

Save EMA, fight all the cuts, get heard...

Walk out on Wednesday 26th!



Students around the country are worrying about their future. For some, it's if they can go to university, for others it's whether they can stay at college next year - and for others still if they can turn the heating on this winter. Our families are affected by other cuts.

See what others are saying round the country in the side bars.

Why is this happening? Because the government cares more about the wealth of the rich than the lives of the majority.

That's why students around the country will be walking out of college and protesting on Wednesday February 26th. Join in! Lots of laws like the poll tax get defeated after they are passed.

We've already made a massive impact. We need the protests to get bigger, and inspire others to get involved!

Organise your walk out!

It's clear that students can't rely on the NUS or the political parties. That means, we need to organise ourselves.

- On Wednesday 26th Feb, walk out of college and protest. Don't let anyone keep you in one place or stop you protesting!
- Text everyone to join in
- You can go to other schools and colleges and chant for students to walk out too
- You can organise anti-cuts groups to prepare for the next one...
- Let us know how it goes! reallyopensu@gmail.com
- Protest in London or Manchester on Saturday 29th if you can...

Keep up the fight!

"Listen to us!"

Leeds: I'm worrying about my future. I don't know if I can stay in college. This has cancelled out my hope of going to uni. I'm living with my parents. They're both disabled and we're living off disability allowance. I don't know how we're going to get through the next few years, and bills are going up, especially electricity and gas. . . . I was talking to a girl. . . she doesn't know how she'll stay on, what with the free bus pass going as well as EMA. And with unemployment like it is round here it's ridiculous. There's no jobs, there's no future. **(Helen)**

Merseyside: My college is facing huge cuts so job losses are expected to be announced next week. Many students are already talking about having to leave at the end of the academic year. Many high school students I have spoken to no longer plan to go to college as they cannot get there and cannot afford to go to university even if they could get to college in the first place. I will now have to get a job in order for me to support myself through college and this is going to have a huge impact on my academic studies but then again I am going to have to find a job first which in Liverpool/Wirral there aren't many. **(Jack)**

continued >>>

Your rights

Sometimes people are worried they will be targeted or kicked out for taking part in protests or walk-outs. Remember:

- The best defence is solidarity: it's very hard for them to target lots of people. Real collective action will paralyse them
- Hold solidarity protests and actions in support of anyone who is targeted
- They're not allowed to punish you just for taking political action
- You have a right to see your institution's discipline procedure,

and that it be followed

- If they don't do it right, or may have breached your rights, this will be open to legal challenge.
- There are places to get free legal advice like Just for Kids Law, the Communities Empowerment Network and ACE. There are also lawyers keen to take cases that challenge colleges on human rights grounds.

If you want more information, have concerns, or want help against your college, email taimourlay@gmail.com.

Hey teacher!

It shouldn't just be up to students to fight against cuts to EMA, and it shouldn't be up to just staff to defend jobs.

The government wants each group of workers, students, and the unemployed to fight alone, one by one. If this happens, it will be easier to defeat us.

Teachers at Tower Hamlets college showed how it's done with a 4 week strike just over a year ago,

getting student support and defeating compulsory redundancies.

They had an open strike committee which everyone could attend and get involved. They knew they had to strike, not rely on assurances from managers or union negotiators that everything would be OK.

It's not only about teachers though. All workers should get involved!

This leaflet. . .

... was put together by college students and a few supporters around the country who want to see the movement against cuts get stronger and spread. More than ten thousand will be given out nationally.

If you're a student or education worker and agree with what we say, get in touch! Email reallyopensu@gmail.com or search for [Really Open Student Union](#) on

facebook. This is for a group of students organising in Leeds who want to connect with students outside of Leeds as well.

If you want legal advice, or to contact other people who helped with the leaflet, email taimourlay@gmail.com.

Tell us if you think we should do another one, what we should put in it, and if you would give it out!

Find out about future protests from anticuts.com—the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts.

It's one fight...

NW London: Getting rid of EMA will deprive most people at my sixth form of money that is from my own experience and from what others at my sixth form do used mainly to buy basic products necessary for education. Already my sixth form is angry and most of the students here have been on at least one of the protests or walkouts in November and December. What would be encouraging now would be to see networks of support forming across colleges and schools and discussions between school workers and students about the cuts with the goal of future collective struggle. (**Jamie**)

Oxford: Some parents were phoned up and told that their children could face dire sanctions such as suspension. None of the threats made were actually carried out. That didn't put us off. I think in general we were supported by school staff. Students at Cheney School were locked in by management, but then because of a lively demo by uni students outside, and one student inside guiding others through a back passage they got out. (**Darren**)

Marlow: I believe our march was highly successful. It highlighted to the local and national media that the youth in Marlow were standing up against the increase in student fees and the scrapping of EMA, on which many students from low income families rely heavily to attend higher education. Although the protest raised a few heckles from a group of older privileged members of the public the protest can be seen as a success because it showed we could build a protest of our own. (**Arman**)