

20 January 2005

INDUSTRIAL ACTION IMMINENT

NASUWT members at Barr Beacon Language College in Walsall have balloted overwhelmingly in favour of taking industrial action over the failure of the employer to address their concerns over the poor management of the College.

The industrial action will consist in the first instance of one day of strike action on 26 January 2005.

Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK and the Union which represents the overwhelming majority of the teaching staff at the College said:

"I am extremely disappointed that despite every effort by NASUWT to resolve the dispute we have been left with no option but to take industrial action.

"Members have been expressing concerns about working conditions at the College for a very long time. They have been extremely patient and have maintained their concern for and commitment to the students in difficult and stressful circumstances. Investigations have been carried out and an action plan produced but there has been no significant improvement.

"NASUWT is more than willing to continue to engage in constructive dialogue with the College management to seek to avoid the need for action on 26 January. I hope that in the interests of all concerned we receive a positive response to our representations and progress is made rapidly towards achieving a satisfactory resolution."