

2nd Oct 2017

## UNISON Cardiff County Branch

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# STARS IN OUR SCHOOLS



**The Wales School Support Staff seminar took place in Cardiff on 28<sup>th</sup> September.**

Cardiff County UNISON's very own schools rep Michelle Reeve from Llandaff City Primary chaired the event, keeping a packed room of support staff from across Wales in order for the day!

**Speakers included UNISON's Head of Education Jon Richards, as well as the Chief Executive of the EWC, Hayden Llewellyn, and the Cabinet Secretary for**

**Education, Kirsty Williams AM. The theme throughout the day was a recognition of the important role that support staff contribute to the running of our schools and outcomes of our learners. Delegates got the chance to question the Cabinet Secretary on issues like school funding, proper use of INSET days for support staff and how we keep Katie Hopkins out of Wales...**

This empowering annual seminar is organised by the UNISON

Cyrmu Wales School Support Staff forum to bring together support staff from across Wales. It is a chance for support staff to hear directly about areas of Welsh education policy that affect them and give direct feedback to decision makers.

**At the seminar we launched our Wales School Support Staff facebook page. School support staff in Wales should like @walesupportstaff for regular updates.**

UNISON Cardiff is always championing the hard work done in schools by our members. Support staff play a vital role in the smooth running of any school and so we have decided to join in with the national celebration again this year. Stars in our Schools' day is November 24<sup>th</sup> and we would like to use this year's event to focus on the amazing work done by our school admin staff.

We will be contacting head teachers and asking them to encourage the children to think about what makes their school's admin staff so special. Often the first point of contact for staff, parents and children

the school admin team are hugely influential in providing that first impression. They care for sick children, have the difficult conversations and organise all those extra-curricular activities that are so important. As well as everything else!

Join the celebration by asking the children in your school to show their appreciation by drawing or writing about what makes your admin team so special and sending them to us here at the Branch. **The winning entrant will see their school receive a prize for the children as well as something for the admin team themselves.**

Thank you  
School Support Staff





## The 2nd Best funded pension scheme in the known universe!

Our Branch Pension Champions really believe this and encourage members to join the Local Government Pension Scheme, if not already members. The current scheme will provide a pension, based upon our salary, that can make the difference between surviving in retirement and dignity. However, there is a cost! Generally we contribute 6% of our pay before stoppages but, there is scope to contribute 3% and accrue half the benefits. If you cannot afford the 6% deduction, you might explore that. For further information, without obligation, ask your union rep or the Branch Office.

(Oh, in case you were wondering what the best funded scheme might be ~ it's the one for British MPs, who voted it for themselves!)

### UNISON take to the streets of Manchester to protest more broken promises from the Tory government



Over and over again the Tories have shown their willingness to break some of their most basic commitments and repeatedly let down the youngest and most vulnerable in our society.

One of their election pledges was to spend £227million raised through bank fines on 50,000 apprenticeships yet, as they crash the economy through in-fighting and no clear plan for Brexit, we

have yet to see anything of this promise. What is more, a report from the National Audit Office (NAO) has concluded that the government cannot confirm that the nearly £1 billion recouped from the rate-rigging scandal has been used as intended.

Reacting to the report by the National Audit Office, the general secretary of Unison, Dave Prentis, said the "broken promise" showed the Conservative government could not be trusted.

"Apprenticeships are crucial for boosting job prospects. These bankers' fines must be used to create opportunities for those who need them most," he said.

Whilst UNISON members, our fellows citizens and families are forced to rely on food banks out of necessity, the potential Conservative party leader, Jacob Rees Mogg celebrates them as "rather uplifting" when "people

voluntarily...support their fellow citizens". As if we should celebrate the charitable instincts of the public rather than question why, in one of the richest countries in the world, we have people relying on food banks at all.

Many people believe that the banks and those that supported them have caused much of the financial strife that everyday working people are now facing as a day to day struggle. Wage caps, food banks, and debt are a reality that for many people is not of their own making. If our own government can't spend fines for rate rigging from our banks to help the people they have hurt, one wonders what they can do.

For this, and many more reasons UNISON members and many more marched in Manchester this weekend to show the Tories what we really think of them.



### JOIN THE UNISON BRANCH LOTTERY

- \* 3 winners every month—prizes of £100, £50 and £25
- \* only 40p per number
- \* automatic discount on branch social events

for more information contact:

[branchoffice@cardiffunison.co.uk](mailto:branchoffice@cardiffunison.co.uk) / 02920 872 580

And finally...look out for UNISON's trip to the Worcester Victorian Fayre on the 2nd December...

### Three simple ways to join UNISON today:



Join online at  
[joinunison.org](http://joinunison.org)



Call us on  
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Ask your  
UNISON rep for an  
application form