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Regional Board

Subject: Borders College Students' Association Update	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☒ **For Information** ☐
Prepared by: Students' Association Support Officer	**Date of Committee:** 26/10/23
Purpose: To inform the Regional Board of the activity of Borders College Students' Association.	
Executive Summary: This report covers the activity of the Students' Association from the beginning of the Student President's time in office throughout the first term of 2023, providing examples of student feedback and student activity captured from different areas of work. **Key items:** Student Feedback, Class Reps, Vice Presidents, Clubs and Groups, Strategic and Operational Plans, Activity and Events. **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: CQSE 19 October 2023	
For publication ☒	**Not for publication** ☐ **If not, why not?**

Borders College Students' Association Update

Student Feedback

Quiet Introduction & Supported Enrolment

During August, BCSA supported the Quiet Introduction & Supported Enrolment events that took place four times to help students who need a quieter, calmer introduction to college. BCSA provided student tours of the campus and collected feedback through entry and exit surveys:

- 42 event attendees over the 4 sessions.
- 40 entry surveys completed.
- 29 exit surveys.
- 67% of attendees were aged 16-19.
- 37% of attendees came from the TD1 area.
- 20% of attendees disclosed a disability or learning need in their entry survey.

On entry 70% of attendees were aware of the support available to them at Borders College, and 52% felt confident about coming to college.

Once students engaged in the sessions 100% felt that their needs had been met at Quiet Introduction & Supported Enrolment, 100% of attendees left all sessions aware of the support available to them as Borders College students, and 97% felt that the event made them more confident about coming to college.

Some comments from students included:

- 'Thank you to the students' association for making me feel comfortable and putting my worries at ease! :)'
- 'Being an older student made me nervous about joining college as it was so unknown but coming along has made me excited to study here.'
- 'The lady who gave me the tour, I found she was really sweet and I felt comfortable around her.'

Big Student Survey

BCSA shared our first Big Student Survey of the year during September. This survey collected feedback looking specifically at student induction.

One of our Big Student Surveys from 2022/23 asked students about what they expected from their college induction. This survey was reported to the Enrolment & Induction Committee and, as a result, four outcomes were created for 2023's Student Induction. Student Voices shaped these outcomes and meeting these outcomes would help students be successfully inducted into Borders College and prepared to begin this year's learning journey:

1. Students are ready and prepared to engage in learning.
2. Students will develop a sense of belonging and community.
3. Students are aware of their rights and responsibilities.
4. Induction is exciting, fun and engaging for all learners.

The survey saw our highest engagement levels over all surveys shared in the previous academic year with 198 responses from students. This is 8% higher than the Big Student Survey 1 conducted in 2022-23.

Student feedback resulted in the following success rates:

- Outcome 1: Students are ready and prepared to engage in learning - 92% success rate
- Outcome 2: Students will develop a sense of belonging and community - 88% success rate
- Outcome 3: Students are aware of their rights and responsibilities - 89% success rate
- Outcome 4: Induction is exciting, fun and engaging for all learners - 90% success rate

The feedback shared in the Big Student Survey will be used to help guide the next student induction as it indicates what students would like to see improved.

Class Reps

The recruitment of Class Reps started from mid-September. We currently have 42 class reps.

Training was organised with sparqs. They provided three online, live training sessions and an online module for Reps to complete on Canvas.

So far 21 reps have completed their training.

7 Class Rep meetings have been scheduled for the end of October for the Student President and Support Officer to meet with Reps from the same curriculum areas.

Vice Presidents

The nominations for Vice Presidents are currently open and we plan to have two VPs in place by the end of October. This year Borders College will have a Vice President for Newtown and a Vice President for Education & Wellbeing.

Clubs and Groups

The Student President has supported 12 students to create a Dungeons & Dragons Club. This group of students will meet regularly on campus after college to play D&D. BCSA helped them book a room, create promotional materials, and communicate with each other to organise their sessions. The student President will also participate in this club.

BCSA have supported a herbalist group of students at our Newtown campus. 8 students have been meeting with the Student President to plan what this group would like to do. BCSA supported the herbalist group to book a minibus and paid for a driver for a trip to Duns. However, this trip was cancelled due to bad weather. We hope to support the group to reschedule another trip.

The Student President has met with another group of students from Newtown who would like to form a chess club. They have been informed of the help BCSA can provide them in organising their club.

Strategic and Operational Plans

BCSA have worked with 32 students to hear from them what they want from their Students' Association. This feedback has been used to help write our new Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan will be viewed by staff at the first student experience committee who can provide their feedback on its contents.

The Strategic Plan's objectives have been used to form our Operational Plan. Once the two VPs are in place they will be able to contribute to this.

Activity and Events

BCSA and the EDI Officer hosted a successful LGBTQ+ quiz during August. This was attended by 10 students who all enjoyed free pizza provided by BCSA.

Environmenstrual Week takes place from the 16th-20th October. BCSA plans to giveaway lots of free sustainable period products to students to help raise awareness for the week and encourage students to be more climate aware.

BCSA have been working with volunteers from Canine Concern Scotland to schedule regular Therapet sessions across our campuses as they were very popular with students during induction. 10 sessions have been scheduled between now and the Christmas break. At these sessions students can meet some support pets and engage with the BCSA who will be there to talk and signpost students to the appropriate support.

During Induction week, to support the college's respect campaign we asked students what respect meant to them. We heard from 48 students who mentioned things like: 'kindness for all', 'end bullying', 'to treat others how you want to be treated', and 'to be courteous, kind, mindful towards others regardless of who they are'. The 48 ideas have been displayed on the wall in the Student Area.

Anti-bullying week takes place from the 13th-17th November. BCSA plans to support this week with different activities and awareness raising.

Men's Health Month will be celebrated by Borders College throughout November. BCSA plan to arrange pool and table tennis tournaments offering students free snacks with the hopes of encouraging students to sign up to Cahonas Scotland's Self Check Reminder to receive reminders through text or email for checks for testicular cancer.