

Electricians Re-grade claim sparks tension

The Re-grade hearing for Electricians is still yet to be concluded, despite it being submitted in April. Management adjourned the first meeting in confusion. Once reconvened the union's pointed out that the Chair needed to be trained in job evaluation in line with national terms and conditions. Once the Chair confirmed they were not, the meeting was adjourned by the trade unions. UNISON is awaiting the re-grade appeal to be reconvened. The worrying sign for all is the attempt to stop a re-grade claim challenging the application of the job evaluation factors as per the Green book of national terms and conditions.

Serco to Pay Additional Overtime Rate

A deal that will see Serco budget for an additional 8.5% to pay Holiday Pay Allowance has been struck that will see the additional payments on any overtime being back dated to January 2018. This was part of discussions that sees the pay date move to the 28th.

Sick Pay at SLT

UNISON has argued successfully for management at Sandwell Leisure Trust to avoid discouraging physical activity amongst its own staff by not paying sick pay for any sporting injuries. A paper was presented to the trade unions that included the proposal 'implement not paying occupational sick pay for e.g. sporting injuries, extreme hobbies etc'. This has now been amended to not paying sick pay for injuries received during any professional sport (in line with national terms and conditions) and where there is repeated absence because of playing a sport against medical advice.

Re-Grade Claim by CSA's

Customer Service Assistants working in Neighbourhood Offices, with the support of both UNISON and Unite, have submitted a re-grade HR5 form. The C graded officers believe that their current job evaluation scores do not properly reflect the tasks they undertake.

Big Restructures Back on?

A large restructure affecting over 150 staff in Legal & Governance has just been announced.

Check out www.sandwellunison.co.uk for latest news stories from your UNISON Branch.

Rebellion at Wednesbury Oak

Serious concerns have been raised by staff and parents at Wednesbury Oak Academy following the announcement of a previous Head Teacher returning to their post.

The workforce is strongly unionised and action is being taken to argue that the Head's return is untenable and not in the best interests of the school and the pupils.

A statement of no confidence has been submitted by UNISON on behalf of the members.



Corbyn Stands Up for Education

Assistant Branch Secretary for Education, Louise Harrisen-Powis, met Jeremy Corbyn in Halesowen town centre on Saturday 29 September, after he made a rousing speech to hundreds of supporters.

Corbyn condemned the current government for continuing to give tax hand-outs to the rich whilst schools were being starved of funds. Making reference to the two thousand headteachers that had marched against further cuts to school budgets, Corbyn pledged to end the cuts and bring back free education, ending the huge debt burdens placed on youngsters going to university. Corbyn also pledged that a future Labour government would bring in 30 hours free nursery care per week for all 2-4 year olds.

Louise said, "Jeremy was both passionate and caring. It is clear that to stop the cuts in our schools we need a Corbyn led Labour government as soon as possible."