

**NUT backs Miliband's rejection of !A! level criticism**

Responding to the Schools Minister David Miliband's speech (today, Tuesday 17 August), Steve Sinnott, General Secretary of Britain's biggest teachers' organisation, the National Union of Teachers, said:

“The Minister is right and it's about time it was said. Our pupils and our teachers work extremely hard to achieve and each year they are told their achievements are not worth the paper they are written on. But those criticisms come from those who believe that scarcity is an expression of quality.

“They fail to understand that children strive to achieve their own potential. It is not a competition: it is about doing the best you can for yourself. If thousands are achieving the levels that were only available to the few, that does not mean dumbing down. It means ever rising levels of effort and success.

“Some people cannot handle the fact that the children of this country are capable of huge achievement and they put their efforts down in order to build up the achievements of the few. They are into elitism. The NUT and the Government have the same agenda: we both want the best possible opportunities for every child and we want to celebrate the achievements of each child.”

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**For further information contact: Olive Forsythe 07879 480061**