

## **IMMEDIATE**

Monday 11 October 2004

### **'HIGH STANDARDS OF ENTRY TO THE PROFESSION MUST BE MAINTAINED', SAYS NASUWT**

Commenting on news reports about Tristram Jones-Parry, an independent school maths teacher with more than 20 years experience who has been denied the opportunity to work in the state sector as he does not have qualified teacher status, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"The furore being generated about this teacher apparently not being able to work in state schools appears to be out of all proportion.

"I find it difficult to understand why the state sector is apparently being criticised for seeking to maintain high standards of entry to the profession.

"Presumably, the indignation being expressed at Mr Jones-Parry's rejection by the GTC stems from an automatic assumption by some that teachers in independent schools are of better quality and are better qualified than their state school counterparts, regardless of whether they have the required formal qualifications.

"It is a similar misconception which perpetuates the equally erroneous view that all independent schools provide a higher standard of education than state schools.

"If Mr Jones-Parry is committed to working in the state sector then there are routes by which his qualifications and competence can be assessed quickly to enable him to take up employment if he meets the required standard. I am sure the Teacher Training Agency will be able to point him in the right direction."

**ENDS**

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**National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers**