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Inaugural ATL Lecture Success

The inaugural ATL Scotland Policy Lecture saw Dr Mary Bousted, ATL General Secretary speak to an invited audience of MSPs, civil servants, academics, sector stakeholders and ATL Members.



Credit Crunch Starts to Bite

Since the turn of the year the ATL Scotland office has advised members directly affected by potential redundancies in two different independent schools. Whilst we hope this isn't the start of a pattern across the country, it is important that you know what to do if your school does announce that it is considering redundancies. The starting point is your contract of employment, school redundancy policy or staff handbook. The purpose of a redundancy policy and procedure is to ensure that it is clear to all how this difficult situation will be dealt with. A good policy will allow for the process to be dealt with in a fair, consistent and timely manner.

With or without a policy in place we would recommend that you immediately contact your ATL rep in school and if you don't have one then contact the ATL Scotland office. The sooner we are notified the quicker we can offer the support and assistance to ensure that members are treated fairly.

It is important that the relevant pieces of legislation and school policies are followed correctly and ATL can advise you on this. There must be meaningful consultation with staff and in cases where there is the threat of more than 20 redundancies, specific legislation applies. A failure to follow its own redundancy policy and procedure

or the legislation will also leave a school open to challenge.

In this difficult financial climate it is more important than ever that staff in schools belong to a trade union. Take this opportunity to ask your colleagues if they are members of a trade union. If not then ask them to join ATL. If your school informs staff of a potential redundancy scenario and your colleagues are not in a trade union it is unlikely that they will then be able to join after the school's announcement in order to receive the advice and support needed at such difficult times.

Further information on the issue can be found on the ATL website or in the ATL publication *Working in the independent sector*.

CPD Seminar, 11/3/09

This term's CPD seminar will be held at the Huntingtower Hotel, near Perth (from 6pm for 6.30pm). The seminar, open to all members, will be led by Margaret Orr from CPD Scotland on the theme of 'Creative CPD in Credit Crunch Times'.

Reps Network Meeting 22/4/09

The Reps Network will be held at the Huntingtower Hotel, near Perth (from 6pm for 6.30pm). Reps, contacts and all interested members are invited to attend the meeting which will discuss what you should do if your school is facing potential redundancies, workload issues in school and recognition.

ATL Future Event, 25/4/09

This term's event will be held at ATL Scotland's office in Edinburgh (from 10am for 10.30am). Probationers, final year students and PGDE students are invited to attend the event which will focus on job hunting.

To reserve a place at any of the events email Scotland@atl.org.uk or call 0131 272 2748

ATL welcomes new staff member

ATL Scotland welcomes Michael Higgins as the new Organiser/Caseworker (Scotland). Michael brings a wealth of experience in trade union organising and is looking forward to meeting members across the country in the coming months.

ATL Scotland Update

Since the last newsletter ATL Scotland has:

- held the inaugural ATL Scotland Policy Lecture
- held an ATL Future event
- held a CPD Seminar
- visited members at schools
- submitted a response to the consultation on the *Next Generation of Qualifications*
- met with senior civil servants to put forward ATL's policy positions
- lobbied MSPs
- met with a leading CPD provider to discuss a potential partnership
- responded to the consultation on draft Standards for Chartered Teachers

Scottish Education Awards

ATL is pleased to support the Scottish Education Awards 2009. The awards celebrate the hard work and success which takes place in Scottish education. To find out more about the awards or to nominate a colleague go to: <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottisheducationawards/>

MA in Education with Edge Hill University

Last year ATL announced it had brokered an innovative partnership with Edge Hill University whereby members could access CPD modules leading to a MA in Education for a significantly reduced fee of £550 (2008 rates). (<http://www.atl.org.uk/training-and-events/learning-and-development/CPD-partnership.asp>) Keith Robson, National Official (Scotland) is studying for the MA and will in the next few months be contacting members asking for their participation in a short survey as part of his research on ATL's CPD provision in Scotland. Keith would very much appreciate your assistance when the time comes.



ATL Scotland

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ATL + 20% discount on road rescue cover available through ATL's relationship with Britannia Rescue

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