



February 2014

TUI BALLOT ON JUNIOR CYCLE & LUNCHTIME PROTEST

TUI members are to be balloted in March for industrial action in response to the planned changes to the Junior Cycle.

It is vital that you **VOTE YES** for industrial action in order to ensure that teachers' concerns about the new Junior Cycle are addressed and that standards, fairness and quality are safeguarded.

A TUI News Special will issue to members in advance of the ballot.

Why are we balloting?

In a series of bilateral meetings over several months, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) failed to provide the union with concrete and practical details regarding the changes to the Junior Cycle. In December, TUI set a deadline of January 17th 2014 for the DES to provide full information that it could objectively consider. Again, the DES failed to do so and TUI was left unconvinced that the planned changes will be adequately resourced, will not result in a diminution of standards and will maintain equity.

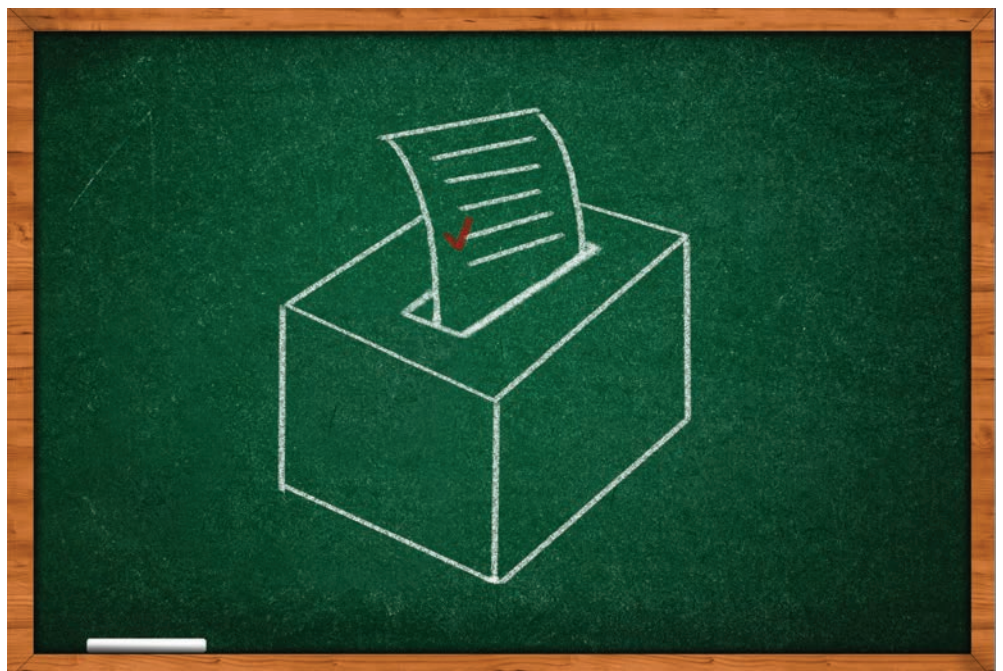
The DES has had many opportunities to answer our questions and concerns but to date they have not afforded us any real engagement. Instead they have

employed a strategy of 'drift' towards the date of implementation.

We must now take a stand in order to assert our sincere and broad-ranging concerns about the proposed change and to ensure

the service provided to our students is protected.

A **Yes Vote** in a ballot of members will signal clearly to the Minister and the Department that any attempt to impose school-based assessment will be resisted



VOTE YES

by teachers out of concern for standards.

A **Yes Vote** will give authority to the Executive Committee to issue a directive to all members impacted by the planned changes to take appropriate industrial action.

A **Yes Vote** is also being sought by our sister union, ASTI. This is an issue where all teachers can make common cause in order to safeguard the service provided to our students.

What are we balloting on?

The ballot will ask members if they agree to take industrial action as directed by the TUI Executive Committee.

The action may include non-cooperation with the following Junior Cycle Framework activities:

- Assessment for certification or award purposes
- Continuing Professional Development
- Planning
- Network School activities
- Engagement in Short Courses

And/or any event, activity or function related to these.

The action may also include strike action at the appropriate time/s.

When will the union be balloting?

Ballot papers will issue from TUI Head Office on Tuesday, 11th of March, to arrive in schools on Wednesday, 12th of March. The ballot will close at 5pm on Wednesday, 26th of March.

Why should I be concerned about the changes to Junior Cycle?

Lack of information & consultation

- There is a lack of concrete information about how the new Junior Cycle will work in practice and how it will be resourced.
- Meaningful engagement and consultation with teachers and their unions has not taken place.
- TUI is concerned that the system lacks capacity to take on such significant change after several years of severe education cuts.

Assessment

- The planned discontinuation of external moderation puts standards at risk.
- The move to school based assessment raises serious questions regarding the validity / reliability / predictability of results.

- The planned 'school-based' certificate will lead to unfairness and a lack of equity in the system. The public's perception of the value of one school's certificate over another's may lead to some schools becoming marginalised.

Workload implications

- TUI has serious concerns regarding an increased bureaucratic workload that will deflect teachers from their integral teaching role.
- The multiplicity of overlapping assessment events will increase pressure on an already overstretched and overworked teaching population.
- The changes take no account of the existing heavy workloads of teachers, including work becoming competed at home. The planned changes will result in workload further encroaching into teachers' personal time.

For details of

Lunchtime

Protest

on Tuesday,

11th March, 2014

see page 3

VOTE YES



LUNCHTIME PROTEST

Tuesday, 11th March



Public Statement by 27,000 Second-Level Teachers

Take your message outside the school gate and make sure it is heard

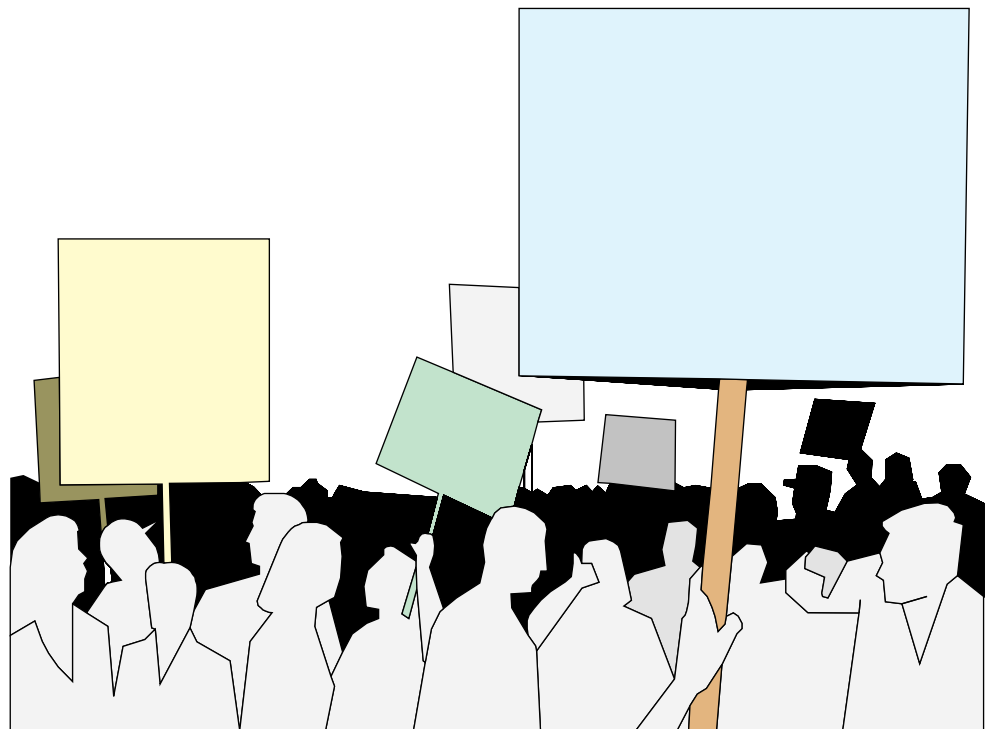
Teachers' concerns about the Junior Cycle Framework matter. This lunchtime protest will highlight the depth of feeling amongst teachers to parents, the wider public and the Minister.

Protest for Standards, Equity, Quality and Fairness in Junior Cycle education

Protest for a fair, impartial and transparent Junior Cycle exam system

Protest for training, resources and supports for teachers

This is your chance to show how you feel



For details visit

www.tui.ie