

UNITED FOR EDUCATION DEMO ON 19TH NOVEMBER

UCU and the National Union of Students (NUS) have confirmed a November national demonstration in central London. Set for Saturday 19 November, the demonstration - 'United For Education' - will represent a rallying call for free, accessible and quality further and higher education across the UK, and to demand an end to the marketisation of university and college education.

This announcement comes following the second reading of the Higher Education and Research Bill in parliament last week, in which MPs voted to progress the bill which includes controversial plans to increase university fees and make it easier for for-profit education providers operate in the UK.

UCU general secretary, Sally Hunt, said: 'Increased university fees and the green light for all sorts of profit-driven colleges to enter UK higher education do not represent a good deal for students or staff. Meanwhile, the government is pursuing a restructure in our further education colleges that risks narrowing choice for students and merging colleges around the country.'

'At a time when we need to show the post-Brexit world that Britain remains open and welcoming to international students, we are delighted our event happening alongside events around the world. Staff and students are united in their defence of high-quality education and we will be taking our message to the streets in November.'

Do all you can to attend the demonstration in Central London on the 19 November 2017.

In solidarity,

Michael Moran – South East Regional official
mmoran@ucu.org.uk

Area Review update

The government reshuffle and subsequent parliamentary recess have led to delays in publishing the findings of the Sussex and Surrey reviews. However, barring any shocks we expect Sussex Coast College Hastings and Sussex Downs College to form some kind of partnership. Northbrook and City College Brighton to begin the path to merger. Plumpton will continue to operate as an independent entity and the outcome is unknown for Central Sussex and Chichester Colleges. It is anticipated that Surrey colleges will remain

independent. The Kent review begins soon but East Kent and Canterbury colleges have already made significant steps towards an eventual merger.

UCU will continue to argue strongly that mergers and partnership working should not lead to economies of scale in provision. The geography of the South East and the resultant student travelling time clearly points to the conclusion that all existing provision should be maintained and, ideally, increased.

Recruit a colleague

It is no surprise that in the branches where we have little local activity management tends to ride roughshod over the interests of our members. Our power is in standing together. With increased attacks from a government depriving FE of resources and, in some institutions, opportunist senior managers turning the screw there has never been a greater need for a campaigning union in FE. If you know of someone you work with who is not a member talk to them about joining. More details on why to join can be found here:

www.ucu.org.uk/join

Did you know...?

Recourse, the support organisation for UCU members, has now joined with those of other educational unions to become the Educational Support Partnership?

It still offers a 24-hour helpline and support for members as before. Details are on the UCU website.

Contact number: 08000 562 561 (helpline) / 07909 341229 (text)

Email: support@edsupport.org.uk Web: www.educationsupportpartnership.org.uk

It pays to be a member

In 2015 UCU recovered over £10 million in compensation for members.

Pay

We expect an offer in response to our pay claim at the next meeting with the AoC (Association of Colleges) on 21 September. We will send you an update as soon after this date as possible.

Useful dates

[Click here for details of UCU training](#) in the region.

Regional Official: Michael Moran

Email: mmoran@ucu.org.uk

Regional Support Official: Adam Lincoln

Email: alincoln@ucu.org.uk

Regional Administrator: Euclid Pires

Email: epires@ucu.org.uk