

**In this issue:**

**10 November Strike**

## 10 November Strike

### **Shadow Chancellor to address UCU Rally**

Next Tuesday, 10 November UCU's further education branches in England, who were balloted and together voted 74% in favour of strike action, will be out on strike to express their anger at the Association of Colleges' (AoC) decision to recommend a pay freeze for all colleges' staff.

We are pleased to announce that The Shadow Chancellor, John McDonnell, together with other MPs, sister unions and sector organisations will speak in support at rallies in London and Birmingham. Further details of both rallies can be found in this FE News. All members who can are urged to attend.

The AoC's recommended pay freeze for 2015/16 is unprecedented. Your take home pay has been declining in value every year for the last six years. This means less money in real terms for you and your family. A pay freeze will only make matters worse.

Since August 2009, the AoC have offered a series of below-inflation pay rises that equal less than 3% in total. When compared with the rising cost of living, FE staff have suffered a pay cut of over 17% in real terms over the same period!

The vote to take strike action is in direct response to the AoC's decision to reject the joint FE unions' 2015/16 pay claim for £1 extra per working hour for all staff and instead recommend their member colleges freeze staff pay for 2015/16.

It is important that we stand together and send the biggest and loudest possible message to colleges that a pay freeze is

just not good enough. It is not good enough for FE staff and it is not good enough for anyone who cares about FE!

Please show that you care by attending the picket outside your college on the morning of 10 November and then join the rally nearest you!

### **London Rally details:**

Members to assemble at **12:45 pm for a 1pm start at:**

**Emmanuel Centre, Lower Hall, 9-23 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3DW**

<http://emmanuelcentre.com/emmanuelcentre-find-us-map.pdf>

Speakers include: **John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor - Sally Hunt, UCU General Secretary -**

**Gordon Marsden, Shadow Minister for Further Education and Skills - UNISON**

**- NUS - Richard McEwan, UCU NEC - and speakers to be confirmed from other invited sector organisations.**

The London rally will move just after 2pm down Marsham Street for a 2:20pm demonstration outside The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills at 1 Victoria St, London SW1H 0ET.

### **Birmingham Rally details:**

Members to assemble for **11am start at:**

**The Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS**

<http://www.bmi.org.uk/location.html>

Speakers include: **Liz Lawrence, UCU President - Darrall Cozens, Coventry Trades Council - Caroline Gray, South & City College Birmingham -** Also solidarity speakers from Junior Doctors in dispute and Refugee Campaigners.