

IMMEDIATE

Thursday 10 June 2004

**Grammar school association's view on Tomlinson needlessly
alarmist says NASUWT**

Commenting on the statement by the National Grammar Schools Association (NGSA) that Mike Tomlinson's review of 14-19 education will lead to a dumbing down of educational standards, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT (the teachers' union with 223,500 members), said:

"The NGSA's response to Tomlinson is needlessly alarmist and misleading. Claims that the proposal for a diploma constitute a radical/sociological/Marxist concept of equality of results are ludicrous and serve only to deflect from the important work currently being undertaken.

"Everyone concerned for the education of all our young people wants to see a system which allows students to achieve the highest possible standard of education. Anyone who has read the Tomlinson proposals knows that suggestions that it seeks to drag down academic standards are pure nonsense.

"Instead of raising fears about agendas that do not exist, the NGSA should spend its time more productively by reflecting on how it can work constructively with those involved in the Tomlinson review to create a well-funded, high-quality and equitable education system in the years to come."

ENDS

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