

20th November 2024

Dear students and parents

In August the Government announced a 5.5% pay award for schools and academies as well as extra funding to support this. Around half of the sixth form colleges in the country are academised and are included in this agreement. They will receive an additional 3.65% funding on top of the 1.9% increase for this year that was already agreed. Collyer's, along with around 40 other sixth form colleges across the country, is not academised and therefore legally designated in the same way as an FE college. The Government has not extended the funding increase to designated sixth form colleges and FE colleges to allow them to deliver the same 5.5% pay award. Our professional body, the Sixth Form Colleges Association, has now launched a Judicial Review of the Government's decision.

The NEU recently balloted their members for strike action regarding this dispute. The ballot was disaggregated, so in effect the dispute is between the NEU and each of the individual colleges. A significant majority of the ballots met threshold and the NEU has now confirmed that strike action is planned at Collyer's on the following days:

- Thursday 28th November
- Tuesday 3rd December
- Wednesday 4th December

We fully understand concerns about this year's pay award and the difference in funding between academised and non-academised sixth form colleges to support this, however we are of course hopeful that this strike action will not go ahead if a resolution with the government is found. Any loss of learning can risk impacting on our learners' progress and I would like to confirm that Collyer's will remain open on all strike days and we anticipate that a majority of lessons will go ahead as usual. I know that all our community will respond to any impacts with their usual resilience and flexibility.

Further information about this industrial action can be found by clicking on the link below and I will write again if there are any significant updates to share:

[Strike Action FAQs](#)

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal