

News Release

Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Annual Conference • 21 - 24 March 2005 • Torquay



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For education correspondents / newsdesks

ATL's *Teaching to learn* campaign to be reinforced at annual conference

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers' (ATL's) *Teaching to learn* campaign, which aims to put learning at the centre of the education policy agenda, will be reinforced at ATL's annual conference today where a resolution will be proposed to keep up the pressure on the Government.

ATL believes that the Government's emphasis on 'delivering' learning and the continuing domination of performance pressures leads to narrow agendas that ignore the views of children and young people about their learning.

For well over a decade, the increasing politicisation of education and a general reluctance to trust professionals has led to a steady centralisation of control over schools. An increasingly test-driven system has further distorted learning and teaching and narrowed the curriculum.

ATL's *Teaching to learn* campaign calls for an end to relentless testing, a recognition that learning is for life – not just for league tables – and a freedom for educators to enthuse and inspire learners.

Since the campaign began, there are clear signs the Government is listening to what teachers and lecturers are saying. Slowly but surely, ATL's informed approach to shaping education policy means the debate is shifting from tests, targets and tables towards learning and the learner.

Mike Short, a teacher at Corsham Secondary School in Wiltshire and an ATL executive member, will be leading the debate at Conference. Mike Short said: "ATL's determination to put learning and learners at the top of the agenda, place pupils before politics and put the pride back into professionalism will be highlighted at its *Teaching to learn* conference, which will take place in London in June."

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. Diary Date. The Teaching to Learn Conference will be in London on 11 June 2005.
2. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers' Annual Conference is taking place at the Riviera International Conference Centre, in Torquay, from Monday 21 March to Thursday 24 March 2005.
3. The ATL Annual Conference will be broadcast live on the internet at: www.atl.org.uk
4. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) is an independent, registered trade union and professional association, representing approximately 160,000 teachers, lecturers and support staff in maintained and independent schools, sixth form, tertiary and further education colleges in the United Kingdom.
5. ATL exists to protect and improve the status of teachers, lecturers and other professionals involved in delivering education to further their legitimate professional interests.
6. ATL is affiliated to the Trades Union Congress (TUC). It is unaffiliated to any political party and seeks to work constructively with all the main political parties.
7. ATL members receive a regular magazine (*Report*) reflecting ATL policy and other issues affecting the education sector. If you would like to receive a copy of this please call 020 7782 1589.
8. Further information and all press releases are available on ATL's website: www.atl.org.uk