

ALL OUT FOR JUNE 30TH

**Teachers, students, parents
and support staff,**



WE are all in this together

WHAT'S THE STRIKE ABOUT?

The government wants to increase the retirement age from 65 to 68 and increase the amount teachers pay toward pensions – up to £100 per month. Besides being a real-terms pay cut, this is obviously a taste of what's to come. In the private sector, employers have already clawed back a pension system that took decades to win. Now employers have set their sights on public sector workers as well. Make no mistake, this is the first shot in a coming assault on pension provision across the public sector. We need to beat back this attack and then use that momentum to fight for better pensions and a decent retirement age in both the public and private sectors.

BUT WON'T A STRIKE NEGATIVELY IMPACT STUDENTS?

Of course as education workers we don't want to strike. We work in schools because we value education and want the best for our students. This strike, however, is as much about students as it is about us. We don't want a situation where education workers have insecure employment or, even worse, have to work a second job. Education is a high stress industry (and one that, especially for support staff, comes with a culture of unpaid overtime) and the government's changes will only make that worse. What's needed is better conditions, more staff, better facilities and smaller class sizes. This is what will create better schools and better educated students. Instead the government is targeting those of us at the point of service to implement an agenda that will create further demoralisation in the industry. No one wins in this scenario – not teachers, not support staff, not parents and certainly not students.

More to the point, the fight for good jobs doesn't just affect today's workforce. If the government succeeds in gutting our pensions that will mean the next generation of workers – the students we teach – will have worse working conditions and an insecure retirement as well.

WHAT CAN A NON-TEACHING EDUCATION WORKER, STUDENT, OR PARENT DO?

Firstly, if you work in a school, don't cross picket lines! If you're a student, talk to staff and ask them how to help out. For parents and students alike, kind words of support make such a difference, but it's even better if you come down to the picket line. Get creative! Make signs or a banner and give school managers who cross picket lines a piece of your mind. Call or email the school or council stating your support for the strike. Even better, start a strike support group!