

d Academy **Government Drives Forwa**

Programme

Over the last year the Government's efforts to bribe and cajole schools sector. In West Cheshire nearly half of secondary schools have now into becoming Academies has had some success in the Secondary

given at the expense of Community adopted this status – mainly driven on by financial incentives, Schools.

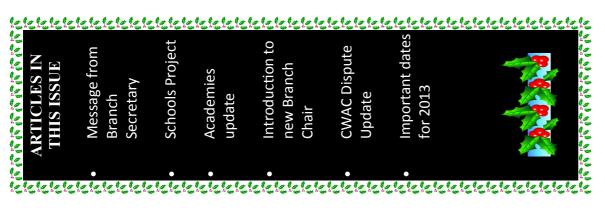
parents, staff or Governors. Three schools are affected in West Cheshire – Willow Wood in Winsford; Academies, regardless of the views of n of Academies – or face having one essure, declaring that hundreds of Rudheath in Northwich; and Wallerscote in Weaverham. These schools are being required to Now the Government has launched a new wave of national pr under-performing primary schools will be required to become "voluntarily" find a "sponsor" – an organisation running a chai imposed upon them by the Government. UNISON, along with the teaching unions, continues to point out that Academy status is no magic wand , the Local Authority has already put in in terms of academic success. In the case of the 3 primary schools that are being forced to become place measures to turn the situation around. There is absolutely no benefit or justification for cal consultation Academies, because they have been rated as "unsatisfactory" steaming-rolling these schools down this route without any lo

pay grades for teachers will clearly spur unions. Most schools, bound by TUPE he short term. And with most schools continuing to pay national pay rates and give national terms and conditions, schools know that staff Academy, but from the Government's would vote with their feet if terms were cut. However, as the number of Community schools decreases there is little doubt that academies will start to move in this direction. For teachers, viewpoint it is about breaking up national bargaining by trade legislation, promise to maintain staff terms and conditions in t Staff may well see little immediate change from becoming an Michael Gove's recent announcement about ending national

teachers, are opposed to schools being forced to become Academies. In schools deemed to be failing, es can disappear once they are outside oppose the imposition of Academy status, UNISON and the teaching unions are willing to take up that Already we have seen cleaning and IT staff will undoubtedly feel vulnerable. However, wherever parents, Governors or staff are willing to advertised. UNISON and all the other education unions, including the National Association of Headthe Council family – where equal pay claims are possible. We will need to watch carefully for any attempts to undermine or move away from the NJC Job Evaluation Scheme when new jobs are grounds maintenance and fight and to stand with local members in resisting this Government dogma. staff outsourced by Academies. Teaching Assistants, catering, administrative staff will all find their ability to defend job grad Support staff are potentially at the sharp end of such changes

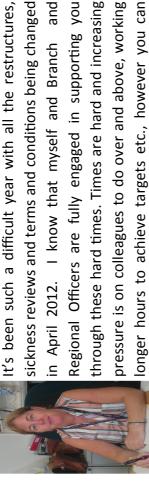
and young people with complex health needs are being put at risk as staff are being pressurised into caring for them without enough training or support. We are calling on schools, local authorities and providing support to pupils with health needs. The results show that a growing number of children published the results of a survey on the government to take action. Dawn Moulton Assistant Branch Secretary and Schools Lead Additionally, for your information UNISON and the RCN have

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT UNISON



UNISON WEST CHESHIRE GREETINGS FROM BRANCH





only do what you can do and I emphasize that colleagues

voluntary organizations I know it is difficult as cuts to funding is effecting UNISON is still continuing to challenge the implementation of the terms yourselves. We need to stay strong and united during these austerity and conditions. With regards to Universities, Colleges and other need to look after themselves and their well being.

We have a large membership but we NEED more members to ensure that we continue to have a voice and more influence on this Tory

imes and hopefully we can get through this.

On behalf of myself and all Branch Officers may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year



need to contact the Branch and let us know on 01244 346894. members are welcome to attend. If you would like to join the meetings with local Labour Councillors and all Labour Link Branch Labour Link, it won't cost you a penny, but you will West Cheshire UNISON Branch has started to have regular



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HAVE

3 UNISON Organisers, Barney Wakefield, Adam Flanders and Margi Hill have been conducting an Organising Campaign in West Cheshire Schools since July. members, potential members and stewards Detailed mapping of schools has taken place which has involved identifying

and organising in High Schools became the priority. have taken place at every school in West Cheshire however branch officers and organisers believed that a more targeted approach was needed and recruiting At the beginning of the project it was hoped that visits and drop in sessions would

Schools and further to this a number of feeder Primary Schools have received Recruiting and Organising events and meetings have taken place in 10 High visits being arranged. visits and recruitment materials have been delivered to the schools with further

Has it been successful?

elected. Improvements have been made in communications with schools and members and the target now is to achieve at least one contact in every school So far 34 new members have been recruited and 4 new stewards have been

Branch will deal with any issues that arise out of this project. problems, pension issues and the issue of administration of medicines. The Common issues that are affecting members include contracts of employment

Barney, Adam and Margie will continue to

- Discuss the importance of being in a union
- Explain the most effective way to take part and access UNISON
- Recruit members and representatives
- Help develop and mentor activists
- Raise the profile of UNISON throughout schools and produce regular
- Follow up recruitment with members meetings

If you are a Schools member and would like the opportunity to meet with your West Cheshire Branch on 01244 346894 union and for the Organisers to visit your school please contact Dawn Moulton at

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DID YOU KNOW?

savings and added value offers but UNISON also requires endorsement not only must they be able to offer members companies as UNISON Plus approved suppliers. To get this membership benefits...UNISON has appointed 16 That as a UNISON member you can receive a number of

your branch on 01244 346894 unions aims and objectives. Contact your local steward to find out more or ring them to operate very high standards of customer care and to support the

CWAC Dispute Update

yet to be resolved between UNISON and and Chester Council. You will be aware that the current terms other unions and Cheshire West and conditions dispute is a matter

We have demonstrated how strongly members felt about the drastic cuts in industrial action including strike action earlier this year. Terms and conditions, especially on low paid women members, by taking



advice we registered tribunal claims on behalf of 3000+ members against Cheshire West and Chester negotiating table . However discussions did not move the issue forward and as a result of further legal This action and further representations by trade unions resulted in the employer returning to the

I encourage you to sign and return the letter and show your support. Thompson's UNISON's solicitors have written to all members of Cheshire West and Chester Council, can

end we will update all affected members of any change or progress in the current situation. our priority is to oppose these cuts and protect our member's interests using every available means. To but we have not yet received a reply. We UNISON has written to Cheshire West and Chester Council in November regarding the dispute and claim are concerned that this matter is taking so long to resolve but

HELLO FROM THE **NEW BRANCH** CHAIR

the Council since May Wright and I been employed My Name is with Geoff have

since 1982 and have learning during that time. children and worked residential My substantive have worked in Adult with ₫: Š settings post is isability adults ervices, both

shown as they support vulnerable colleagues dedication that so steward in 2011. I Secretary been seconded as service users. I have the hard work and have seen firsthand became the Unison Assistant Networks where I of. at the Branch have щv

since June, 2012 and I Diploma at Manchester am completing a Law that in my spare time I role in Unison so much I am enjoying my new times with the Council. them through difficult members and helping have learned so much my time in the office. I have thoroughly enjoyed Unison office in Chester supporting



AGM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

County Sports Clul Plas Newton Lane Chester
5pm—6.30pm
Tuesday 5th February

The Drumber Monday 11th 12pm-1pm February Centre

Winsford Lifestyle Winsford CW7 1AD

CH2 1PR

St Marys Centre Tuesday 12th 12pm-1pm February

Wednesday 13th

February

St Marys Hill **CH1 2DW** Cheshire **Ellesmere Port Civic Ellesmere Port** 12pm -1pm Civic Way **CH65 0AZ** Cheshire

Chester