

Students' Association, Learner Engagement & Wellbeing

November 2024 Board Report

WELLBEING ACADEMY

Be well to do well

The "Be Well to Do Well" project at NCL focuses on student well-being, which we believe is key to academic and personal success.

This year, we're excited to open our flagship Wellbeing Academy at our Motherwell Campus, with two more at Coatbridge and Cumbernauld Campuses in development.

These centres will be crucial for our holistic approach to education, providing safe spaces and support through multi-agency services. Inspired by similar initiatives at Niagara College, our aim is to meet the diverse needs of our students and help them succeed both academically and personally.

If you would like to find out more please email studentvoice@nclan.ac.uk



Wonderful Wellbeing Academies

Our Wellbeing Academy in Motherwell was officially opened at a special ceremony in late October. Staff were joined by partners from across Lanarkshire. Principal Christopher Moore told the audience the academies were a physical example of NCL's commitment to improving relationships with our students and each other.

Author and influencer Kat Connelly said she was blown away by the friendliness and commitment of everyone involved in the project. Head of Student Engagement and Wellbeing, John O'Hara, the driving force behind the academies, gave a passionate thanks to everyone who had helped make them a reality.

The special video created by Charley Redmond and starring our Performing Arts student Nicholas Marshall, shows what the Wellbeing Academies are all about. If you would like to see the video, you can email StudentVoice@nclan.ac.uk for the link.



Class reps

Over 300 class representatives have signed up to represent students in providing feedback on learning, teaching, and assessment within their classes. This feedback will contribute to the course review process, ensuring that students have a voice and are actively consulted in decisions regarding Learning, Teaching, and Assessment (LTA).

Sparqs is currently in the process of training these students, equipping them with the necessary skills to effectively gather and utilise qualitative feedback. This training helps them develop a deeper understanding of how to represent their peers' perspectives and communicate them effectively.

Additionally, the Students' Association and the Student Engagement Team offer in-house training sessions to prepare students for course reviews. These sessions focus on familiarising students with the set of questions outlined by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) to ensure they are ready to participate meaningfully in the review process.



Construction are staying active

The Wellbeing Academy and the Active Campus Coordinator have been collaborating with construction students to incorporate physical activity into their course. Through this initiative, students visit the Wellbeing Academy to receive support and engage in physical activities, which has had a positive impact on their motivation and course retention.

These interventions are now being trialled in other departments to assess their impact on student retention across various disciplines, aiming to enhance engagement and overall wellbeing in the learning environment.



Student Partnership Agreement

NCL and the Students' Association have enjoyed a long and productive partnership.

This Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) is a shared vision designed to enhance the student experience by building NCL's existing partnerships with staff, students, schools, universities, employers and key stakeholders.

Central to the SPA is an equal partnership where students are at the core of decision-making, self-evaluation and enhancement planning.

The SPA will require mutual respect for student, academic and professional services staff expertise, a strong effective student representative structure that is accountable to the entire student body, and student and staff capability to co-create and implement solutions. Please see accompanying documents for more information.



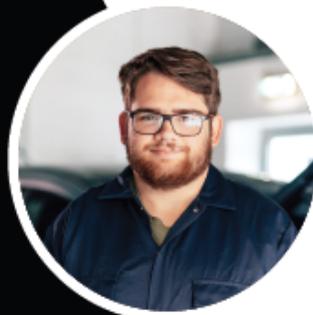
Student Mental Health Agreement

New College Lanarkshire responded to the recommendations highlighted in the Thriving Learners Report by launching a focused Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA), a partnership between the College and all students.

In Scotland 64% of students reported low mental health and wellbeing and 14.67% of NCL students in academic year 2023 -2024 withdrew from their course due to health issues, including mental health.

There needs to be a simple, targeted approach with a clear and consistent message framed around; raising awareness of stigma and discrimination associated with mental health; identification of factors and triggers that may impact on a student's mental health and wellbeing and coping strategies to improve personal resilience.





Your story.
Our support.

Roadshow of our Three Campaigns

The Student Engagement Team is about to start its roadshow across campuses to connect with students and discuss what these campuses mean to them, as well as the kinds of support they feel would be most beneficial.

Students will have the opportunity to ask questions, share their experiences, and provide feedback on the resources and services available to them. This initiative aims to foster a stronger sense of community and ensure that student voices are heard in shaping campus support systems.

1

Be well
to do well.

Supporting students with mental and physical health challenges to aid their academic success.

2

Be financially
fit.

Provides resources to help students manage financial difficulties during their studies.

3

Getting to
know you.

We work closely with students, building strong relationships and providing the support each individual needs.



Winter Jacket Appeal

As winter nears, our recent food and winter coat appeals have received an encouraging response across all campuses. The Wellbeing Academies are collecting much-needed canned and dried foods for our campus foodbanks, helping provide essential support to those in need.

The Winter Coat Appeal is also underway, with numerous donations of warm jackets that are available for students in need. We are especially grateful for the generous donation made by Lady Susan Haughey to the Winter Coat Appeal, which will go a long way in helping our community stay warm this season.

We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to these efforts—the support is making a meaningful impact as we prepare for winter together.

Join the conversation.

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