

PARTNERED

Borders College Student Partnership Agreement 2025-2026



BORDERS

COLLEGE


Borders College Students' Association

Section A - The Agreement

Introduction

Borders College and Borders College Students' Association (BCSA) will work together to promote their common values and to achieve their shared priorities for the academic year 2025-2026.

This agreement demonstrates the relationship that exists between the College and BCSA, and the continued work to develop a strong and effective Students' Association, as presented in the 'Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations' (Developing College Students' Associations, 2021).

Partnership

The idea of 'partnership' expresses a joint working relationship based on shared respect between staff and students. The College and BCSA hold each other in high regard, valuing the perspectives, efforts, and decisions of each group. This partnership allows for the Students' Association and College to navigate different opinions and viewpoints without affecting the effectiveness of this relationship.

Our partnership working is based on the values of:

- Openness
- Trust and honesty
- Effective communication between partners
- Shared goals, values and responsibilities

The Role of BCSA

BCSA is the primary champion of the student voice. By sharing student voices and representing their views, BCSA works with the College to improve the student experience.

BCSA is made up of:

- Its members: all students enrolled at Borders College.
- A team of elected Student Officers.
- Unelected voluntary Student Ambassadors.

BCSA's strategic visions is:

'For Borders College students to be heard by the College, successfully supported throughout their time studying here, and armed with the tools needed to succeed as global citizens'.

Borders College Students' Association Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

The Role of Borders College

Borders College strategic mission is:

'To provide the highest quality learning experience and outcomes, to support business and drive economic growth in the Scottish Borders'.

Borders College, Vision 2030.

Borders College supports BCSA to represent students' views and ensure that students have a say in decision making processes. The College commits to supporting the Students' Association in the following ways:

- Making sure the student experience is central to all Regional Board decisions.
- Working with the Students' Association to understand the quality of the student experience.
- Gathering feedback from students before important decisions are made.
- Giving BCSA the support needed to become strong, autonomous and adequately resourced.
- Helping BCSA to run in a fair and democratic way which fulfils its responsibilities.
- Making sure partnership procedures between the College and BCSA are put in place in order to achieve change for students.

Working Together

The College and BCSA are committed to working in partnership to promote opportunities for students to drive change and shape decisions made at Borders College. Students can shape and influence change through many ways at College, some of these include:

- Giving honest, constructive feedback by taking part in surveys, focus groups, and other informal discussions.
- Speaking to Course Tutors, Delivery Team Managers, or Head of Sectors (HOS) directly.
- Sharing views with Class Reps.
- Standing to be a Student Officer or Class Rep.

Section B - Looking back at 2024/25

The Student Partnership Agreement 2024/25 identified 3 priorities for the session:

- Support for Student Wellbeing
- Developing a Stronger Community
- Promote Respect

Our partnership undertook work to improve and shape the student experience of these three priority areas. Some of this work included:

Priorities	Actions	Highlights
Support for Student Wellbeing	Monitor and implement the work outlined in the Student Mental Health Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Support Managers working with local schools to collect transitions information on students - over 300 students with transitions information. • Mentally Healthier Industries pilot project undertaken in Hairdressing and Joinery classes. Through this project, 29 students and 5 staff members achieved Creating Hope Awards, and 41 individuals also becoming Trauma Informed. • The staff wellbeing hour pilot has now been rolled out, giving staff one hour per week to support their own wellbeing.
	Develop sustainable support activities and initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Wellbeing Check-Ins launched. This is a space for students and staff to enjoy free hot drinks and snacks and engage in activities to look after their wellbeing. Focused on a range of topics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Stress ◦ Being Kind to Yourself and Others ◦ Blue Monday ◦ Mindfulness • Managing Stress & Anxiety workshop video created by Student Wellbeing Coordinator and Health in Mind. • A Winter Wellbeing Toolkit was developed to provide advice and guidance over the winter period. • The Drop-In launched to provide students and staff with regular access to local organisation who can provide support with a wide range of issues.
	Promote support initiatives available to students which help alleviate impacts from the cost-of-living crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Living payments promoted and shared with students. • Campus Pantry kits launched to provide students with easy to access short-term food support. • Student Support provide breakfast and lunch bags to students in need of support. Supermarket vouchers can also be accessed. • Winter Wellbeing Shop hosted to support staff and students to access affordable festive gifts.

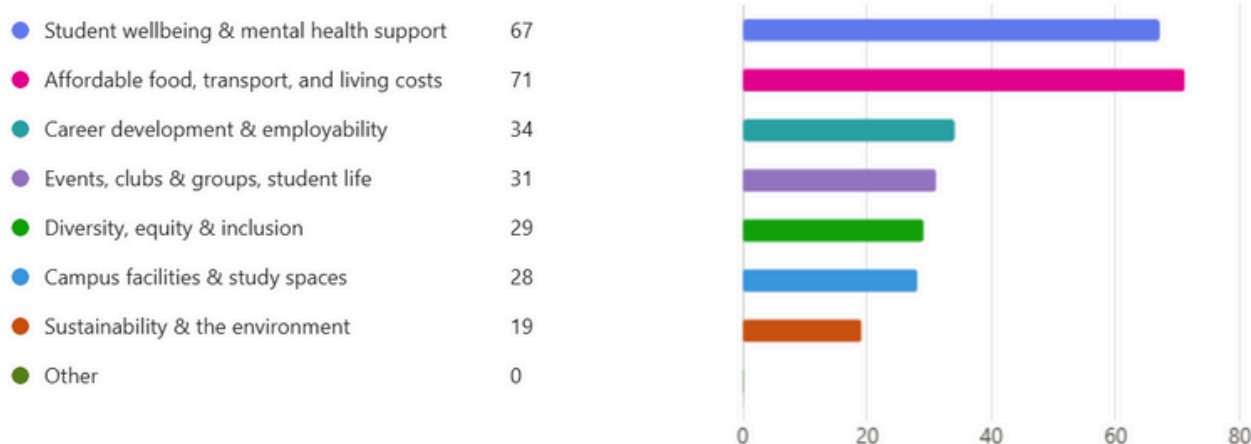
Priorities	Actions	Highlights
Developing a Stronger Community	Support students to participate in clubs and groups at college.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Social Group launched to help students meet new people and chat in a friendly space. • Two student-run Dungeons & Dragons clubs were established. • Six Pool League sessions took place throughout the year, and a mini league was created for Schools Academy students. • A range of student events took place throughout the year, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Working with Just Cycle to provide 23 free bikes to students and staff. ◦ Scavenger Hunts. ◦ Fairs. • One Step Borders offered breakfast and lunch clubs.
	Work with Class Reps and other students to support communication between students and staff to improve and shape the student experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Plan designed with the support of student voices. • Interviews were conducted with care-experienced young people to inform and improve the support available at college. • Safety Survey conducted by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer heard from 50 individuals.
Promote Respect	Promote the Report for Support system and encourage students to access this when experiencing or witnessing bullying, discrimination or harassment, hate crime, racism, and gender-based violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report for Support was promoted to students during induction to ensure they were aware of it from the start of the year.
	Create events and activities which highlight the importance of respect within our college community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent and Healthy Relationship Workshops delivered in partnership by a Sexual Violence and Prevention Worker to 50 college classes over a 6 week period. • Promoted the UNCRC and engaged with students to highlight the importance of young people knowing their rights. • A Hidden Disabilities Student Officer campaign was launched to highlight the varied experiences of students and staff. • LGBT History Month Celebrations held at Galashiels Campus and Newtown Campus. • Pronoun badges were distributed to mark International Pronoun Day and to promote respect for all.
	Raise awareness of the importance of equality and diversity at Borders College.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities Campaign Calendar developed with monthly themes to support students and staff to engage with and better understand equality and diversity at college.

Section C - Priorities for 2025/26

Introduction

This Partnership Agreement has been developed using the feedback and views shared by Borders College students, and it outlines three key priority partnership areas.

During the 2025 Student Induction, BCSA gathered the views of 93 students from across the College to understand their top three priorities for future partnership working between the Students' Association and the College. The results show that affordable food, transport, and living costs; student wellbeing & mental health support; and career development & employability are the top priorities identified by students.



Students were also asked which three types of support they felt would have the greatest impact on their overall experience at college. They indicated that wellbeing support, financial support, and academic support were the top three areas that could most significantly enhance and shape their student experience.



The College and BCSA are agreeing to work together on these areas in 2025-2026:

Supporting Student Wellbeing:

- Develop targeted initiatives for vulnerable or at-risk student groups to ensure inclusive support.
- Provide students with opportunities to shape the support available to them.
- Continue to promote events, activities, and initiatives that enhance student wellbeing.

Supporting Students with Cost-of-Living Challenges:

- Introduce and/or expand affordable food access on campus.
- Support students to access financial guidance and support at college.
- Communicate key support services to students at critical points throughout the academic year.

Supporting Success

- Ensure students are aware of learning and assessment support on their campus.
- Promote progression opportunities to students throughout the academic year.

Signed



Cherene Thomson
Student President



Pete Smith
Principal & Chief Executive