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Countdown to Action on PAY

Ballot Opens 11th December

FE college members in England will receive ballot papers at their home on 11 December and are urged to vote yes for an escalating programme of strike action to secure a better deal than the 1.5% offered by the AoC for this year.

The ballot closes on the 11 January and if positive will mean a one day national strike in the last week of January when we will be also joining colleagues in HE on a parliamentary lobby for more funds and to launch a manifesto for Further, Adult and Higher Education.

If no improved offer is put forward by the employers this one day action will be followed by a further two days and then three days strike action.

This action plan follows the decision of a special branch delegate conference in October to reject the 1.5% offer because it reverses the progress we have made recently on pay parity with schoolteachers.

- Schoolteachers in England have been awarded 2.3%
- Wales teachers have been offered 2.3%
- Sixth form college staff are to get 2.3%
- Some 30% of colleges are still refusing to implement a pay deal signed 5 years ago!

In a period of mass unemployment where 1 million 16-24 year olds are without work, education or training, Further and Adult education is needed more than ever.

It is estimated that within the next ten years 582,000 staff will be needed to plug the gap left by people who are due to leave, many through retirement.

Simple solution: stop making teachers redundant and pay FE lecturers a wage which attracts people into the sector.

For more arguments as to why we should vote **YES** to strike action go to:

https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/b/p/ucufecampaignbriefing_oct09.pdf

Timetable for action:

- Ballot opens 11 December and closes 11 January
- Week beginning 25 January first day of strike action and joint FE/HE lobby of parliament
- Two and then three days strike action in February if no positive response from employers

Firm stand brings progress at Barnsley

Following 3 days of solid strike action, with 3 further days planned, members at Barnsley College have achieved a commitment from management on negotiations to reach agreement over job descriptions and conditions of service for associate teachers. In addition negotiations will address recent changes to the lecturer's job description and transferring agency staff to direct employment.

The dispute concerned the college introducing a downgraded 'associate teacher' role and forcing six existing lecturer members to accept these roles or lose their jobs. At the same time a new job description for lecturers included responsibility for line managing staff - including associate teachers. Industrial action has now been suspended following the agreement to negotiate on these issues.