



South Lanarkshire College

Students' Association

Board Report

February 2022

YOUR COLLEGE
 **YOUR WAY**

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Overview

It's been a busy time for the SA since our last Board Report. We have participated in and organised various events such as COP26, 16 Days of Action against GBV, Festive Week and Refreshers to name just a few. It has been fantastic seeing all the great work that has been taking place to help support our students, as well as the fantastic opportunities that have been available to them through international events such as COP26. We will provide further details on all these events later in this report.

Student Engagement

As restrictions continue to ease, we are delighted to see increasing numbers on students on campus. We continue to provide an on-campus presence for SA support, as well as being available via Teams and email as required. Fortnightly SA emails are sent to all students highlighting what is taking place within the College, as well as sharing good news stories from the faculties. We believe this is particularly important when there is currently still a significant number of students working remotely.

Our focus on social media continues to grow with more messaging taking place on Facebook and Instagram. We schedule regular updates and have seen increased interaction on Facebook, particularly as part of Refreshers' Week. As always, we are keen to share updates from external agencies which may be of particular benefit to students, such as the introduction of free bus travel for under 22s. Our new Instagram page has also been relaunched to try and engage with students who may prefer to use this social media platform.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The SA are very proud of the fact that SLC was one of only two colleges chosen to take part in the EmilyTest Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Pilot Charter.

EmilyTest

Tackling Gender Based Violence in Education

The SA worked closely with the College to facilitate two focus groups as part of the evidence gathering work for our portfolio submission. These focus groups involved separate staff and student-led sessions, which the Vice President of the SA attended alongside class reps. Facilitated by EmilyTest they provided a great opportunity for the student voice to be heard as part of this important work.

The Charter submission for EmilyTest has now taken place and we are currently awaiting feedback on this before we can progress further. We look forward to seeing how the SA can continue to be involved in this work.

During November, we also took part in the 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence and GBV international campaign. Further details of the activity that took place are available as part of our Events update below.

College Hoodies

College hoodies continue to be available for students during winter and are excellent value at only £5.

We currently have only limited availability due to demand for the hoodies and will continue to promote these at our Refreshers' event, as well as throughout the year via social media and all student emails.

Free Soup & Sandwich

We are very excited to announce that free soup and a sandwich for all students will be re-launched on Thursday 3 February as part of our Refreshers' week activities.

The SA believe it is vital to work towards alleviating student poverty and providing this service helps to combat this. By being able to access a healthy meal, it is hoped this will help students focus on their studies without worrying what they can have for lunch.

As in previous years, we will work closely with Inspire Catering to provide this service on a rotation basis of one day per week to ensure as many students as possible can access it. We would like to thank Inspire for working together with us to provide such an important service.



Laptop Loan

The SA are proud that that College provides free long term laptop loans to all eligible students throughout the year. This year has seen an increase in applications made with over 405 received to date, compared with 320 last year. We will continue to help promote this service to our students to help tackle digital poverty.

Alongside this provision, the College will be re-opening the Flexible Learning Unit from 7 February. This will provide a study space and access to a PC for students who may not have access to this at home. It is hoped providing this service will allow students to focus on their studies without worrying about access to digital technology, applications, or printing availability.

Student Mental Health Project Certificate

To acknowledge completion of our Student Mental Health Agreement, Think Positive sent on our very own Student Mental Health Agreement Certificate.

Covering two academic years our SMHA incorporates three main areas: Addressing Student Poverty; Student Communications and Mental Health Events & Activities. We are proud of the work that has taken place to date in these three areas and look forward to continuing this for the remainder of the current academic year.



Congratulations to

South Lanarkshire College &

South Lanarkshire College Students' Association

**for successfully developing their Student
Mental Health Agreement for 2020/21!**

- the Think Positive team

SA Vice President Election

Voting for electing a new SA Co-Vice President finished on 2 February and we are delighted to announce that Rahela Calin will be joining the SA team. We look forward to working with Rahela for the remainder of the academic year.

Events

16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence and GBV

Working alongside the College, the SA once again took part in the annual 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence and GBV.

This event is an annual international campaign that runs from 25 November until 10 December. To highlight this important campaign, the College and the SA worked together to promote activities throughout the 16 days.

As part of the activity taking place, the SA invited various agencies on campus to host stalls and speak in person to students. We would like to thank Police Scotland, Lanarkshire Rape Crisis and Women's Aid for taking the time to visit the College and speak with students and staff.

The SA also hosted its own stall throughout the campaign to highlight the support available within the College. We promoted the new awareness raising poster, which was displayed throughout the College. Alongside this we purchased personal safety alarms and anti spiking devices, such as glass covers and bottle stoppers, for students to collect for free. We had a great response to the stall with lots of students visiting and chatting with the SA team about the items and support available.



Have you been affected by...

SA **SLC** South Lanarkshire College East Kilbride

SEXUAL ASSAULT **Stalking** **GROPPING**
Cyber harassment
RAPE **COERCIVE CONTROL** **SEXUAL ABUSE** Unwanted Touching PARTNER VIOLENCE
Childhood sexual abuse prostitution
EXPLOITATION **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Support is available.

For urgent, confidential 1:1 help and support contact:

Support for Students	Support for Staff
☎ Telephone: 01355 807780 (ask for Student Services)	☎ Telephone: 01355 807780 (ask for Human Resources)
✉ Email: student.support@slc.ac.uk	✉ Email: humanresources@slc.ac.uk

Further Information can be found on the College website or in the Student/Staff Handbook



COP26

The SA was excited to work alongside the College to help co-ordinate on campus activities as part of COP26.

Activities included learning about the value of outdoor play with the Childcare team in the College Forest Kindergarten area; staff and students working in the College garden to help grow a sustainable future; Inspire Catering providing a showcase in the Atrium on how to reduce food waste. This was in addition to the many seminars on subjects such as sustainable exercise practises or scientific eco exhibits. A variety of external organisations attended the campus such as Home Energy Scotland and Ellison's Hair and Beauty.



We are also incredibly proud of our Professional Cookery, Bakery and Hospitality students, who along with their chef lecturer David Auchie, were invited to be involved in preparing and serving fine dining to COP26 delegates including Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Boris Johnston at the conference itself!

Refreshers' Week

The SA organised a great week of online activities and free giveaways throughout Refreshers' Week. Running from 31 January to 4 February, the SA were keen to welcome new and returning students to the College.



A further 500 SmileBoxes were distributed to students on campus, and we would like to thank the College Trust

for providing funds to help support this fantastic initiative. The response to providing these health and wellbeing boxes has been overwhelmingly positive and really brightens the day of students picking them up. As before, each Smile Box contains multiple items including a chocolate bar, tea bags, face mask, colouring pad, branded notepad, and a Smile Stand. Alongside this there are personalised letters from the College and SA, dedicated postcards detailing available support services within college and a bespoke Student Mental Health Survival Guide which outlines all the support available within college and in the local community.

Alongside this, the SA are also providing free items each day at our manned stall. Items included GBV prevention items such as anti-tampering devices and personal alarms, SLC/SA hats, pens, post-its, SA reusable water bottles, as well as free yoga mats.

We have also utilised the Student Health and Wellbeing Teams page and SA social media channels to promote information and activities to students working remotely. This has included PowerPoints outlining workshop support, a pre-recorded dance class, free yoga and mindfulness classes, a pre-recorded fitness class, SDS overview video, as well as dedicated student support videos providing information on safeguarding, student finance and student support.

To encourage increased interaction with our social media channels we held a Facebook competition where participants could win a £50 Amazon Gift Voucher or College Hair & Beauty Salon vouchers.

Festive Week

Each year the SA takes part in promoting Festive Week and this year saw a fantastic variety of festive outfits, jumpers, Santa hats and much more. Even Santa joined in on the fun! It was great seeing so many students (and staff) take part in this annual event.



Loaves & Fishes Donation

The SA prides itself on working alongside the College to benefit the local community. As part of this community spirit each year staff and students generously donate food and essential items to the local Loaves & Fishes foodbank.

As in previous years, donation boxes were located throughout the campus including in the Advice Centre and different Faculty staff rooms. The generosity of our college community continues to impress us each year due to the volume of items donated.



Forthcoming Events

- LGBT History Month (February)
- Who Cares? Scotland - Care Day (18 February)
- Purple Friday (25 February)
- Mental Health Awareness Week (9 to 15 May).
 - Created by the Mental Health Foundation, the theme for this year is 'loneliness' During this week we will be hosting our Positivitea morning event.