

## Elections 2009

### Vote No. 1 Education

The ASTI is asking all members to make education cutbacks an issue in the upcoming local elections, European elections and the Dublin by-elections.

These elections provide us with an opportunity to tell our politicians how the education cutbacks are affecting second-level schools.

#### What the education cutbacks mean for schools

- Larger classes
- Disadvantaged students targeted
- Teachers losing jobs
- Subjects being dropped
- School books scheme hit
- Subject grants abolished
- Posts of responsibility embargo

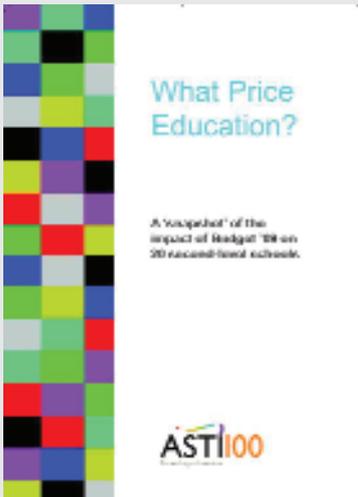
### Vote No. 1 Education

#### Inside this issue:

Questions for politicians 2

Teaching Council  
Bursaries 4

Questions for politicians - see inside



### What Price Education?

ASTI research on the impact of the education cutbacks shows schools losing between one and five teachers next year.

Download the report at [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie).

# Elections 09

## Questions for Politicians

The ASTI is asking all members to make the education cutbacks an issue in the upcoming local elections, European elections and the Dublin by-elections.

These elections provide us with an opportunity to tell our politicians how the education cutbacks are affecting second-level schools.

It is important to highlight the importance of education for economic recovery. The pupils in our classrooms will compete in a world labour market where education is the only currency.



### Key issues to highlight with politicians and canvassers

#### Larger classes

The worsening of the pupil-teacher ratio means even larger class sizes for pupils.

#### Disadvantaged students targeted

Many supports for the most vulnerable have been withdrawn. For example, the capping of language support teachers, the abolition of capitation grants for Traveller students and the abolition of grants for the Junior Certificate Schools Programme, the Leaving Certificate Applied, and the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

#### Schools books schemes hit

Most schools can no longer avail of the School Books Grant Scheme.

#### Teachers losing jobs

Schools are losing between one and five teachers.

#### Subject grants abolished

Grants for Transition Year, physics and chemistry, home economics and school choirs and orchestras have been withdrawn.

#### Posts of responsibility embargo

The moratorium on posts of responsibility will lead to a skeleton school system with a narrow focus.

#### Appalling funding record

Second-level schools were already operating on a shoestring before these cutbacks were announced. The annual OECD report, Education at a Glance has consistently placed Ireland near the bottom of the league when it comes to investment in our second-level pupils relative to GDP per capita.

### Questions to ask politicians / canvassers

**What is your view of the education cutbacks?**

**How is your party opposing these cutbacks?**

**What can you do to help the campaign to have the education cutbacks reversed?**



Pictured taking a break from proceedings at ASTI Convention 2009 are John Galligan, Noelle Moran, and Padraic Kavanagh

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### Latin course

The Classical Teachers Association of Ireland is running a course from Autumn aimed at new and established language or classics teachers. The course is particularly suited to teachers who are already qualified in one subject, but would like to add another string to their bow. Special fee available to teachers/future teachers. For more information email [mayboissel@hotmail.com](mailto:mayboissel@hotmail.com) or visit [www.caiteachers.com](http://www.caiteachers.com).

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The Cork South Branch recently held a function to celebrate the ASTI centenary. Pictured (left to right) are: former ASTI President, John Mulcahy; ASTI President, Pat Hurley; and former ASTI President, Padraig O'Riordain.

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### Attention teachers of science and maths

Are you on career break or job-sharing?

If so, you might like to be considered for a panel of occasional lecturers who supervise the teaching practice of undergraduate science education students.

If interested, contact Dr Gerry Jeffers, Education Department, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. [gerard.jeffers@nuim.ie](mailto:gerard.jeffers@nuim.ie).

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## Teaching Council Bursaries

The Teaching Council has awarded 28 research bursaries totalling €98,250 as part of its third scheme of research bursaries.

The bursaries were presented at award ceremonies in Maynooth and Limerick, to 21 registered teachers and seven others who are undertaking research with a focus on teaching, learning and assessment. Their research covers a variety of areas including:

- ◆ The role of guidance counsellors
- ◆ The interaction of school and community
- ◆ Increasing the cognitive ability and thinking skills of Junior and Leaving Certificate science and chemistry students
- ◆ The impact of intervention programmes on the wellbeing of children diagnosed with dyspraxia
- ◆ The transition from primary school to secondary school
- ◆ Teachers' use of interactive whiteboards
- ◆ Assessing the external examination process in the further education sector



ASTI members recently awarded Teaching Council Bursaries pictured with Teaching Council CEO, Áine Lawlor. Left to right: Áine Lawlor, Teaching Council CEO; Caitríona McGrath, Mary O'Connor, Maria Sheehan and Dr. Jim Gleeson, Teaching Council member.