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Regional Board Report

Subject: Borders College Student Association Report	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☒ **For Discussion** ☒ **For Information** ☒
Prepared by: BCSA	**Date of Committee: Thursday 9th March**

Purpose: To inform the Regional Board of Management of the activities of Borders College Student Association

Executive Summary:
When Students study at Borders College, they automatically become a member of one of the best students' associations in Scotland!

Our Student Association is here to support students in every aspect of their college experience. Whether they need help with something in class, are looking for a way to expand their skills, or want to do something fun the BCSA is here for them.

Key items:
The paper attached summarises the activities and events of BCSA this academic session.

Introduction to office bearers
Fresher's Week & Induction activities
Student Survey
Student Experience Committee
Clubs, Events & Groups
Supporting Students

The paper was prepared by Eilidh Forrest (Student Association Support Officer) Vice Presidents; Micah Hall, Chris Alder & Damon Aprile –Turnbull.

Questions that Members should ask themselves when reading the paper:

Linked to Strategic Ambition(s):
Take a leading role in enabling an inclusive, resilient and sustainable Scotland

Create high quality learning and training opportunities which are relevant, enabling and flexible

Performance Measures: Engaged & empowered staff and student body Student Outcomes in top quartile of national colleges	
Linked to Strategic Risk Register: 1c - Learners Needs 4b - Governance	
Recommendation:	
Previous Committee Approvals:	
For publication ☒	**Not for publication** ☐ **If not, why not?**

BCSA Paper

Introduction to Office Bearers

Chris Alder – Vice President for Education

Hello, I am currently studying for an introduction to plumbing course and I'm also the class rep for this course. I am what is termed as a “Mature” student and returned to college in an effort to broaden my knowledge base and to allow me to gain more social interactions with as diverse a group of people as possible. I help manage the Class Rep system that is currently in place at college. I come up with the questions for out Reps and I lead our meetings where we gather feedback.

Damon Aprile-Turnbull – Vice President for Newtown

Hello there, my name is Damon Aprile Turnbull. I am a really friendly character and easy to get along with, I will always listen to anyone's problems or just have a friendly chat. I am currently doing my NC year studying agriculture in the Newtown campus. I am hoping to move on to farm work or rural work once I leave college. I am also currently Vice President of the campus which means my roles include; representing the views and values of the campus, being a voice for students and the campus, and raising BCSA awareness to students and staff.

Micah Hall - Vice President for Activities and Wellbeing

I am a mad art student who is rarely seen without some form of black clothing, I may constantly look tired, but I am always happy to have a quick chat (although I may be a little awkward at first) and to lend a hand where I can. My job is to help the students, so I set up activities and groups to benefit them and I want to make sure everyone is having an alright time at Borders College. I am here to represent and support the students at Borders College, while supporting the student association.

Fresher’s Week, Induction activities & Enrolment

The Borders College Students’ Association (BCSA) was present during the Supported Enrolment sessions available throughout the summer of 2022. BCSA offered guided tours to all attendees to allow new students a chance to understand the campus and key locations in a calmer environment.

During Induction Week the BCSA provided a short talk to all students which explored the activities of the Students’ Association and the opportunities available to students in the Association. This provided students with an idea of the BCSA from the beginning of their courses.

Following on from Induction Week the BCSA hosted two freshers fairs called ‘Welcome Fest’’on the 30th August and 1st September. The event saw around 30 organisations and charities visit our Galashiels campus each day to meet with students and display the support available to students in their local communities. Live music, DJ, popcorn, and games were also present at the event. Buses were organised to bring students across from other campuses so they could also participate.

This freshers event was adapted to take place in January as we hosted the 'Winter Wellbeing Fair' alongside Student Support. The January event welcomed 10 external organisation onto our Galashiels campus to highlight support available to students.

Student Survey

In January 2023 the 'Big Student Survey' was shared with all students. The survey asked questions concerning satisfaction, assessments, online and in person learning and teaching, student support, and student voice. We received 183 responses to this survey which is +119 responses compared to February 2022's Big Student Survey. We learned that 88% of students were satisfied with their college experience, compared to 90% in 2022. Also, 56% of students felt there was a strong student voice culture at the college, this compares to 76% in 2022.

Student Experience Committee

The BCSA hosts the Student Experience Committee to allow the Students' Association to provide feedback on the activity of the BCSA and activity of students to College managers. Survey responses and student ideas are shared with the College to allow students to help the College improve student experience. The first Student Experience Committee took place on 2nd March 2022 where we explored the feedback received from the 'Big Student Survey', shared an update on our Class Reps, shared a Project Proposal and shared a student idea to help design a student space on campus.

Clubs, Events & Groups

The BCSA hosted an LGBT History Month Café in February to celebrate LGBT History Month, LGBT Youth Scotland attended to inform students and staff about LGBT History in Scotland. 'A Pride in the Borders Planning Group' has met to help coordinate the involvement of Borders College Students in Pride in the Borders 2022. A Chess Club is in the process of being set up at the request of ESOL students. A D&D Club is currently being coordinated. The BCSA are currently surveying students to discover what issues students are keen to have highlighted on campus.

Supporting Students

The BCSA works closely with Student Support to advertise and host events/opportunities available to students. During Thursdays in November (Men's Health Month) the BCSA worked with the Mental Health Team to provide free hot lunches to students to encourage healthy eating and help tackle the cost-of-living crisis. We regularly update our Student Portal to advertise support available to students. We meet with students to discuss what we can do to help and point them in the right direction to receive the correct support.

Office Bearers 2023/24

The nominations for Student President will open at the beginning of March and voting for the new President will open on the 22nd March and close on the 29th March. This will allow the new Student President to shadow the BCSA before they formally begin the role in July 2023. The Vice President positions (Education, Newtown, and Activities and Wellbeing) will also have to be re-elected during October 2023 as all posts must follow the election process each year. Office

Bearer positions are advertised and shared with students during Induction and Freshers week to allow new and returning students a chance to get involved with the BCSA.