



## UNITE IN SCHOOLS July-December 2014

The Unite Community team has taken overall responsibility for coordinating the Unite in Schools programme, developing relationships with schools to facilitate curriculum access, including with our teaching unions, and working closely with Unite's regional education officers on the provision of trained speakers for agreed sessions. Separate arrangements are in place for Ireland and Scotland where the ICTU and STUC have their own initiatives.

The programme primarily targets pupils aged 14-16 (key stage 4) but Unite will also deliver to 16-18-year-olds in 6<sup>th</sup> forms and students in colleges and universities where we have relationships. Close to 1600 secondary schools and colleges have now been written to and personal follow up calls are in progress, a positive response has already been received from 126 schools, many of whom have already had initial sessions with follow up's planned. We have trained over 100 activists to operate the programme to date with more training sessions planned over the coming months.

- The initial responses have been very encouraging and while the scale of the project is challenging for us, we are very confident that the programme will be a huge success and the reach of Unite into our schools and wider communities will go from strength to strength over the coming months.

### UNITE IN SCHOOLS MATERIALS

A new package of materials have been produced (see attached) by Barry Faulkner from the Education Department using modern learning methods encouraging student discussion and active learning exercises. The materials include short films, lesson plans and info graphics; a brief history of trade unions, what unions do and seven interactive exercises all of which have been very well received in the schools where sessions have already taken place.



The materials are available on memory sticks for our network of trained speakers, thereby significantly reducing print costs and allowing us to change and adapt as we get feedback on what works well and our experience grows. There are nearly 3,400 secondary schools in England and Wales educating 3.2m pupils, providing us with a big challenge but fantastic opportunity to engage with young people.

### TRAINING SPEAKERS

Unite community coordinators have been working with regional education officers in identifying trade unionists to become Unite in Schools speakers. We've delivered seven training events and over 100 speakers have been trained. Public speaking training has also been provided ensuring speakers have the skills to engage pupils so that the sessions are interactive and pupils debate the issues we raise.



## MONITORING FEEDBACK

For Unite in Schools to be a success we need to monitor the effectiveness of sessions we deliver. A key element of the relationships we build is that there will be follow up reviews of sessions and future development activities agreed.

*"I'm very pleased to say the students found Dave's presentation useful. Having spoken to some of them yesterday, they said the talk was pitched just right, was inspiring, and - crucially - galvanised them to seek out their own workplace union. All in all Dave provided a much-needed corrective to the neoliberal employability agenda all courses are required to push."*

*Phil Burton-Cartledge, Derby University*

## EXTENDING OUR REACH

There are 3,127 secondary schools educating 3,055,460 pupils in England and 223 in Wales with 205,421 pupils. With these numbers Unite's network of speakers would struggle to hit every school. Given this, Unite is looking to work with the NUT and other teaching unions to encourage teachers to support our Unite in Schools sessions, school governors, members with school age children and councilors' sitting as Local Authority links.

We have linked up with the **Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) Association** providing support for teachers with 'off the shelf' materials in this area of the curriculum, a relationship that is already leading to a knowledge of our programme, materials and activities that is sparking an interest in further work.

