

CORBYN'S PLEDGE: FREE EDUCATION



MAY'S PLAN: HIKE UNI FEES



TORIES OUT!



We Say:

- Fight for Free Education
- Living grants for college and uni students
- Minimum wage of £10hr
- Votes at 16!

socialiststudents.org.uk

As students, we are returning to university and college against the background of an unfolding drama in the form of a general election campaign. Despite Theresa May's refrain that she and her government represent stability, the truth is this snap election is an expression of the turmoil gripping both her party and the capitalist establishment more widely. It is a gamble she can easily lose.

Election

Far from being an inexorable impending disaster, as some have argued, this election actually presents working class and young people with a tremendous opportunity. We must act to prepare the student movement for the battles that are ahead of us – both in the time leading up to 8 June and in its aftermath.

Jeremy Corbyn won his position as Labour leader in two dramatic landslides. He did so by galvanising the enormous pent up rage that exists in society at politics on behalf of the rich 1% – at austerity, racism and war.

Corbyn

Recently, Corbyn's attacks on the 'rigged economy' and pledges including a £10 an hour minimum wage and free education saw the Tories' lead cut in half according to one poll. If Jeremy keeps this up and goes further, May could be faced with a rapid reversal in standings.

It will be on the basis of returning to the approach that won him the leadership race that Corbyn will be able to inspire wider sections of the working class and ultimately defeat the Tories. Since becoming leader, Jeremy has faced constant sabotage from the Blairite rump that still dominates Labour in

parliament and local councils. Far from placating them, Corbyn's approach of retreat and compromise has only served to embolden the right and sow understandable confusion as to what his party stands for.

With a few weeks to go until the election, it's essential that continues with a bold campaign, disregarding the protests of Blairite Sabateurs within Labour's parliamentary ranks.

Student Movement

The student movement, along with workers and trade unions, can play a role in helping to give confidence to Corbyn to stick to his guns. We should be campaigning for Corbyn to pledge not just free education, but living grants for college and university students. We say not only should he pledge an end to NHS and school cuts, but to stop all austerity, take the wealth off the 1% and build a society which works in the interests of the majority – not the tiny rich few.

Socialist Policies

Over the next weeks students and the NUS must do more than organise politically 'neutral' voter registration drives. We should use this as an opportunity to discuss the politics that is needed to transform the lives of our generation. We should be building a movement that can continue to mobilise students to fight whatever government we face following on from 8 June.

This election will not be won or lost on the basis of whether we can knock enough doors and hand out enough leaflets – as important as that may be. The most important question will be whether we can build a mass movement that can bring about a 'political revolution' and kick the Tories out.

Rallies

We should organise rallies on every campus and at every college. There should be protests and demonstrations against Tory austerity, calling for free education. We should link up with NHS campaigners, trade unions, and community activists to build as much momentum as possible. And we should unashamedly make the case for socialist change - for a society in the interests of the 99%.

If you want to be part of trying to build that kind of movement, join Socialist Students today!

**TEXT TO JOIN:
text join plus your
name and school/
college to 07540
189 052**

