

Hello

I am writing to ask that your District please consider nominating me, Amanda Martin, for the role of NEU Deputy General secretary.

I am an experienced, effective NEU leader and activist of over 20 years as well as a practising primary school teacher. Throughout my career I have successfully managed to combine these two roles and believe that I truly represent our profession today.

I was proud to be elected and to serve as NEU National President from September 2019 to August 2020. During my presidential year, although I did not get to visit as many of you in person as I would have liked, I did get to work with so very many NEU members during the national and local zoom calls that I had the immense pleasure to both chair and attend. Representing members during this time has been among my proudest moments and it enabled me to listen to and support so many members ensuring that these voices were heard at union leadership level and informed the way we moved forward.

I worked extensively with our Joint General Secretaries and deputised for them on a number of occasions. Kevin and Mary make a formidable team to their opponents and have been a rock for our members. The experience of working closely with them has been inspirational, giving me the best possible insight into what it means to be part of our NEU leadership team. It has also highlighted the importance of providing our members with the right tools to organise and achieve successes that make a real difference for our members, making them feel proud to be members of the NEU.

For me, being in a union and being the DGS of the NEU means looking at the systems we work in, the terms and conditions we face and the roles we as individuals play in making our union work. Those in the education profession currently face unprecedented challenges, but as well as dealing effectively with these short-term challenges our NEU Leadership Team need to look long-term

If elected I will:

- Work hard to ensure the excellent NEU Social Justice campaigns continue so that our pupils really do get the best chance at education regardless of their background.
- Work to stop the damaging assessment regime that we are putting our pupils and educators through. We should ensure that assessment is for learning and not just for accountability.
- Ensure the Union continues to speak up for a broad, balanced and properly funded curriculum for all from pre school to sixth form and beyond.

For 20 years I have been an advocate of Professional Unity and see that working with our sister unions is a key role of our NEU DGS.

Finally, but by no means least, as a teacher myself I see an exodus of excellent support staff, teachers and leaders from the profession. I want to make sure that our Union gives all members a voice so we can gain back our professionalism and reduce workload, improve our every day terms and conditions, Ensuring that ALL members feel able to represent the NEU at all levels.

Although these campaigns are all important, we are a lay-led union and from my many years experience as a caseworker and Branch & District secretary, I understand the difficulties that we face locally and the balance between organising, supporting and growing our own teams of activists. I will always strive to listen and work with you to overcome any problems that you face. Nurturing and growing future activists and leaders is a real passion of mine. All too often the Union is seen as a mysterious place and I believe it is important, if we are to develop the future of our union, we must break down these barriers.

I may not be the first person to declare that I wish to run in what will be a really important role within our union, but that does not mean that I am not committed or determined to be the voice of our

members and to be the deputy Kevin and Mary deserve. This is my initial introduction letter for those of who you are making nominations.

The nomination and election timetable runs from May to October with the DGS taking up the post in January 2022. I recognise that in 12 months our union, our education system and indeed our country may be in a very different place regarding the issues that we will face and so if elected as DGS I look forward to working with members from all strands and sections of our union so that I can ensure I can act on your behalf. If you would like to be part of this campaign and join me in developing the strengths of our union then it would be great to hear from you. Please keep in touch by clicking on this link:<https://forms.gle/zzkRCVYuDvJ9iGw36>, or email me on AmandaMartin4DGS@gmail.com.

I am ready, keen and willing to take on the role of Deputy General Secretary. Nominating me, will enable the voice of the profession to be at the heart of the National Education Union.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider my nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or wish me to visit your branch and district.

Kind Regards

Amanda