**NEWS FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: JUNE 2020**

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Thank you for your continued membership of the LDEA. We hope you are well and coping with the current situation. If you are still working in the Education sector, we are aware that not only is the hard work continuing, but in some cases, you are working harder than ever trying to cope with the return to school as well as the online learning.

We hope you find the items below of interest.

# COVID-19 AND THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Over a month ago we were contacted by the NEU. During March, April and early May they had sent three documents to government about the school situation in order to assist in the planning for the next few months. They had no response. So we forwarded the documents to Layla Moran MP and to our spokespeople in the Lords. Baroness Garden was able to raise 6 questions and Layla was able to ask Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, lots of questions in the Commons. The responses were vague and took us no further forward. In particular we should all be concerned at the reluctance of government to consult before Boris makes his simplistic announcements.

Now the issues around Further Education colleges over the next few weeks and Higher Education for the next academic year are being widely talked about and students are anxious.

**If you have comments to make from your experience, then do please** [**let us know**](#_CONTACT_US).

# LEADERSHIP ELECTION AND LDEA/NEU HUSTINGS

We and the NEU have put forward a proposal for an online hustings on Education generally and young people in particular. At the moment we are awaiting a response from the party team who are organising the leadership election events. A date soon after close of nominations has been suggested by the NEU, who organised a similar event for the Labour party. We in LDEA are keen to see more contact with teachers in particular, since from 2010 onwards we lost much support from them. Education is at the centre of what Liberal Democrats stand for, though it rarely features prominently in local or national elections. Nigel, our chair, sees it as integrated within our overall message to the nation about inequality and quality of life.

**Please** [**contact us**](#_CONTACT_US) **with any questions you would like put to our leadership candidates**.

# WRITTEN ARTICLES WANTED

We are compiling our annual conference booklet and invite you to write an article for it. You could write about something you have experienced with consequences for education policy, your view of the purpose of education with its practical implications, something based on information that you have gathered or how you feel the party should proceed for the future of education etc. Articles should be between 400 and 800 words in length, written in a way that non-specialists can understand, with references to documents that may have informed the article.

**Please contact, or send your contribution to, the editor Helen Flynn,** [**helenflynn@me.com**](helenflynn%40me.com) **as soon as possible, but no later than 31 July.**

# INTERNAL LDEA MATTERS

Due to the cancellation of spring conference, we were not able to hold our AGM. We decided therefore, to carry on with the current executive committee for the time being. We will organise an online meeting either during the proposed autumn online conference or around that time. The party is at a pivotal point in its history and needs to develop a coherent message to the public as well as to government, with Education playing a part in that.

If you can help in any way, please let us know.

We are also planning to have an online fringe meeting at the Autumn conference, working with the NEU, probably doing what we had planned to do for the Spring conference, i.e. on the impact of poverty on Education outcomes and the need for more support for schools.

# CONTACT US

Please drop us a line via e-mail regarding any matters of interest or concern!

**Nigel Jones (chair):** [nigel.jones@uwclub.net](nigel.jones%40uwclub.net)

**Em Dean (secretary):** secretary@ldea.org.uk

# LDEA ONLINE

Don’t forget our website and social media channels! Our Twitter account is updated regularly with education news and information about our parliamentary team’s ongoing contributions. We also have a lively Facebook discussion group where LDEA members, and other members of the Liberal Democrats, can ask questions and share views.

**Website:** <http://ldea.org.uk>
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/LDEA\_UK](http://www.twitter.com/LDEA_UK)
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/groups/LDEA.discussion](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LDEA.discussion)