**New College Lanarkshire**

**Board Report – May 2025**

**Students’ Association, Student Engagement & Wellbeing**

**Prepared by**: Students’ Association  
**Date**: May 2025  
**Campuses**: Coatbridge | Motherwell | Cumbernauld

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**1. LGBTQ+ History Month**

LGBTQ+ History Month, founded in 1994 by Missouri high school history teacher Rodney Wilson, is a month-long observance celebrating the history and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals.

This year, the College marked the occasion with key initiatives:

* A partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust
* Information stalls and educational workshops hosted in the Wellbeing Academy
* Over 70 students per campus participated in workshops exploring LGBTQ+ history and its significance

**2. New Active Campus Coordinator**

New College Lanarkshire has welcomed a new Active Campus Coordinator, who will begin their role in May 2025.

The coordinator’s responsibilities will include:

* Collaborating with the Wellbeing Academy
* Supporting student retention and engagement initiatives
* Promoting the integration of physical activity and wellbeing into academic delivery
* Fostering a more active and health-conscious campus culture

**3. Passport to Health – Cross-Campus Wellbeing Event**

The College, in collaboration with the Wellbeing Academy, is launching its flagship health and wellbeing initiative, **"Passport to Health."** This cross-campus event aims to promote student wellness and engagement.

**Event Schedule:**

* **Coatbridge Campus** – Monday, 20 May 2025
* **Motherwell Campus** – Tuesday, 21 May 2025
* **Cumbernauld Campus** – Wednesday, 22 May 2025
* **Time:** 10:00am – 2:00pm each day

**Objectives:**

* Deliver accessible wellbeing services to students
* Promote mental and physical health awareness
* Cultivate an inclusive and supportive college environment

**Planned Activities:**

* Health checks and screenings
* Mental health support and signposting
* Guided physical activity sessions
* Nutrition and lifestyle guidance
* Holistic therapy taster sessions
* Resilience and wellbeing workshops
* Informational stalls featuring local organisations and services

The event is being widely promoted, with high levels of student engagement anticipated.

**4. Student President Elections**

Preparations are underway for the 2025 Student President Elections. This process is central to the College’s commitment to student leadership and democratic engagement.

As part of a newly revised representation structure, the Students’ Association will now include **one full-time Sabbatical Officer**, who will serve as the **Student President** for the 2025/26 academic year.

**Role of the Full-Time Sabbatical Officer:**

* Hold a paid, full-time position for one academic year
* Represent the student body across all campuses
* Work in partnership with senior leadership, academic teams, and student services
* Lead on campaigns, policy development, and the enhancement of the student experience

**Strategic Impact:**

This development aligns with national best practice and reinforces the College’s objectives to:

* Strengthen student representation and governance
* Enhance student involvement in quality assurance and decision-making
* Encourage collaboration across departments and student-facing functions

Comprehensive promotion and guidance will support student participation in the election process.

**5. Sparqs Visit – Reflections & Opportunities**

The College recently welcomed a representative from **sparqs (student partnerships in quality Scotland)** to the Motherwell Campus. The visit included a tour of the Wellbeing Academy and strategic discussions on the College’s evolving student representation structures.

The following reflections were shared by the sparqs representative:

“Thank you all sincerely for hosting me at New College Lanarkshire yesterday. I had a truly wonderful visit and am so thankful to have gotten the chance to have an introductory conversation with all of you. Thank you all for an exceptional lunch, the hoodie and gift bag (the former I am already wearing proudly!), the tour of the Wellbeing Academy, and most of all, an illuminating set of conversations.  
I particularly valued hearing about your changing representation structures, and I'm eager to hear about the effects and benefits that come from introducing a full-time President, adding student councils, and expanding department reps into 'Class Rep Leaders.' These are exciting changes and I'm curious to see how these impact existing processes like the course rep conferences and curriculum reviews.  
I'm also eager to offer sparqs's support for any of your project areas, including the arrival of a new college strategy (2030), the student presidents' work on staff engagement, and an officer handover happening soon. Wherever I can lend my insight or perspective, I’d be delighted to help. I’d be happy to come back for a visit, facilitate a workshop, or host an online meeting to help you utilise some of our national resources — so please do just reach out if I can be of assistance. I'll follow up and check in sometime after elections to see if any of the above might be useful.  
Thank you again for welcoming me to the Motherwell Campus; I'm thrilled to be your key contact and look forward to supporting you over the coming months and years.”

The College values sparqs’ continued support and looks forward to further collaboration.

**6. Bike Breaks Initiative**

Students have been actively engaging in lunchtime cycling sessions as a means of staying physically active and mentally refreshed. This initiative is supported by funding from **Cycling Scotland**, which enabled the Wellbeing Academy to purchase **ten bikes and accessories**.

The bikes, supplied by wellbeing partner **Social Track** in Wishaw, are available to both students and staff. Several lecturers have also incorporated cycling into their teaching, using local routes and architecture as learning tools in outdoor sessions.

This initiative promotes active learning, encourages wellbeing, and supports student interaction with the wider community environment.

**7. Herald Higher Education Awards Nominations**

New College Lanarkshire has been shortlisted for two categories at the upcoming **Herald Higher Education Awards**, recognising its ongoing dedication to student success and wellbeing:

* **Supporting Student Wellbeing Award**: In recognition of the holistic, impactful approach of the College’s Wellbeing Academies in supporting student mental health and wellness.
* **Outstanding Contribution from a College Student**: Chloe Sandilands has been nominated for her exemplary leadership, dedication to student initiatives, and contributions to the wider college community.

These nominations highlight the College’s commitment to empowering students and fostering a culture of care and achievement.

