

**Notts UNISON**

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Another academic year begins … **but before you get busy with college matters take a few minutes to focus on you.**

* Make sure your contact details are up to date with UNISON/ your employer/LGPS
* Check that you have nominated someone to receive your LGPS/UNISON death grant
* Take out a Free Will with UNISON - call UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857
* Become a UNISON rep for your campus so that you have someone who can help in your workplace – we have various roles for you. We make all new reps very welcome and provide excellent training and support. Who knows where it might take you?
* Take your breaks, make 2019/20 the year that you do take your breaks that you are legally entitled to have.
* Get to know a bit more about your terms and conditions, what pay point are you at? What Grade are you on? What hours are you actually paid for? What time are you supposed to start/finish?
* Locate the policies for your college. How would you know what they say? Often people need them at a time of crisis, don’t leave it until then to know where they are.
* Put your steward’s and the branch contact details in your phone – you never know when you might need to email/call or where you might be when you do!

**Each of these has been an issue for at least one UNISON member during 2018/19**

Your college stewards are your first point of contact. You should speak with them first as they are likely to be able to help you with your issue and can accompany you to welfare or investigation meetings. Your branch are unable to routinely provide senior officers for informal meetings so a steward in your workplace is a very important part of the team – **is there one at your campus? If not elect one this term – contact the Branch for a form.**

If you contact your steward or the office about an issue we will want to know what you have done so far to resolve the issue and what information you have about your issue. It is helpful if you have this ready for when you call. You may be asked to email copies of information to the branch office.

**And on to the latest news …**

Late in the summer term after many months of negotiations to improve the employers initial proposals UNISON signed a collective agreement with Nottingham College on a new set of college terms and conditions for support staff.

During the summer term UNISON was involved in consultation on redundancies at RNN group, we attended meetings with the employer and supported individual members.

Unison met with the new HR director at VWNC over the summer and hope that we can begin to create a professional working relationship with her. There has been so much change here and we know that it will take time for members to recover from this.