

JV/AG

30 March 2021

Dear student(s)

STRIKE TAKING PLACE AT GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE – WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH AND THURSDAY 1 APRIL 2021

As you may have heard, the EIS-FELA is planning national strike action on Wednesday, 31 March and Thursday 1 April 2021, and this includes our college. This is in relation to an ongoing, national, dispute between EIS-FELA (the lecturers' union) and the Employers' Association (that represents colleges as employers) around tutor/assessor/instructor type roles in colleges.

We are extremely disappointed that the EIS-FELA is going out on strike despite a request to suspend any action while negotiations are still ongoing. We know you have already had an extremely difficult year because of COVID-19, and we understand that you are trying to complete your courses in lockdown restrictions which makes this strike action extremely frustrating.

As a college, we will do everything we can to ensure that any disruption to your learning is kept to a minimum.

EIS-FELA members are going on strike because of a national dispute which "centres on the replacement of lecturer posts with other posts at colleges across the country, to carry out work the EIS believes to be equivalent to the work of lecturers". The employers have given a clear commitment; however, that there is no national plan to replace lecturers with tutor/assessor/instructor roles, nor any other support staff roles. This position is reflected in a statement which both sides fully support.

Tutor/assessor/instructor type roles are not new to the college sector; they have been in place within colleges across Scotland for a considerable number of years. All roles in college, whether they be lecturing or support staff, are equally valuable and necessary for giving you the best learning experience and helping you to achieve your qualifications. The college sector is not unique in using a variety of different roles to deliver their services.

We are working towards a resolution and the employers' representatives want to make sure the complex role of the lecturer is recognised and not diminished in any way. We also want to be confident that, in reaching a resolution, we do not agree a solution that could impact adversely on support staff. Colleges have a duty of care to all their staff.

The employers' representatives are meeting with the EIS-FELA early next week to continue discussions.

Jon Vincent - Principal and Chief Executive

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You may already have been informed by your class lecturer whether your class is taking place or not, either on campus or remotely.

Yours sincerely



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