



South Lanarkshire College

Students' Association

Board Report

April 2025

YOUR COLLEGE
 **YOUR WAY**

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Overview

The Student Association have had a very busy few months with lots of fantastic activities taking place for students to engage with, including Refreshers, Love Your Planet, LGBT History Month and much more.

We have been trying to make sure the students know the SA is available to them by always having an activity or stall taking place. Our commitment to support students experiencing financial hardship has continued by ensuring the food larder is kept fully stocked and that free student meals are clearly promoted.

As part of the activities taking place, the Student Association had help keeping the planet, and campus, clean with Biffa alongside some of our amazing students. The President and Vice President were also engaged with LGBT+ History Month with a stall for students to share their ideas and learn more information. We also had a tablecloth where students could write positive messages and free cakes were available, provided by our Hospitality students. It has been incredibly rewarding interacting and hearing from the students on a variety of different topics.

Student Engagement

As highlighted above, over the past few months the Student Association has been busy organising a variety of engaging events and activities, including Refreshers, Love Your Planet, LGBT History Month, Time to Talk, and an Easter Egg Hunt before the students finished for the Easter break. We are well on our way to completing all the activities we set out to achieve at the start of the year.

The Student Association is thrilled to have received feedback from students through the forms we handed out during our Refreshers event and are delighted to report that we received 100% positive feedback. We remain committed to hosting as many events as possible for students on campus, from mindfulness and mental health sessions to many more. Our goal is to ensure that every student has the best possible experience whilst studying at SLC.

The SA Office remains a central point on campus to support students, especially those dealing with increases in the cost-of-living. We are pleased we can continue to support students, in partnership with Aramark, by offering free soup, sandwiches, and breakfast on designated days. We are very grateful to the SLC Foundation for providing the funds to continue with this initiative. This funding also helps us operate the Student Larder. Located in the SA Office, this continues to remain stocked with food and toiletries and is a valuable resource for students.

To ensure students stay warm, the College Way Market continues to provide free clothing for all ages and is replenished with seasonal items throughout the year. This is such a valuable service and is easily accessible to the student community on the Ground Floor Atrium.

Refreshers

Refreshers took place from Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 January and featured many student favourites including 'What's in the Box?' and a Lucky Dip. Students also had the opportunity to sign up for yoga classes and receive a free yoga mat.

The event was very successful with students enjoying their interactions with the Student Association. Many prizes were awarded in the Lucky Dip, and 'What's in the Box?' winners received exciting gift bags. The main prize was a large jar of sweets and a £20 gift voucher.

The Student Association also distributed feedback forms and is pleased to report we received 100% positive responses. We are committed to maintaining this high standard of service for all our students.





Time to Talk and Student Mental Health Agreement

Following our meeting with Think Positive in February 2025, we are excited to be continuing with the Student Mental Health Agreement for 2025-2027. We have already achieved a great deal in supporting student mental health but look forward to building on the work already undertaken. To find out more about our SMHA, please visit the Student Association webpage [here](#).

To support student mental health, the Student Association took part in the national Time to Talk event on 6 February 2025. The aim of the event was to create an open, informal space where students could have a relaxed conversation about their mental health and wellbeing. We wanted to check in with them and offer a safe space for discussing any challenges they might be facing, whether related to their studies, personal life, or day-to-day issues. It was an opportunity for students to share their thoughts and feelings, knowing they had support and someone to talk to.

Overall, the event fostered a sense of connection, and we were pleased to see many students engage in meaningful discussions about mental health.





Love Your Planet and Valentine's Day

On Valentine's Day, we embraced the spirit of love not just for each other, but also for our wonderful planet. We welcomed several different organisations onto campus to help raise awareness about waste reduction and sustainability including Biffa, Home Energy Scotland and Cairn Ecology.

We were also delighted to invite the SLC Horticulture students by arranging an information stall for them. The students discussed the importance of bees and how they play a vital role in keeping the world moving. We learned from the Horticulture Course Tutor that if bumblebees go extinct, the planet will suffer significantly due to their vital role in pollinating so many plants.

Cairn Ecology focused on protecting species and conducting ecological assessments.

The Student Association handed out eco-friendly freebies to students, including recycled water bottles and notebooks. These items were highly sought after by our students with all of them being distributed. They also took the opportunity to talk about how everyone can contribute to taking care of our planet.

In the afternoon, the SA and student volunteers joined Biffa for a litter-picking session. We collected a lot of litter, splitting into smaller groups to cover different areas of the College campus. Overall, it was an excellent display of student participation and partnership.

Alongside this, the Student Association went around campus handing out individual Valentine's Day gift bags to students with lovely treats included. The aim of this was to help spread joy and the feeling of connection throughout the campus.

It was wonderful to see our college community come together to celebrate love and inspire sustainable behaviours that help protect our planet.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a huge success. Let's continue to spread love and care for one another and for our beautiful planet.





Care Day 20 February

The Student Association celebrated Care Day for our care experienced students on 20 February. SLC Guidance and Support Advisors hosted a stall in the Atrium providing freebies and valuable guidance and information on all the internal and external support services available. We also hosted a lunch with 16 students coming along to enjoy pizza, juice, biscuits, and caramel shortcake, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great opportunity to meet and chat with our care experienced students and have an opportunity to check in with them about their learner experience.





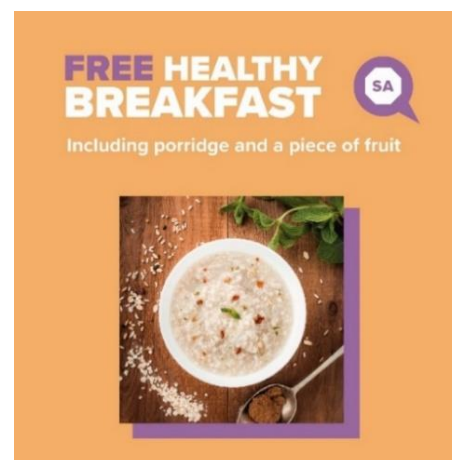
LGBT History Month / Purple Friday

On February 28 March, the Student Association celebrated Purple Friday as part of LGBT History Month. We held a stall where we welcomed students to express how they felt and to write something positive on our LGBT Equality tablecloth. We were also delighted to be handing out free rainbow bags, stickers and college branded LGBTQ+ button badges for students to proudly wear. Working in partnership with our Hospitality students, the Student Association handed out free cakes including scones, carrot cake and cupcakes! The students had a great time, and we received very positive feedback throughout the day. Women's Aid were also invited to have a stall providing information on gender-based violence to our college community. Our Beauty students also got involved by providing free purple manicures to staff and students. We would like to say a big thank you to all the students in our Hospitality and Beauty departments who helped make this event such a success.





Complimentary Student Meals and Student Larder



We remain dedicated to supporting students who continue to face financial challenges by providing this complimentary service, in partnership with Aramark Catering. We will continue offering free soup and a sandwich to students one day per week. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the SLC Foundation for their generous support, all of which makes this possible. This contribution allows us to provide healthy breakfasts and lunches to students who are most impacted by rising food costs, helping them to continue to focus on their studies.

Additionally, we continue to offer a Student Larder, where students can visit the SA Office to collect essential food and toiletries. We will also provide free pens, notebooks, and blank folders to ensure students have the necessary stationery.

Throughout the year, we work closely with Student Services to help guide students to Discretionary Hardship funding and promote financial support through the SA's fortnightly newsletter – Student News4U.



Student's Charity Event

The Level 6 Cabin Crew students organised a three-day fundraising event for Valentine's Day to support their trip to Manchester for a residential course. The funds raised were aimed at assisting with both the cost of the trip and providing spending money, ensuring that all students had an equal experience, regardless of their budget. This initiative helps address student poverty, allowing everyone to participate and benefit from this learning opportunity. Additionally, part of the funds raised will be donated to the Beatson charity.

Well done to the students for hosting such a fantastic event!





Money Monday

The Student President and Vice President held a Student Money Information Day where we handed out leaflets with information about student funding. The Student Association provided various informative leaflets including Your Guide to Student Support, as well as a link to find out more about student funding and to sign the National Union of Student (NUS) petition about improving overall student funding.



Easter Egg Hunt

To create some fun before the Easter break, the Student President and Vice President went around the College placing pictures of Easter Eggs so that students could participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. Students had the chance to win an Easter Egg or a chocolate bunny if they chose to take part. There was a huge number of students who participated with a winner of the large Easter Egg and plenty of students who won smaller prizes.



Forthcoming Events

Free Sanitary Product Stall: 2 April 2025

Care Experience Student Lunch: 24 April 2025