



**South Lanarkshire College**

**Students' Association**

**Board Report**

**February 2023**

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

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## Overview

It has been another busy period for the SA with lots of different events and activities taking place towards the end of the year. We celebrated Christmas Jumper Week, took part in the 16 Days of Action against Gender Based Violence, attended lots of fantastic student events, created new opportunities for students and continued our commitment to tackling student poverty, to name a few.

As this report will highlight, we have established a fantastic network of student volunteers who, along with our Student Officers, are keen to be involved in the SA and work with us to continually improve student health and wellbeing. We even received some amazing feedback from our student volunteers and look forward to providing them with more opportunities to get involved with the SA!

We recognised that the festive period can be a challenging time for many of our students, so we were keen to ensure that we highlighted the support services available within the College in both the run-up to the holidays and again in January. As part of this work, we created a specific newsletter to highlight to students the support that was available in the community when the College was closed.

We are incredibly proud of the work that's been undertaken so far and very much look forward to implementing lots of fun and engaging activities for our students throughout 2023!



## Refreshers'

### Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 February

Refreshers' Week took place on 1 and 2 February to welcome our new and returning students, with a focus on renewing yourself in the New Year.

A variety of stall holders came onto campus across both days from 10am until 1pm in the Atrium. We hosted a SA stall to provide information on what the SA does, as well as holding fun activities. Our Events Management students took the lead on organising games over the two days, such as Cookie Monster, Balloon Race, Shootin' Hoops, and Malteaser Race at Refreshers'. We're delighted to be able to give the students this opportunity as it will help them complete their assessments, as well as getting hands on experience.

Stall holders due to attend include Police Scotland, Samaritans, Citizens Advice Scotland, Money Matters, Who Cares? Scotland, LAMH and many more!

Promotion of Refreshers' has taken place across various channels including Student News4U, social media channels and emails to staff across the College. Our recent Student News4U also featured a welcome back to existing students, as well as an introduction to the SA to new students joining the College for the first time. Alongside this, it included signposting to the different health and wellbeing support services available throughout the College, including counselling support, funding advice, mindfulness, yoga classes, Togetherall and links to the Student Health and Wellbeing Teams page.



## Student Feedback

At the SA we want to ensure that our students feel supported and know that we are there for them. Over December and without any prompting, we have had fantastic feedback from students via our social media channels. The pictures below highlight how appreciative students are of the work we're doing, and it helps us to continue to improve on the activities and events that we are organising for students.



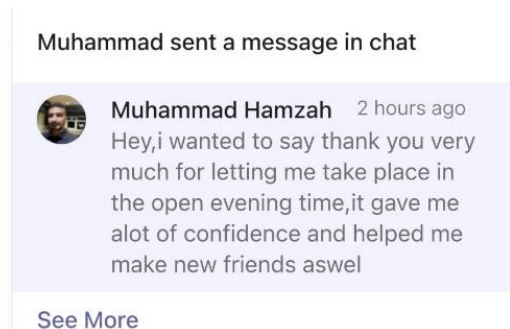
90 likes

amyh1x After struggling with my confidence for so long this has been a major confidence boost for me! This isn't something I would normally do or take part in However I have taken part in two so far and I will continue to do small things like this to boost my confidence 🤗

*Students assisting with our free period products awareness stall*



We have also been working in partnership with our Marketing Team as part of the December Open Day with student volunteers really enjoying their experience.



## Marketing Partnership

As part of this partnership working, Paula Stewart, Design and Digital Marketing Lead from the SLC Marketing Team, visited Hospitality, Events Management and Travel and Tourism students to talk about social media for business. This helped towards the students starting to work on digital marketing for business.

The students heard about the purpose of social media channels and how each channel is used by the College, as well as the ways they could use it in the future across each of their industries. This included ideas on what to post and when, using social media as a customer service tool and the benefits of collaborating with other businesses.

The students engaged well with the talk and asked lots of questions to help them get started on the next part of their course.



## Foundation Apprenticeship Student Feedback

Two of our Year Two Creative and Digital Media Foundation Apprenticeship students have been on placement with our Marketing and Communications team over the past five weeks and have been doing an outstanding job. We've included below Evan and Emma's experience studying their course and how they have found working in the College on placement.

**Emma** - Personally, my favourite bit about this course was graphic design. Having this apprenticeship has helped me learn and grow about things I hadn't learned yet, such as programs and new techniques. Another big thing this course has helped me with is my social skills. This course has allowed me to make many friends in the class who I get along well with. There are so many great aspects of the course which are amazing in their own ways, but for me personally, those would have to be my top two best bits.



**Evan:** My favourite part of the Creative and Digital Media course so far must be what we're working on currently. Before summer, we were assigned the task to design a personal project brief. Everyone chose their own topic. Mine was to design a comic book based around a space mission that happened in the past. The brief was only to come up with the rules and guidelines for the project. As of now, we're working on the projects in class.

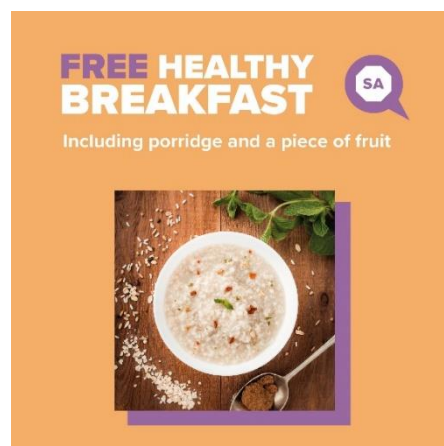
## Focus on Student Poverty & the Cost-of-Living Crisis

The SA continues to focus on the current cost of living crisis and the impact this has on our students. We continue to share information to students on how to navigate this crisis and investigate ways we can best support them.

### Free Soup & Sandwich and Free Breakfast for all students

The SA is promoting both free initiatives to help combat student poverty and improve health and wellbeing. Following student feedback, we have expanded promotion of the service to include more regular signposting on social media, as well as displaying the dates on the large video screen in the Atrium. Additionally, the SA team have created monthly posters which outline the various dates that soup and sandwich and breakfasts are available. These posters are shared on the channels mentioned above, as well as physical posters being displayed outside the SA office and main public areas. As a result, we have seen an uptake in the number of servings being provided to students, with an increase of nearly 200 servings across both offerings in November alone.

We are also very grateful to have been allocated an additional £3,000 from the SLC Foundation to allow for continuation and expansion of this support to our students. By end of December, we had supported over 3,397 servings of free breakfast and soup and sandwich. This initiative undoubtedly benefits student mental health and wellbeing, retention, and engagement. We look forward to sharing the good news of the expansion of this support with our students.





## Student Larder



Launching on Christmas Jumper Day, the College and SA arranged the annual food collection from across all staff and students in the College. In previous years the food was donated to the local charity, Loaves and Fishes. For this year, it was agreed that the donation would be split between Loaves and Fishes and our own SA Student Larder, which was created to directly tackle student poverty.

The Student Larder was established solely for students to access and was originally located in the SA office due to the overwhelmingly generous donations received! Due to the success of this initiative, we have decided to make it a permanent fixture at the SA office where students can collect food at any time they wish. There aren't any forms to be completed so students can access it without any barriers. Sustainable SLC bags are also provided for students to use and aid with discretion for anyone collecting items.

We have promoted this service via SA Student News4U, as well as social media and continue to receive donations from both staff and students. The feedback of this services has been overwhelmingly positive, and we aim to continue to provide it for as long as it is required.

## Free Sanitary Products

We continue to promote the availability of free period products and held a stall in the Atrium with the support of our student volunteers. Students could collect free products and holiday packs in the run up to the festive holidays, including a range of sustainable products. The stall was also beneficial for highlighting the Hey Girls free delivery service and the student survey that was running asking students how we can improve the service for them. It created a great opportunity to talk about period poverty and how the SLC and SA are tackling this at college. Students participating in the stall contacted us directly to say how much they enjoyed being part of the event, as highlighted in the student feedback section above.

**DID YOU KNOW**  
**THAT FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE**  
**TO ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF**  
**THROUGHOUT THE COLLEGE?**

**Free vending machine access is available in the toilets of each floor and the Annexe.**

**A variety of products, including reusable options, are available upon request from:**

- Student Services**
- Annexe Reception**
- Hair & Beauty Salon Reception**
- The Student Association**

**Holiday packs can be collected from any of the above areas in the run up to term time holidays throughout the year.**

**SLC** South Lanarkshire College East Kilbride  
**SA** South Lanarkshire College Student Association

For further information please visit the Advice Centre.

## Festive Closure Support

Over the festive holidays, the SA was keen to highlight to students that we were aware the festive period can be a challenging time for some and to reiterate that student wellbeing is a key priority for both the SA and the College. We created a tailored student newsletter highlighting the support that is available within the local community over the holidays

Links were provided to the dedicated support webpage, as well as signposting to online support such as Togetherall and other community contacts. This was sent to all students and highlighted on social media.

<https://www.slc.ac.uk/more/news-and-events/festive-support/>

## College Hoodies

The SA held another stall promoting the older style of hoodies during the cold weather with most of them selling out nearly instantly! Due to the cost-of-living crisis we decided to sell these at a more reduced cost of £3 per hoodie and students were glad of the opportunity to purchase the garments.

## REDUCED HOODIES

£3



Please contact the SA Office, Reception or [studentassociation@slc.ac.uk](mailto:studentassociation@slc.ac.uk) if you want to purchase a hoodie.

Limited colours and sizes available.

## Sparqs Student Learning Experience Workshops

On Wednesday 18 January, the SA and the College arranged for sparqs to host a workshop at the College to hear directly from students about what makes a good learning experience. Nearly 20 students volunteered in their own time to take part in the workshop and talk about their time at South Lanarkshire College. We believe it's important for our students to make sure their voice is heard on a national level such as this.

## Events

### 16 Days of Action National Campaign

The SA and the College take part in the 16 Days of Action every year to tackle GBV and highlight the work being undertaken by the College and SA regarding this. Running from 25 November until 10 December 2022, we participated in a variety of different activities to highlight the campaign. Promotion of the campaign took place within Student News4U and social media throughout the 16 days.

The SA and student volunteers hosted a stall in the Ground Floor Atrium and gave away free personal alarms and anti-spiking items to raise awareness of the national campaign. Posters and leaflets were also shared with staff and students highlighting the range of support that is available in the College. Alongside this we invited Women's Aid and Lanarkshire Rape Crisis to host an information stall on campus, with separate safe spaces available for anyone who wished to speak with them confidentially.

The SA also hosted a drop-in "Coffee, Cake and Chat" event for students who wanted to learn more about the support available for those affected by gender-based violence. We were delighted so many students attended the event to chat with us. On Friday 9 December, Police Scotland joined us on campus to raise awareness, chat with students and answer your questions. Throughout the week there were a variety of resources available from and showcased in the library.

As part of our commitment to securing a future in which GBV no longer exists, our Student Services team and SA President attended the annual EmilyTest Conference in support of our zero-based tolerance approach.





**Post details**

ID: 467106688912230

**Post overview**

This view of your post may not represent exactly how it appears in Facebook's News Feed.

**SLCSA**

Published by Sarah McEwan · 4 m · 🌐

Full-screen Snap

GALOP has decades of experience in supporting LGBT+ people who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, so-called conversion therapies, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and other forms of abuse.

[GALOP.ORG.UK](https://galop.org.uk)

**Galop - the LGBT+ anti-abuse charity**

Galop works with and for LGBT+ victims and survivors of abuse and...



## Christmas Jumper Week

Christmas Jumper Week was a busy time for the SA with the food donation and student larder. We also enjoyed celebrating all the different activities the students were involved in, such as the Nat 4 Skills for Employment students collecting unwanted Christmas jumpers and recycling them to make more available for students and staff to wear throughout the week.



## Sustainably Loved Clothes Initiative

Alongside this, we partnered with the Supported Programmes students to set up a long-term sustainability clothing project called Sustainably Loved Clothes. Our call to action was for staff and students to think about donating any clothes they were clearing out over the festive holidays. We would then arrange free clothing collections at pop up shops throughout the year to save clothing ending up in landfill.

## Christmas Card Delivery

Our student volunteers also wrote out thank you Christmas cards and helped hand deliver these to a variety of staff and classes, spreading festive cheer throughout the College!



## ESOL Christmas Party

The Student Association and 12 student volunteers went along to the ESOL Christmas Party. We embraced all cultures from music, food, and dancing. This was a great opportunity for all. The aim of the event was to help the ESOL students' progress their language skills. We now have some ESOL students wanting to help the SA with their events. One student had commented that in doing this it has helped him progress his English skills



## Out and About with our Students

The SA was invited out to the East Kilbride Town Centre with our FA Social Services Children and Young People, to spend time together playing fun games around the shopping centre.



These same students have also personalised posters for the SA Office, highlighting our values and priorities.



## January Activities & Class Visits

With new students joining for January classes, we decided to make the SA more visible by hosting fun games and activities on the third floor. Students are having a great time meeting with the SA and fellow students, resulting in new friendships being created and increased confidence. We've also been visiting different classes to introduce the SA and encourage students to get in touch with us.







## Forthcoming Events

**LGBT History Month & Purple Friday**  
**February 2023**  
**24 February 2023**

With LGBT History Month taking place throughout February, the SA will be highlighting this across social media and our newsletter. We will be arranging a variety of events, such as more coffee and chat mornings, with more activities taking place to celebrate Purple Friday on 24 February!