



**South Lanarkshire College**

**Students' Association**

**Board Report**

**October 2021**

**YOUR COLLEGE**  
 **YOUR WAY**

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## Overview

We are delighted to welcome the students and staff onto the campus again and feel that the Student Association can only thrive due to the increased numbers and increased attendance by the student's week on week.

Freshers' Week from 13 – 16 September brought fun, competition, cartoon drawing and quizzes, as well as visits from Police Scotland to our Foyer area and many digital activities and events. This was a really exciting and interesting time in student / college relations, and we will soon reach the festive period planning towards Re-Freshers' in January.

This last month has seen the final class visits take place which has meant the students are aware of who their SA President and Vice President are, the duties they perform and the position that we hold within the College, as well as the support that we can offer to every student.

World Mental Health Day arrived on 10 October and was promoted recently on campus on Friday 8 October. The Student Association gave away free colouring sets and pencils to help de-stress the recipients, with colouring being an effective and well recognised way of relaxing.

Recently within our social media status, we have promoted our student support services online through Microsoft Teams and dedicated email. This has given our students the opportunity to develop and grow their knowledge of I.T systems, Microsoft packages and report writing.

A competition was launched on our social media formats asking learners to show their illustration skills and create a sustainability mascot for our upcoming COP26 events taking place within the month of November.

The students are being notified continually on the Student Wellbeing Teams page about employment opportunities available throughout the local and wider areas to assist with gaining employment and experience in a workplace.

Hamilton Academicals have very kindly supplied tickets for every home league match available with these available at the Student Association office on a request basis, to bring football, and entertainment through sport - back to our student body.

The Student Association still hope to launch several social clubs and groups within the next couple of months. The possibility of a Gaming Society group, E-sports competition club as well as Netflix Viewing Assembly, Fantasy Football and Debating club are all obvious and realistic possibilities, however with passing time as proposer of the society/group/team, I feel a football club may be a step to far based on current climate relating to Coronavirus restrictions and faculty numbers.

## College Hoodies

We have continued our drive to purchase SLC hoodies for students. A price guarantee was reached for the same purchase cost as last year, despite a reduction in the numbers being ordered.

Due to the reduction in student numbers on campus last year we still have some limited supplies of small and medium hoodies in stock, so we focused on ordering additional L-XXL sizes. The hoodies are very popular and are significantly subsidised by the College, costing students only £5.

We have purple, light grey, darker grey and black available to select from. This will be cash only transactions to the Student Association office on the ground floor. It will operate on a first come first served basis although appointments to collect are preferred and restrictions will be in place.

In January we hope that there will be more students attending college and that we can purchase more hoodies as part of our Re-Freshers' event.

## Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

We are thrilled and delighted to report that our college was selected as one of only two colleges within Scotland to take part in the EmilyTest Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Pilot Charter for Universities and Colleges.

To provide some background, EmilyTest is a charity that aims to prevent Gender-Based Violence (GBV) among student populations and improve intervention and support for students experiencing GBV.

The Student Association hope to assist on this work by helping to organise focus groups and participation at these to gain knowledge, information, and opinions. This will help gather data and shape the GBV work which will be taking place not only within our own college, but within Scotland.

We at the Students Association are helping to outline and work towards a more harmonious and safer environment for each and every member of the student body and staff within our educational institute.

## Freshers' Week

Freshers' Week took place between the 14 and 16 September. Most sessions took place virtually and included brilliant topics such as Health and Wellbeing, Finance, IT, Togetherall, Careers, Resilience Workshops, Learning Development and Mindfulness. Alongside this we invited Police Scotland on campus to host a stall in the main atrium on Wed 15 September.



Fun activities for the students including taking part in virtual escape rooms, requesting a drawing from the caricaturist and attending the SA quiz with 3 x £30 Amazon Vouchers!

We were also delighted to be able to provide 500 free Smile Boxes to our students. These wellbeing boxes features a variety of treats including chocolate, organic tea bags, colouring sets, face masks, SLC branded notebook smile stands and a newly created Student Survival Workbook. We also included branded welcome letters from the College Principal and SA President and support postcards detailing the support services available from the SA and the College. Created in collaboration with the Smile Box team, the boxes were hugely successful, and we are very grateful for all the support and materials Smile Box provided!

We would like to thank all the teams and organisations who helped organise this event for our students!



## Graduation

At the end of October, we will be hosting our first ever on-site Graduation ceremonies Marquee' event within the college grounds. The SA is looking forward to taking part in both the Friday and Saturday ceremonies and to share in congratulating all our graduands.

## COP26

COP 26 is taking place in Glasgow from Monday 1 November to Friday 12 November. At the College, there will be fantastic opportunities for students and staff to raise sustainability issues and highlight possible solutions.

The SA is delighted to be supporting the College with a range of activities that will be taking place over the two weeks, including the 'Cheer for Change' and many others. We will also be promoting these activities through our social media and fortnightly newsletter communications.

## Free Soup & Sandwich

The free 'Soup and Sandwich' initiative, created by the previous Student Association, was a huge success at the time.

We hope to re-introduce this within the current academic year, giving us the opportunity to grow on the success of **856** students benefiting from the initiative.



Student poverty can lead to many individuals struggling to get to college and feed themselves whilst here – we hope to make an impression in working towards reducing student poverty during the academic year 2021/22. The SA appreciate the importance of eating well in relation to concentration and success in education. We hope this initiative helps support students throughout their course and highlights that we are there to support their health and wellbeing.

This initiative was promoted weekly on the SLCSA Facebook page and newsletter. We would like to thank Inspire Catering for helping us to provide this free service to students and hope to start this again soon.

## Laptop Loan

This scheme has become a major support to so many of our students who for one reason or another do not have access to the required equipment to support them in their learning. To date, the College has received more than 320 applications for long-

term laptop assistance this year, with almost 200 been granted to assist the student body.

## Free Yoga Sessions & Mats

Last year we introduced free yoga for our students along with free yoga mats when they signed up for the online classes. Classes will take continue to take place on a weekly basis and will be recorded through Microsoft teams for participants to enjoy when they like and as often as they would like.

Due to it being such a success with lots of positive feedback we are pleased to say this will be continuing this academic year and we have purchased another 50 mats for new students who would like to sign up to classes.

This has been a huge success and popularity has grown with increasing numbers regularly.



## Security

This academic year has seen an increase in many visitors and guests coming to our campus. These individuals could be contractors for our on-going maintenance happening in/out of our building, as well as possibly visitors for courses or lift maintenance.

It is vitally important that our students and staff members wear the newly designed lanyards to identify themselves as part of the College community at all times. The SA will continue to promote this within our communications.