N

# REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| **Subject:** BCSA Update Paper Nov 2019 | **Purpose:**<br>**For Approval** ☐<br>**For Discussion** ☐<br>**For Information** ☒ |
| **Prepared by:** Ann Letham | **Date:** 22 November 2019 |

**Purpose:** To provide an update on Students' Association activity.

**Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.**

**Executive Summary:**

Overview of engagement activities based on BCSA's operational themes;

- Theme 1 – Education
- Theme 2 – Health & Wellbeing
- Theme 3 – Student Community

**Recommendation:**

The paper is for information only

**Previous Committee Approvals:**

N/A

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **For publication** ☒ | **For publication with redactions** ☐ | **Not for publication** ☐ |

**Student Presidents Update**

**November 2019**

**Operational Theme 1: Education**

- The first Student Experience Committee was held and Lead Reps fed back on the Student Experience. Class Reps had done an excellent job of collecting the information
- All 3 VPs in place - an Education Officer, Activities Officer, Newtown, Tweedbank and ISEC Officer
- Students were consulted regarding the Student Partnership Agreement. It is currently in draft form and awaiting approval from the Board
- The communication network between Class Reps and Lead Reps has been improved, with meetings before SEC meetings to clarify matters arising
- Scheduled focus groups for students to meet with Principal to discuss Student Experience are in place.
- Newtown Committee – plans are underway to have a student committee dedicated to Newtown. Two dedicated Lead Reps and an engaged VP are already helping to make positive changes

**Operational Theme 2: Health and Wellbeing**

- Teabags – this initiative is not making money but has helped reveal a real need for food in the Student community.
- Fareshare – We collect surplus ambient food from Asda to give away to students. Bread, fruit and vegetables are available to students. Negotiations are underway with the Co-op in Newtown St Boswells to provide the Newtown campus with surplus food two days per week
- Think Positive – we applied for a small grant but we were unsuccessful
- Student Mental Health Agreement – this has been drafted
- Mental health mapping survey – a survey of students' mental health is underway to discover if there are particular requirements at different times of year
- Tiny Changes campaign – our nominated charity is Tiny Changes, a local charity focussing on young people's mental health. We raised £82 through Rainbow Laces and Walktober. Students and staff recorded over 300 miles during this period.
- Calendar of national awareness days – BCSA are working with a range of college departments to align awareness raising events across the college
- Partnership working with Student Services - fortnightly catch up meetings are ongoing.
- Mental Health First Aiders – we are leading an initiative to have purple lanyards for MHFA so that students and staff can easily identify them
- Coat swap, rebel coats and staff donations mean that around 25 students on SBC and Newtown Campus have received winter coats for free
- Big White Wall – we have continued to promote this service for students

**Operational Theme 3: Student Community**

- Regular clubs – Football, Jogging, Dungeons & Dragons, Anime & Manga, Cake and Chat
- The Great Borders River Clean – we took part in the regional event and helped remove 350kg from the river bank at Coldstream. The total across the Borders was 1,850kg, so we made a big contribution!
- Baxter Storey roadshows – Sustainability lunchtime roadshow with free food and drink have been well received
- Access department – the Skills for Learning and Work class have continued helping with Teabags.
- BCSA Green Power Racing Team – we have a selection of names and will shortlist before Christmas
- We have continued our "Register to Vote" campaign
- Debate night – we attended the BBC recording and were later asked to comment on the Radio Scotland broadcast
- Jasmin Paris – the ultra runner came and gave an inspirational talk. This was not particularly well attended but those who were there took a lot from it
- Access Department – we attended and supported the Coffee Morning raising funds for our chosen charity Tiny Changes
- Children in Need – we held a Wear Yellow day, a Duck Race and a sweep for the Big Chocolate Cake Speed Eating competition, raising money for Children in Need
- Car share – Many students are now using this and saving money and emissions
- Piano – this has been tuned and sounds great!
- Row Britannia – the BCSA Tartan Monkeys have registered as a team. There is a Just Giving page. TriFitness are giving students free access to rowing machines and Leven Brown has loaned his own machine for the Refectory. This will raise money for Sport Relief and Mental Health Charities
- We are supporting "Mission Christmas" and asking for donations of children's presents
- Work is underway with groups of students to organise a walk from Hawick to Newtown St Boswells via ISEC, Galashiels and Tweedbank Campuses. Students have signed up, will plan the route, volunteer as helpers and walk the 27 miles to raise money for Tiny Changes

**Looking Forward**

- Staffing – the reduced staffing is having an impact on how we operate. At present we are finding it more challenging to plan ahead. However, we are still delivering a reasonable service
- Hustings will be held on 4th December with 3 parties represented

- Sleep out – Unfortunately due to library staffing changes, this is no longer able to go ahead. Students have had their fee waived if they would like to attend the event in Edinburgh
- Christmas Fair – This will take place on 5th December
- We are looking into the possibility of grants for e-bikes to make travel to and from the station and Gala and Tweedbank campuses more efficient