

# The Bulletin

produced by the Labour Campaign for Free Education

FREE

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@Labour4FreeEd

## GET JEREMY CORBYN ON THE BALLOT FOR LABOUR LEADER

After an uninspiring start to the Labour leadership campaign, the announcement of Jeremy Corbyn's candidacy has generated much excitement and huge pressure on Labour MPs to nominate him. The Collins Review, sold to members as improving engagement, raised the nominations threshold to 15% of the Parliamentary Labour Party (currently 35 MPs). This is an undemocratic Westminster stitch-up which gives MPs an effective veto on the choice of candidates for hundreds of thousands of party members and affiliated trade unionists. The need for a left candidate in the election is clear. Andy Burnham, desperately trying to dispel rumour that he is the "union candidate" is refusing trade union money, pledging to drop the "mansion tax" policy, and told an audience of business leaders that he may back further welfare cuts. Liz Kendall says that cutting tuition fees, even to £6,000, is not a "priority", though is agitating for the UK to reach NATO's target of spending two per cent of GDP on

defence and wants more private-sector involvement in the NHS. Yvette Cooper, meanwhile, has called for "controlled and managed immigration." The buzz around the Corbyn campaign shows that a proper debate around the Labour leadership has the potential to engage wide layers of the wider labour movement, even those outside of the party. Some on the Labour right-wing recognise this too, and have called for candidates with superfluous nominations to transfer support to Corbyn. Most importantly, it demonstrates that below the PLP, which bears the scars of over a decade of Blairite domination of selections, there is a groundswell of activists at the base who want an end to austerity. This is why some of the other candidates are reluctant to transfer nominations to Corbyn - if on the ballot paper, he will be a lightning rod for all of those in the labour movement who want to resist the urge to roll the clock back to New Labour.

*James McAsh has outlined reasons for joining the Labour Party on the next page but even if you're not convinced we still think that you should vote for Motion 12. Here's why.*

**WE ALL WANT FREE EDUCATION** - Whatever you think of the Labour Party we can all agree that it would be a major step forward for free education if that became the party's policy.

**LOTS OF LEFT-LEANING FRESHERS ARE ATTRACTED TO LABOUR** - Plenty of left-leaning students will turn up at Freshers week and look for the Labour Club. If they are lucky it will be left-wing. If not we risk losing the student to the right, or having them give up politics entirely. Even in a right-wing club, a few lefties can have a big impact in recruiting new people and sending them along to the campus activist group.

**SUPPORT YOUR COMRADES** - Some people are good at direct actions, others are good at students' union bureaucracy, others still are good at fighting the Labour-right. No one expects everyone to do everything. But just as left-wing SU Officers should get the SU bureaucracy to support victimised protestors, free education activists should turn up once a year to make sure that all the delegates to Labour Students conference support free education.

**LOLS @ NOLS** - How funny would it be if Labour Students were mandated to support free education at NUS conf?



*Jez we can.*

## JOIN THE LABOUR CAMPAIGN FOR FREE EDUCATION

LCFE brings together Labour members to campaign for free, accessible, and publicly funded education, to be paid for by taxing the rich and big business. We want to push the case for free education in constituency parties (CLPs), Labour Clubs, Young Labour groups, affiliated trade unions and all other areas of the labour movement. We are democratic and open, made up of ordinary Labour Party members. Join us!

## LCFE SUPPORTS THE NCAFC FREE EDUCATION DEMO

*by James Elliott, NCAFC disabled co-rep & LCFE*

We believe that much of what we fight for as free education, like the abolition of fees and the introduction of living grants, could only be won under a Labour government. But we recognise that only mass pressure from below can force that government to act. It was the huge gains of the labour movement that led to the founding of the Labour Party, and built the political platform that led to the creation of the welfare state and the NHS.

We need to revive such mass movements, and they need to include Labour party members too. We will be building for the

free education demonstration within Labour Students by talking to leftwing Labour Clubs and encouraging them to get involved in organising coaches to the demo, and we will continue to have the political argument with Blairites that graduate taxes are not 'progressive' alternatives to challenging capital's assault on our universities and colleges. We're up for this fight, in the Labour Party and in the streets. We hope you join us.

Find the LCFE Bloc on Facebook: [on.fb.me/1JrtPC8](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/1JrtPC8)

## EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

The title may well be familiar but the pledges certainly are not. Last week at London Young Labour summer conference, LCFE launched our official 3-point Education Pledge:

1. Scrap Fees. Abolish tuition fees: no 'contributory principle', including tuition fees and the 'graduate tax', where students or graduates are forced to pay to access education beyond that which they would pay through general taxation.
2. Abolish Free Schools. Support the NUT's stance on Free Schools. We believe it is wrong for state funding to be given to unaccountable groups. Free schools do not best serve students or teachers.
3. Fight For Living Grants. We believe in true accessibility for all. We believe access

to education means not just the absence of tuition fees, but freedom in the positive sense of living grants enabling all to enjoy the benefits of education. Having successfully hosted our first conference, elected an exec committee and launched our first (and now second!) bulletin, LCFE is going from strength to strength. Bolstered by words from Diane Abbott; if free education is good enough for a generation of Labour politicians, it's good enough for all young people, LCFE has launched its campaign to get supporters and leadership candidates alike to sign up to our Education Pledge.

Will you join our fight? Lobby your MPs, councillors and other labour movement officers to take up our pledge!

## VOTE 4 MOTION 12



**INTERESTED IN STARTING THE FIGHT WITHIN THE UNIONS AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT FOR MIGRANTS RIGHTS? COME ALONG TO THE CAUCUS ON SATURDAY LUNCHTIME OF NCAFC CONFERENCE. ASK RIDA VAQUAS FOR MORE INFORMATION.**