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**Further education England e-ballot opens Monday**  
  
Members in English further education institutions should look out for an email from us on Monday 4 September containing your link to vote in a consultative e-poll on what you would like the union to do should the employers pay offer prove unsatisfactory when UCU meets the Association of Colleges later this month. Please make sure you vote and show your support for a statutory ballot for action to secure [a fair deal for FE staff.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/29877/151504/4017/1/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDEgU2VwdGVtYmVyIDIwMTc%3d&x=d7e31774)  
  
**University pension scheme fundamentally strong despite alarmist reports**  
  
Staff have spoken out over ‘alarmist and misleading’ reporting on the state of the University Superannuation Scheme (USS) [in a letter to the Times Higher Education](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/29877/151504/4537/2/) challenging the methodology used to produce valuations and calling for removal of the controversial ‘Test 1’ which [the union believes uses an overly prudent approach and is providing the basis for unsustainable cuts to members’ benefits.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/29877/151504/4509/3/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDEgU2VwdGVtYmVyIDIwMTc%3d&x=a7e47c3b)   
  
[See here for full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/29877/151504/4538/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDEgU2VwdGVtYmVyIDIwMTc%3d&x=e72edec1)

* We are international: standing up for non-UK education staff
* UCU organising in adult education
* Switch to Direct Debit, stay protected and enter our prize draw

Best wishes  
  
Justine Stephens  
UCU head of campaigns