



NEW
COLLEGE
LANARKSHIRE

February 2022

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BOARD REPORT.



GROUPS AND COMMITTEES.

Over the past couple of the months, the Students' Association has been actively participating in various groups and committees to ensure they can contribute to important activities across the college, as well as bring in ideas from external meetings.

The team aim to continue their attendance at these groups and committees to ensure a positive impact on NCL students.



STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

All three presidents have joined the College's Student Mental Health Committee alongside Mental Health Coordinator Katie McIntosh, and have been attending fortnightly meetings with around 15 to 20 student volunteers. The aim of this committee is to find out more about what the College can do to support the health and wellbeing of students.



HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBENG COMMITTEE

Student President Kellyann has also been part of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing committee which convenes every month, and took part in health and safety walk rounds across the three main campuses. The main aim of this committee at the moment is to ensure a safe environment for staff and students amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



GLASGOW STUDENT FORUM

Student President Hannah recently attended the Glasgow Student Forum, which is run by elected voluntary members from different students' associations and unions and is chaired by the Student President of UWS. The main focus of discussion for this meeting was better transport links for students.

HEALTHY BODY HEALTHY MIND.

Student President Kellyann has been continuing her work towards achieving the Health Body Healthy Mind Award and the College Sport Award for NCL.

The Healthy Body Healthy Mind Award, created by Scottish Student Sport and partners ASH Scotland, NUS Scotland and SAMH, aims to encourage colleges and universities to improve student wellbeing and inspire positive changes on campus.

Pictured in the opposite image is Kellyann with Professor Christopher Moore, both holding the HBHM pledge. This meeting was to demonstrate that as an institution, New College Lanarkshire recognises the value of offering our students opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity and the value this has on enhancing college life and improving student wellbeing.

Among other physical activities, Kellyann continues to run the student Walk and Talk Sessions. The weekly Walk and Talk sessions have been scheduled for every Tuesday throughout February and March and the times and campuses have been communicated to all students via email and our social channels.



ALEXANDER THOMSON.



The Students' Association has been supporting one of our students, Alexander Thomson, who competes in the T38 disability sport classification for athletes with cerebral palsy and has his sights set on the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Alexander, who is 20, combines studying NQ Higher Sport and Fitness at our Motherwell Campus with travelling internationally for para-athletics competitions. He is competing in a series of events over the coming months in preparation for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

His first fixture is the Scottish Student Athletics Indoor Championships at the Emirates Arena on February 12th, shortly followed by the BUCS Indoor Athletics Championships at Sheffield's English Institute of Sport from February 18th to 20th, then the BUCS Outdoor Athletics Championships in Chelmsford from April 30th until May 2nd..

President Kellyann said: "Alexander had a busy summer last year representing Great Britain in the European Championships in Poland, winning bronze in 400m and was sixth in the 100m final.

"These upcoming events are very important to Alexander – not only does he get to represent our college, but these competitions will help with preparing him for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July.

"Our Students' Association has made a significant contribution from our budget to support Alexander in his upcoming competitions, yet there is still a way to go to cover the costs involved with competing in such events.

"We kindly asked our students and staff alike if they would consider joining us in supporting Alexander by donating to his GoFundMe page."



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

The Students' Association are very keen to offer students the chance to form a club or society within the college and President Alexandra has been working on a student survey that she hopes to share with students from 15th February. The purpose of the survey is to find out how many students would be interested in becoming part of a club or society and what types would be of interest.

Following a meeting with the Student President of UWS, an idea was raised about allowing NCL students to participate in existing UWS clubs and societies (under the society's discretion). The NCL student survey includes a question to gauge if students would be interested in this. If the students respond positively to this idea, further discussions will be had with the UWS societies to see who would be willing to open their membership to NCL students.

We hope that this will not only strengthen our connections with UWS, but hope that it might expand our students' knowledge of student life at a university level.

LGBT YOUTH CHARTER.

The Students' Association has been actively helping to complete the LGBT Youth Charter for NCL.

The LGBT Youth Charter is a straightforward programme that enables organisations to proactively include LGBTI people in every aspect of work, protecting staff and providing a high quality service for students.

Working alongside the College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Jaz Sandhu, Student President Hannah has been working on the visibility section of the charter. This involves distributing visible information relating to LGBTI topics, such as posters and flyers, as well as updating communication platforms such as the college website, with relevant links and information. Hannah has also been working alongside the communications team to help with the LGBT Youth Charter survey that has been sent out to all staff and students.

As February is LGBT History Month, the team have also been planning to help raise awareness across their social platforms and will be looking to share and promote the LGBT Youth Scotland's campaign 'Blurring Borders'. This campaign puts focus on LGBT rights and history around the world, the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ migrants, and the ways in which people can support and learn from each other.

The team will also be working with Jaz Sandhu to pull together any other relevant information and activities for our students.





STUDENT CONFERENCE.

The Students' Association have been offered the chance to organise a student conference and formal dinner between May and June 2022.

The purpose of the conference would be to offer students the chance to come along and join in discussions on various interesting and suitable topics as well as hear from guest speakers. The conference would be followed by a formal dinner, and the whole event would be an opportunity for students to relish in and celebrate their educational journey.

The event is still in the very early planning stages but the team have been collaborating to come up with potential venues and guest speakers and are very much looking forward to planning the special occasion.



STUDENT INFO SESSIONS.

The Students' Association recently teamed up with the With You charity which provides free, confidential support to people experiencing issues with drugs, alcohol or mental health.

The team were joined by Aaron Brown from the charity on a recent Instagram live, where they were able to hear about Aaron's own story of childhood trauma that led to addictions and being on the wrong side of the law as a young man. Aaron spoke about how his own experience, and being able to turn his life around, has left him wanting to support others who have troubles with mental health and addictions.

Aaron spoke about the benefits of the With You charity and how he and his colleague would be more than happy to have further talks with our students when it is safe to do so. We plan on continuing our work with the With You Charity.

The team have also been working with Sarah Baird from Fertility Network Scotland. Fertility Network Scotland provides free and impartial support, advice, information and understanding for anyone affected by fertility issues.

Sarah Baird, Educational Development Officer from Fertility Network, hosted a Zoom workshop for our students where she spoke of the importance of looking after your health and wellbeing now to protect fertility in the future. The session was very informative and we hope to invite Sarah along to run further workshops in the future.

