



Hello

and welcome to your first e-newsletter.

This edition includes all the latest news and changes happening here at Teachers' Pensions as well as important information about planning for your retirement and ways to boost your pension.



Going digital

Over the last couple of years you may have noticed there have been a few changes at Teachers' Pensions. The way we communicate with you and how you access information has changed in order to work towards the Government's digital strategy.

Find out more about the changes:

- > [Benefit Statement](#)
- > [My Pension Online \(MPO\)](#)
- > [Secure contact us](#)
- > [Online Retirement forms](#)



Find out how Georgina is planning for her future



Georgina, 27 from Goolle.

Georgina, formerly a beautician, has retrained to become a maths teacher. We asked her to share her story.

"Working in the maths field I do think managing finances is important and being aware as a young adult to assure financial security in the future.

As more and more people are managing their financial matters online, it's good to know that Teachers' Pensions are encouraging people to manage their pensions digitally.

Having control of the information at the touch of a button makes a difference. I don't know every single thing about my pension, but I intend to spend more time online and learn even more about how my pension can be made personal to my needs as I progress through my career."

[Read more](#) about how Georgina got into teaching and how she's managing her pension online.

What does retirement mean to you?

You don't have to be on the verge of retirement to start planning for it. In fact, the sooner you familiarise yourself with your options, the more relaxed you'll feel about the whole process. Then hopefully you'll be better placed to make the right decisions about an important phase in your life. Our website is a great resource and depending on how you like to learn, is packed full of information, case studies and videos. Online you can find answers to important questions such as 'When can I retire?', 'How do I apply?' and 'How are my benefits calculated?'

- Visit our [retirement centre](#)
- Watch our getting ready for retirement [video](#)
- Estimate your final pension value using our [online calculator](#)

Make sure you don't delay your retirement plans

Whether you're 5 years or 25 years away from retirement it's important that you regularly check your Benefit Statement to ensure there are no gaps, missing service or incorrect information. Please note our data is received either annually or monthly from your current employer.

If records aren't checked regularly it becomes more difficult to obtain this information with historic employers and can lead to delays in your retirement planning or incorrect information being supplied.



Improving your experience online

As you may be aware we run regular feedback surveys with our members to understand where improvements can be made.

From listening to member feedback, we've worked hard to make things better. We'll be launching an improved site with better search facilities, improved navigation and more streamlined content in March 2017.

We run regular focus groups about all aspects of the Scheme. If you'd like to get involved [email us](#).



What's Monthly Data Collection (MDC)?



From April 2018, all employers have to provide your latest service and salary details on a monthly rather than annual basis. The great news is this means your details will be up to date and when you view your Benefit Statement online it will reflect all of the pension benefits you've accrued, not just those up to the end of the last Scheme year. Download our [factsheet](#) to find out more.

MDC provides multiple benefits. These include:

- Accurate information (service is more up to date), which also reduces queries to your employer about service and salary
- You'll no longer need to complete Certificates of Re-employment in most cases.

To understand how you'll be affected please talk to your employer about their MDC journey.

Boosting your pension

Did you know the Teachers' Pension Scheme provides a number of flexibilities for increasing your benefits?

Depending on which arrangement you're in, there are the following options:

- Additional Pension
- Faster Accrual

[Find out more](#)

You can also make Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) into a separate money purchase scheme, administered by Prudential. Find out more by downloading our [quick guide](#).

Please note there's a limit to the amount of extra pension you can purchase in the Teachers' Pension Scheme, although the limits are increased from time to time. See the [updates section](#) of our website for details on the current maximum amounts.



Pension PlanIt has launched

If you're new to teaching you need to check out our new online hub - Pension PlanIt. Its aim is to help you understand the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the importance of your pension, including many benefits you may not be aware of.

Pension PlanIt includes videos created specifically for new teachers, an introductory factsheet to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, along with links to our calculators. We've developed this in conjunction with new teachers and from their feedback, we've included important information such as 'what is a teacher's pension?', 'how is it made up?' and 'how do I find out more?'



[Access Pension PlanIt here](#)

Go online with HMRC

Why not sign up for a Personal Tax account with HMRC? It takes less than 5 minutes and gives you access to more than 30 services including:

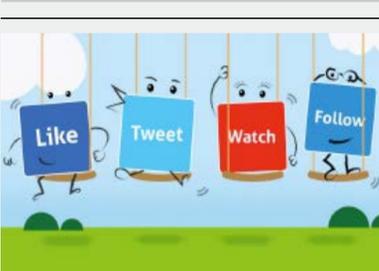
- Updating your personal details
- Check your PAY as You Earn (PAYE)
- See your State Pension forecast

[Find out more](#)

You will need your Government Gateway Credentials to hand but don't worry if you've forgotten them or haven't signed up yet, you can do it quickly online.

P60 and payslip changes

If you're in the process of retiring or thinking about it, please be aware that from April, unless you've requested a paper copy or are over the age of 80, retired members will only be able to access their P60 and monthly payslips online via [My Pension Online](#). Accessing it online means it's more secure and you'll be able to print copies whenever you need to.



Join us online

Are you social? If so, why not engage with us via our Social Media channels? They have all the latest news and information along with extra resources and fun facts and it's an ideal way of checking in with other members!

Be part of the Teachers' Pensions conversation and follow us on social media today.



Register or log in to [My Pension Online](#) today.

