



May 2010

## Thank you for your support

Dear colleague

Our joint campaign with the NAHT against SATs provides a great example of unions working together. Many of you will have participated in the boycott of the KS2 tests in English and mathematics. For that many thanks; the boycott has forced the issue of assessment reform to the forefront of the political agenda, even at a time of political turmoil.

As a result of the strength of support for the boycott, there will be very many parts of the country where it is not possible to construct the pernicious league tables that blight our education system.

Some colleagues did not feel able to take part in the boycott for a variety of reasons that we understand and respect. We remain confident that the vast majority of head teachers and school leadership staff support the aims of our educational campaign for assessment reform. There is a shared understanding across the profession that agrees with the House of Commons' Children, Schools and Families Select Committee finding of January 2010 that high stakes tests and league tables do lead to pressures to "teach to the test, narrow the curriculum and inappropriately focus resources on borderline candidates".

### **Taking the campaign forward – with a new government**

The change of government presents an opportunity we should not miss. Both coalition partners have expressed some concerns about the current arrangements. I am therefore urging you to act now. Please go to [www.teachers.org.uk/assessment](http://www.teachers.org.uk/assessment) to email your new MP to seek their support for our alternative to SATs and league tables.

Thank you so much for all you have done so far to support the campaign. Together we can win reform of the assessment system and end league tables.

Yours sincerely

Christine Blower  
General Secretary

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

HAMILTON HOUSE MABLEDON PLACE LONDON WC1H 9BD  
TELEPHONE 020 7388 6191 FAX 020 7387 8458

GENERAL SECRETARY: CHRISTINE BLOWER DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY KEVIN COURTNEY

U4 6814/05/10