

Item 8 LB 7/09/19

FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION			
Meeting: The Lanarkshire Board 07 October 2019			
Presented by	Annette Bruton		
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Date Created	23/09/19	Telephone	01698 232500
Appendices Attached	Principal and Chief Executive Report		
Disclosable under FOISA		Yes	

1. PURPOSE

To update the Board on activity across the College not covered by other reports.

2. BACKGROUND

The Principal provides a regular report outlining a full range of college activity since the last meeting.

3. DETAIL

This report will cover aspects of college business where these matters are not already covered in substantive items on the agenda.

4. BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The report covers many positive aspects of college life which will be of interest to the Board, staff and students.

5. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The report provides an overview of activity relevant to the sector and on-going strategic development of the college.

6. RISK

N/A

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications

9. WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no workforce implications

10. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no reputational implications

11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities implications

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lanarkshire Board is asked to note the information contained in this report and raise or discuss any issues.

Principal and Chief Executive's Report

1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to draw to the Board's attention to aspects of college life which will be of interest and which do not appear elsewhere on the Board agenda. It also provides a summary of some of the key activities which I have engaged in.

Since my interim appointment on 09 September I have met with all the Heads of Faculty and Heads of the services that support staff and students. As well as providing an overview of the priorities across the college, the discussions with senior staff will form the basis for a briefing pack for the incoming Principal in November. In addition to keeping the Board informed, I am also producing a weekly Principal's update for all staff.

I had a very productive meeting with the President and Vice Presidents of the Students' Association to learn about their priorities and their ambitious workplan for the year.

Importantly, I have met twice with the Principal of South Lanarkshire College and had very helpful and productive discussions. This will be a regular meeting where the two colleges can build opportunities for sharing practice and actively seeking areas for collaboration.

I have been able to meet with the elected representatives of the recognised trade unions to listen to their views and will have a second meeting around the time of this Board meeting.

Meetings with both Education Scotland and the Funding Council were useful. The meeting with the link inspector from Education Scotland focussed on the curriculum review, which was undertaken in 2018, and progress since that visit. We also discussed the next college review which is part of a cycle of reviews across the sector and this will take place towards the end of this academic year. Senior staff have regular meetings with the SFC to discuss progress with the Business Plan. The meeting I had with the SFC was an opportunity for me to discuss my priorities and what the Board have asked me to do during this interim period.

I attended the first meeting of the new term of the Student and Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Group and there are a lot of positive initiatives which will be taken forward to support both staff and students.

Having become familiar with the three large campuses of the college, I visited the Kirkintilloch campus and met staff and students from the Art and Design curricular area and will also visit the Broadwood and Hamilton campuses.

I was delighted to be invited to deliver a speech to members of the Lanarkshire Business Hub at their 10th anniversary breakfast event and presented honorary member awards to the two longest serving members of the Hub. The key theme for that presentation focussed on the impact that colleges have on local business and the economy. This links to the review currently being undertaken by the Principals of Edinburgh College and City of Glasgow College and the Scottish Government's continued focus on the effectiveness of colleges to support the growth of a fair economy.

Arrangements are well underway for the upcoming Awards Ceremony on Friday 15 November 2019 and I know that Board members will all have received an invite to the event.

2 Awards and Achievements

Fresh start to new academic year

The new academic year got off to a lively start at the College as students enjoyed three days of Freshers activities. Our main campuses in Motherwell, Coatbridge and Cumbernauld were transformed with stalls set up by charities, local businesses, public sector health organisations and fitness firms, all against the backdrop of live DJs, free food, photobooths and inflatable assault courses.

'Market Day' shortlisted for CDN Award

The Learner Engagement initiative. 'Market Day'. has been shortlisted for a College Development Network award for developing essential skills. The award was shortlisted in the Essential Skills category for demonstrating the College has embraced the ethos of essential skills in the curriculum, ensuring that students articulate and demonstrate their skills and the potential to utilise these skills in different contexts.

Learner Engagement were pleased to launch the Big Ideas Festival for 2019/20 having secured funding to support a new group of student entrepreneurs to open 'Pop-Up shops' on campus, under the 'Market Day' banner.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Recognising the need to raise awareness of Mental Health and Wellbeing issues, the Students' Association organised "Andy's Man Club" to visit the college as part of Suicide Prevention Week 2019.

Two of the volunteers from the Glasgow club delivered four presentations to more than 250 students and staff covering the importance of raising awareness and supporting one another when it comes to talking about suicide and mental health.

NCL has most WorldSkills LIVE finalists

The finest apprentices and students from across the UK have been announced as finalists at a prestigious skills competition – and 24 of those are from New College Lanarkshire. The highest number of competitors out of 194 institutions, the 24 are set to compete in the national finals of WorldSkills LIVE after being selected as the top performers in their chosen skills from National Qualifiers held across the UK. The talented students will now go on to compete in front of more than 70,000 spectators at the UK final held at The Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham from 21-23 November.

Recognition

The College's International Manager has been named as an "Ambassador of Friendship of Shandong Province". One of 54 people recognised for "contributions made by foreign friends to the province's economic, social and foreign friendly cooperation". An official ceremony will take place on 29 September celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China held by Shandong Province.

3 Faculty News

Faculty of Business, Social Science and Sport

Two HND Social Science students will have the opportunity to join a local MP for a week's paid work experience in January 2020. The students will have the opportunity to participate in street surgeries and business meetings. Other internships are now being explored by other MSP/MPs.

A Mock trial was held at Hamilton Sheriff Court, presided by Lord Mulholland, and students assumed the roles of defence and prosecution counsel, witnesses and jurors.

During Tutorial Support time, the Social Science groups at Coatbridge campus will take part in a 'Cuppa and a Stroll' initiative to take learning and teaching outside the classroom and promote positive mental health in the process.

World Tourism Day will be held on 26 September and the Travel and Tourism students will showcase certain destinations and provide tourist information with displays and interaction with staff and students from other courses.

As an early retention strategy, Riot Police visited the COPPER students at Cumbernauld campus to demonstrate the use of equipment and protocols. Students were actively encouraged to role play which resulted in a highly engaging event.

The faculty recently acquired a set of high precision GPS vests to monitor all aspects of sports performance. Classes from NQ to HND level are using “professional” standard equipment to gather data on various aspects of performance including cardiovascular and effort levels in fitness sessions.

Three HND Graduate students from 2018-19 have been taken on by Rangers FC in their Football Development department as coaches. An NQ5 football student signed full time with Partick Thistle after spending a year on the Football Performance course and three female students have enrolled on this year’s HNC football course.

Faculty of Care and Science

Foundation Apprenticeship delivery within Care and Science has increased by 343% this year – helping more young people interested and qualified for a job in the industry. The Faculty has been delivering Foundation Apprenticeship programmes in Social Services, Children and Young People, offering a first step into a career in Early Learning and Childcare or Social Care.

The Faculty has expanded this to include FA programmes in Social Services & Health Care as well as Scientific Technologies – resulting in the 343% increase from 2018/19. Working closely with North and South Lanarkshire Councils, the Faculty have been evaluating and building the FA offering to cater to the needs of senior school pupils and provide the best learning experience.

Faculty of Computing and Creative Industries

The College’s Photography team has teamed up with the Airdrie hospice for a second year to host a competition for students to have their images feature in its annual calendar. There were more than 160 entries submitted for this year’s competition, which was based on the theme of family and a judging panel chose Coatbridge Campus student Kerri Beck’s photograph ‘Family Ties’ as the overall winner.

Three Photography lecturers won four prizes at the BIPP Scotland Regional Professional Awards 2019 which was held recently in Edinburgh. Elizabeth Morton won a gold award in the Open category for her image ‘Beautiful Imperfection’. Also in the Open category, Peter Adams picked up a silver for his image ‘More Than Movement’. Peter also won a bronze for his photograph entitled ‘Swim Little Fish Swim’. In addition, Lewis Napier, Curriculum & Quality Leader for Animation, Photography, Art & Design, won a silver award for his image ‘Red Skeleton’ in the Self-Commissioned Commercial category.

There will be ‘Step into STEM’ (Science, Technology and Maths) events in October for over 400 S1/2 pupils across Lanarkshire and Jamie Hepburn MSP will open the event on Tuesday 01 October at the Cumbernauld campus.

Faculty of Engineering and Automotive

Three young women are carving out a career in joinery as they begin their Modern Apprenticeship training at the College. All secured apprenticeships after completing introductory courses in Construction at our Motherwell Campus. The trio have now started the first year of their four-year training programmes with CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) and they are the first female joinery apprentices to undertake the training in the College’s 13-year partnership with CITB.

The first cohort of Babcock (Rosyth) Trainee Designers have successfully completed their 14 week bespoke training programme. The next cohort will start in October with a third cohort confirmed for January. Further to the success of the first cohort, Babcock have secured funding from Scottish Enterprise for a fourth group to start in May 2020. The HR team are keen to work with the college on other upskilling programmes and further discussions will take place early October.

BILT Europe takes place at the EICC in October and as part of the build up to the event the College will be hosting students and industry experts from across Europe to discuss and learn about Digital Built Environment.

BILT Academy is a one-day summit with a mix of workshops and labs from industry experts from across the globe to showcase the current state of the art technology practices and workflows in the industry. As emerging building industry experts, students will get the opportunity to discover and explore the current BIM methodologies as well as the latest technological developments in software and project management. Sponsorship from industry and professionals from across Europe has been secured for College students to attend this event.

Faculty of Service Industries

A hair salon within University Hospital Wishaw operated by students and staff from the Faculty of Service Industries has been shortlisted for Scotland's Dementia Awards 2019. The salon, Styles & Smiles, opened in April to offer long-stay patients free hair styling and barbering services. More than 300 treatments have already been carried out by Commercial Hairdressing or Barbering and Male Grooming and dedicated lecturers and students have been volunteering their time one day per week over the summer.

Professional Cookery students from the Cumbernauld campus are hosting a Parliamentary Dinner at the Members Restaurant on Wednesday 09 October.

Faculty of Supported Learning

The Wee Scone: successful pilot of a new course called Introduction to Employability. This course provided students with the opportunity to gain experience of working in a café environment, preparing, serving and delivering food. This is now a full time, one year course this year.

The Newmains Community Partnership Trust: This was another successful pilot in which students completed employability and core skills units for the workplace. This is also now a one year full time course providing employment training for students with additional support needs for whom post-college progression routes are limited.

A student from Life Skills, Enterprise and Employability, obtained a Modern Apprenticeship with ISS at the University of the West of Scotland. As part of the course, the student completed a work placement one day a week and due to the work ethic and attitude shown a brand new role was created for the student.

88% of the students on Project Search at University Hospital Wishaw found employment at the end of their course. This has been recognised as a significant achievement by DFN Project Search Group. (David Forbes Nixon Charitable Foundation). This is international recognition.