

## welcome to our summer 2018 news round-up

Welcome to our newsletter, which aims to bring you up to date with latest news and seeks your views with all things related to Further Education & Sixth Form colleges across the East Midlands.

### Did you know?

UNISON is recognised by all 21 colleges in the East Midlands? We have seats on negotiating forums where these exist, and UNISON can represent all staff on “support” contracts.

Each year, UNISON holds an annual conference purely for staff members working in the sector. We have a national committee, with two seats for East Midlands reps.

### Latest East Midlands news headlines...

Like many other regions, the East Midlands is concentrating help to members facing mergers of colleges or redundancy exercises.

*West Notts College, Mansfield* Some 85 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are being made redundant. Although joint campaigning has reduced the original number down from 100, the job cuts have equally hit lecturers and support staff. The employer blames a change on government policy about apprenticeship funding. UNISON has equally blamed poor financial decisions by the college, and the reliance on apprenticeships as its core business model.

*Nottingham College* The merger of the former Clarendon and New College Nottingham colleges does not appear to be good news for staff or students. We are now in a third round of redundancies in 12 months and UNISON has been critical of the colleges consultation processes.

*Stephenson College and Loughborough College* Stephenson College has withdrawn all courses

from Nottingham, blaming competition from the newly merged Nottingham College and the cost of its building leases in the city. Just as staff were breaking for the summer, Loughborough and Stephenson Colleges announced they were considering options of a possible merger and UNISON awaits an outcome later this year.

*Lincoln College* At least 18 jobs at risk, but local UNISON reps concerned other restructures or cuts may be threatened next academic year

Changes are happening in most of our colleges, and so now is the ideal time to get active in UNISON so we can all support each other (luckily, just how a union is designed to work!).

### East Midlands network event, Wednesday 3 October 2018

Clearly, this is a time of massive change for out FE and Sixth Form members. As part of UNISON campaigns against job cuts and mergers, we are planning to hold a ‘network’ event for members. This will be held in Leicester on Weds 3 October.

**More details inside.** This is an ideal opportunity to bring together our reps from across the region, and extend an invite to members too. We will have learning sessions and aim to devise a strategy of support for our members — and it is support staff that bear the brunt of attacks on jobs, terms, and pensions. **Why not get involved and sign up to this event?**

### STOP PRESS! Pay Claim for 2018/2019

In July, UNISON and UCU submitted a pay claim to the Association of Colleges for either a 5% or £1500 increase (underpinned by a minimum Living Wage Foundation rate of pay). The AoC has responded with a 5% pay offer (but over 2 years), and dependent on government funding to pay for it. See [www.unison.org.uk/education](http://www.unison.org.uk/education)

# How do I contact my local UNISON branch?

If you don't know how to contact your locally trained UNISON rep, first contact your local UNISON branch for help. For urgent matters out of hours, call UNISON Direct on 08000 857 857 (lines open 6am to midnight Mon-Fri, 9am to 4pm Saturdays). Or message us via the national website: [www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk).

UNISON Branch	Branch phone numbers	For members based at ...
Derby City	01332 643216 or 643217	Derby College
Derbyshire	01629 582 266	Chesterfield College
Leicester City	0116 299 5103	Gateway Sixth Form College
Leicester City	0116 299 5103	Regent College
Leicester City	0116 299 5103	Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College
Leicestershire	0116 305 6153	Brooksby Melton College
Leicestershire	0116 305 6153	Leicester College
Leicestershire	0116 305 6153	Loughborough College
Leicestershire	0116 305 6153	Stephenson College
Leicestershire	0116 305 6153	South Leicestershire College (NWSLC)
Lincolnshire	01522 554 910	Boston College
Lincolnshire	01522 554 910	Grantham College
Lincolnshire	01522 554 910	Lincoln College
Lincolnshire	01522 554 910	New College Stamford
Northamptonshire	01604 670 400	Moulton College
Northamptonshire	01604 670 400	Northampton College
Northamptonshire	01604 670 400	Tresham College (Bedford College Group)
Nottinghamshire	0115 981 0405	Bilborough Sixth Form College
Nottinghamshire	0115 981 0405	Nottingham College
Nottinghamshire	0115 981 0405	Vision West Nottinghamshire College
Nottinghamshire	0115 981 0405	North Notts College, Worksop (RNN Group)

## Reasons why your colleagues should join UNISON #1

Employment tribunal fees were scrapped after **UNISON** won a landmark court victory against the government in July 2017 when the Supreme Court (the UK's highest court) unanimously ruled that the government acted unlawfully and unconstitutionally when it introduced the fees.



Following the verdict, anyone who has been treated illegally or unfairly at work will no longer have to pay to take their employers to court – as a direct result of the **UNISON** legal challenge.

**UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis said:** "When ministers introduced fees they were showing little concern for employees seeking justice following illegal treatment at work. We'll never know how many people missed out because they couldn't afford the expense of fees. But at last this tax on justice has been lifted."

The decision marked the end of a four-year fight by **UNISON** to overturn the government's introduction of fees. So without member like you being in UNISON, all workers would still be faced with these fees. Well done UNISON, the only union to challenge these fees and **WIN**.

### Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

not a member?



Join online at  
[joinunison.org](http://joinunison.org)



Call us on  
0800 171 2193



Ask your UNISON rep  
for an application form

**This event is aimed at ALL current UNISON reps, members interested in supporting our campaigns, and general members wanting to get more involved**

UNISON stewards (reps), Health & Safety Reps, and Union Learning Reps should apply for paid time-off to attend this event. This will update you on latest FE news and update your skills as a local rep too. Please contact your local branch to resolve any issues relating to your attendance.

### Draft outline for the day (9.30am to 4pm) - subject to change



Welcome and introductions  
Update from National Officer &  
Regional Rep on key issues  
Campaign for Fair Funding of the FE Sector  
Bringing the national pay campaign to your college  
Workload stress agreements in Colleges

In attendance to help lead discussions will be Leigh Powell, UNISON National Officer. Plus Yvonne Costello, your regional rep on the National Further Education & Sixth Form Sector Committee.



Yvonne Costello, East Mids representative National FE Committee

We will have space for one further discussion area, so let us know your preferred option when applying using the form over the page ...

## Are you a UNISON member?

### Are you paying to study?

UNISON offers **learning grants** of up to **£200** towards fees or books for courses up to and including undergraduate level.

In addition, UNISON offers **Open University learning grants**:  
+ **£200** for a 30 point course  
+ **£300** for a 60 point course.

Huge increases in course fees and the withdrawal of financial support for career development by many employers can make it difficult to access training.

To help you get on at work and develop your career, UNISON members who are studying at their own expense can apply for a Learning Grant of up to **£200** for courses including:

- + Learning for personal or career development
- + GCSEs, A-Levels, BTECs and Access
- + Foundation and undergraduate degrees
- + Language courses
- + Trade Union and Labour Studies

Find out more at  
[learning.unison.org.uk/financial-support](http://learning.unison.org.uk/financial-support)  
Call **020 7121 5116** or email  
[learningandorganising@unison.co.uk](mailto:learningandorganising@unison.co.uk)  
for more information.

To join UNISON call **0800 171 2190**  
or visit [join.unison.org.uk](http://join.unison.org.uk)



# UNISON East Midlands Further Education & Sixth Form Network Event

## Leicester: Wednesday 3 October 2018

To apply for a place, please complete this form and either email it or post to:

**Brian Crosby, UNISON East Midlands, Vivian Avenue, Nottingham, NG5 1AF**  
(or email application to: [b.crosby@unison.co.uk](mailto:b.crosby@unison.co.uk))

**Please seek approval first from your local branch if you will need to claim travel costs**

We use this information to add your name to our training database for this event and to update your UNISON membership details

**Membership No:**

**Full Name:**

**College name:**

**UNISON branch:**

**Home address:**

**Postcode:**

**Contact number (day time):**

Details of the course will be sent by email

**Preferred Email for UNISON information about this event:**

This information tells us if you have any specific requirements that will help you to fully participate in this event.

**Dietary requirements** – please be specific :

**Facilitation requirements** – please give details (eg learning support ,large print, coloured paper or disabled access/parking etc.)

This will be shared with the course tutor and the venue to ensure your needs are met

**Your suggestion for any additional discussion topic at this event**

Please apply in good time and so we have your form **no later than 31 August 2018**

For any queries about this event or this newsletter, please contact:

Brian Crosby, Regional Lead for Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges  
UNISON East Midlands, Vivian Avenue, Nottingham, NG5 1AF

Tel: 0115 847 5460 or 07903 024243

Email: [b.crosby@unison.co.uk](mailto:b.crosby@unison.co.uk)