying to stall and divide union opposition. George Osborne has said that final decisions about increased pension contributions will be postponed until June. However, he refused to remove the proposed £2.8 billion savings from that extra 'stealth tax' on public sector workers from March's Budget. That leaves very little room for genuine negotiation - unions will just be left to agree exactly how that pay cut will be applied".

Talks on that basis could produce a WORSE outcome for teachers - with even greater contribution increases being demanded from higher-paid staff.

NASUWT members must call for an urgent ballot. Before that happens, they face having to cross the picket lines of striking colleagues in June. Some will choose to join striking unions to take part in united action instead.

**Action and
Change for
Teachers**

Can YOU afford to LOSE PAY ? TO GET LESS PENSION ? AND WORK UNTIL YOU'RE 68 ?



NO ?

10 REASONS TO VOTE YES:

- 1. To stop around £100 a month being stolen from teachers' salaries.** That's a 50% increase in pension contributions on top of a 'pay freeze'. We can't afford NOT to take action.
- 2. £10,000's more may be robbed from you over your retirement.** Switching from RPI to the lower CPI will hugely cut your total income in retirement.
- 3. Yet more money could go in a new 'career-average' scheme.** Hutton is cooking up yet more ways of cutting pensions. Action can warn him off.
- 4. You might be 68 before you can claim your (cut) pension in full.** Hutton wants normal pension age to go up to 68 for young teachers, 66 or 67 for older staff. Could you cope with teaching over 65?
- 5. If you choose to retire 'early', you'll lose £1,000s.** Retiring at 60 - or even 62 - would count as 'early retirement' so that you'd lose your full entitlement. The younger you are now, the more you stand to lose by the time you retire.
- 6. Our pension scheme costs are falling. This is just robbery.** Hutton's own figures confirm our pensions scheme is affordable. They just want to impose an extra 'tax' on public sector workers - when the bankers who got us into this mess still owe billions in unpaid taxes!
- 7. Most teachers are women - but they could be hardest hit.** Women are most likely to have breaks in pensionable service - and to live longer too.
- 8. We have a good pensions scheme - let's keep it that way.** If you're feeling the squeeze already, don't opt out of your pension. That just guarantees that you'll retire in poverty. Instead, vote for action and fight to defend pensions.
- 9. The threat of action made the last Government retreat.** Joint campaigns in 2005-6 forced the last Government to withdraw most of its pension attacks.
- 10. Strike action can make this Con-Dem Government think again too.** They are unpopular and divided. ATL, NUT, PCS & UCU unions all plan to strike on June 30. Together, we can defend our pensions.

THEN MAKE SURE YOU VOTE FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO DEFEND YOUR PENSION



YES !