

Strike Standing Firm

The strike in further education is standing firm. That's the message from colleges across Scotland.

Picket lines were in place from 7 am, the length and breadth of Scotland, that's despite the foul weather in many places. Students, lecturers, UNISON and GMB stood with FE Support Workers. As the chant goes:

'Up the Clyde and doon the Tay, What we want is FAIR PAY, Fae Stornoway tae Galloway ALL we want is FAIR PAY'

Reports came in from across the country that classes were cancelled,



nurseries closed, libraries unsupported, technology failures, health and safety concerns, additional learning needs were withdrawn and school pupils excluded from vocational training, evening classes were

cancelled. Senior managers fulfilling support roles for the day.

Our industrial action is causing major headaches for managers and government.

MSPS support, support workers

Fabulous support from MSP's at Holyrood. As the picture shows they is support across the parties for our action.

UNISON and GMB had the brief opportunity to make our case to John Swinney at the Colleges Scotland Event in the Parliament.

We urge the Ministerial Team to intervene and

resolve this increasingly damaging strike.



Steward Message

First of all we want to say a huge congrats to all the UNISON members who participated in the 2nd day of National Industrial Action for Support Staff by refusing to cross our picket line and refusing to attend work, your support for your Union is recognised and applauded by the local UNISON stewards, your branch and beyond. Your participation shows solidarity and a determination to win what is a just dispute.

A huge thanks to all members who took time to stand at the picket lines from 7am in the rain, wind and cold weather. It was not a nice day – weather wise – to take industrial action and we greatly appreciate your efforts and support.

We would love more members to take part on the picket line, and show employers that we stand united and won't back down when we are fighting for equality. The more voices we have on picket lines, rally's etc. the more our fight is heard and taken seriously. We cannot back down as the employers hope. We have drawn a line in the sand and said along with members across the length and breadth of Scotland that enough is enough and we deserve equality of pay.

Students and lecturers support our cause.

GMB members also came out and will join with us from now on.

Our demo at the Scottish Parliament was also a massive success.

Please keep checking Facebook and UNISON-Scotland.org. Keep the Faith & Keep United..



News from Stranraer to Stornoway

On UNISON-Scotland.org and our FE UNISON facebook site you can see photos of action across Scotland. UNISON Members reported great support from other unions and public.

Perth College picket line was a success and some students were told to stay away from college.

Fife College had enthusiastic pickets at all main campuses and to bend the ear of the chair of Fife College board.

Dumfries and Galloway Picket was even better than last time.

South Lanarkshire College, were unaware of any UNISON member crossing the picket line



Dundee & Arbroath reported Everything went well yesterday. Many members helped on the picket lines.

A good turn out here in Stornoway despite weather!

North Highland College We only knew 1 who crossed the picket line.

These were just some of the news from across Scotland. See UNISON online for more

from Ayr, Glasgow, Kilwinning, Motherwell, Thurso, Kelvin, and many other colleges across Scotland

Chris Greenshields, chair of UNISON FE committee said, ' We have always said that striking is a last resort. We all know what a difficult decision this had been. So thank you to everyone who turned out in some terrible weather. Fantastic turnout, thank you to everyone for making it happen'



John Gallacher UNISON

A message from John Gallacher, UNISON Regional Manager

I am genuinely proud to be working with the FE members, they are committed to both Scotland's college students and UNISON. We are doing the right thing. We just need to stay united. We cannot allow employers to treat support staff as

second class workers it goes against everything we all stand for. UNISON is continuing to talk to employers and the Scottish Government to try and find a solution. However in the meantime we must keep up the pressure.



AND FINALLY...
DUG ON A DEMO
We all love a doggy on a demo pic. Thanks Maree Shezzardo, UNISON striker in Glasgow for a pic of Molly, Steward Jackie's dog