



**Report on the NCL Students' Association**

**November 2018**

**Vice President Motherwell: Marisa Rose**

**Vice President Coatbridge: Dominika Gryska**

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## Work Placements for the mechanic students at Cumbernauld

The student association has been working with the light motor vehicle department at Cumbernauld to get some of year three students there out on placement to gain some real life experience before the end of the academic year is over. This was one of the SA's promises that was made to the students of this department if they were successful in becoming Vice President. This department was also one that had expressed an interest in having more SA involvement as they felt it was lacking this before.

We are lucky to of been able to find five placements with local garages that are willing to give the students this opportunity. We believe this to be a worthwhile project for the SA to have been involved in this year as it will not only make a big difference to the students involved but will hopefully start to build relationships with these garages that we can use again in the future. There will be a full report made and presented to the board at the next meeting, and will also be presented to the faculty after we have gained feedback from the students and garages involved. With the intention that this will be something that the faculty would consider taking on next year if successful.

Each student that has taken part in this has done so in his or her own time outside his or her usual college hours. They are also the first students that these garages have had from the college so is down to them to make that all-important first impression of what our students can offer these businesses in the future. As such we would like to thank all the student that have taken part in this project in its first year, so we are planning on taking advantage of an offer we had of free tickets for Knockhill for the first race of the season.

## Art project

This has been an ongoing project of the SA's but we can now say that we have almost finished. The art students from Cumbernauld, Coatbridge and Kirkintilloch were all brought together at Cumbernauld campus and were given the brief from the SA that we were looking for them to paint a picture using three out of the college's five colours and this had to fit the with what they regarded the word "play" to mean.

64 of the students took part in this project and we now have their work displayed in the Den at Cumbernauld. The SA have since then asked the wider student population to vote on the students work and we have narrowed down the top three and we are now looking to have these made into prints to be displayed at the three campuses that were involved and these will be put on display for next year's students to see.

This was a large out-lay with regards to the SA's budget, most of this being set aside for the hanging system that has now been installed in the Den. This being the first year of this project the cost was always going to be greater but with all the positive feedback from the art students, staff, external visitors and the students who all took part in voting we believe this was money well spent.

The feedback we have had so far is that the art faculty have suggested that this will be a good project for the students to take part in as one of their first projects when they start the college in

future years. We have also had a lot of interest from the photography students that would like to use the other wall in the Den to display some of their work. This is being arranged just now with hopes of it being put in place next year. The project has succeeded in its primary goal in making the Den a more inviting place for the students to be and in helping raise the awareness of the SA at Cumbernauld.

### Food for thought

We have been working with the catering staff to help introduce healthier food throughout the campuses. We will be asking to have information boards introduced that will show the health benefits, listing such things as vitamins and calories to give students and staff a better understanding of the health implications of what they are eating. With help from Laura McMillan from dental, we will be looking to put on a demonstration of the effects of fizzy drinks and looking to have healthier drink options available.

As part of this we will be looking to survey students and staff that use the facilities to see if they would like to see more healthier options and if so we would then present our findings and work on a plan to achieve this.

This is on top of some of the work we have already been doing at each of the campuses with regards to the food in the canteen and is and will be an ongoing issue.

### Swap or buy?

Swap or buy is a project that is being worked on just now at Coatbridge by Rachel Wilson (student.) The premise behind the idea is that students can bring in items of clothing that can then be swapped for something else or have the option to buy what someone else has brought in. This is an idea that was brought to the Coatbridge SA and we are now working together with Rachel to see how much interest there would be for such a project on the campus.

### Fitness Club Coatbridge

Right now, we are looking to have a fitness club set up for the students at Coatbridge. One of our HND students who will be taking the classes will lead this with our support. At this moment in time, this is still in its infancy and we are trying to work out the logistics behind such a project. We are currently in talks with Julie McLaughlin to see how or if we can make this happen.

### LGBT awareness

The student association will be running an LGBT awareness event on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of February over all 3 campuses. At this we will be looking to engage with as many students as possible. LGBT Scotland have confirmed they will be attending this event and we are looking to put on much more fun activities for the students to engage in.

### First Aid training

We are currently looking to bring together the nursing and the make-up artist student to put on a live action first aid training demo. At this we will be looking to put together scenarios so that the nursing students can put into practice what they have learned so far throughout the year. The concept is to make the scenarios as life like as possible and to have the students thinking on their feet about what they would do if they came across these situations and how they would act until the paramedics arrived.

As the student association, we will not be having an active role in what will be put on at each scenario but we will be working to bring everyone together and doing the logistics behind the event.

We have the full support of Clare Flynn and June Heart to go ahead with this and we will be working along with the staff towards this over the coming months and looking to put the event on around mid to end of May.