

BCSA Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF PAPER **For information**

- 1.1 This paper uses the BCSA's Operational Plan to highlight the activity of the Students' Association throughout the academic year 2023-24.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Our Operational Plan is broken down into five sections which determine how our areas of work align with the values and goals set out in our Strategic Plan. The BCSA team meet regularly to review and update the Operational Plan to track our activity and ensure we are working together to achieve our strategic mission.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTION(S) REQUIRED

- 3.1 I recommend that the Regional Board: -
 - 3.1.1 Review the work carried out by BCSA throughout 2023/24.






4.0 BACKGROUND





- 4.1 The previous BCSA Update was shared with the Regional Board during March 2023.



5.0 Operational Plan



5.1




BCSA Operational Plan 2023-24




Not Started		In Progress		Complete		Some slippage but on track for deadline		Not Complete	
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Project	Action	Deadline	Status	Progress Report
Shaping the Life & Work of the College - Steering				
Student voices will be at the heart of decision making at Borders College.	Student Officers and BCSA Staff sit on all relevant Committees.	December 2023.		Student President, Student Officers and Support Officer sit on relevant committees.
	BCSA team involved in the College's recruitment process.	June 2024.		BCSA team have participated in a range of recruitment activities to assist the college. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Student Support interviews. • Student Support Officers. • Micro Teaches for Lecturers. • Regional Board members recruitment.
	Assistant Principals, Vice Principals and Principal all invited to attend the Student Experience Committee.	October 2023.		All invited to attend.
	Regular meetings between the Chair of the Regional Board and Student Officers.	November 2023.		Meetings between Chair of Regional Board and Student Officers taking place.


Staff and students are aware of the valuable representative work carried out by BCSA.	Students are aware of the Class Representative system and other ways BCSA represents student voices.	June 2024.		<p>Student President visited 24+ classes to promote the Class Rep system and Big Student Survey.</p> <p>62% of students knew their Student President after Induction. In January this number increased to 72% of students knowing their Student President.</p> <p>Regular monthly meetings held with Class Reps.</p>
	Provide students with a range of ways to share views/opinions with BCSA on a range of important issues.	June 2024.		<p>Focus group held with students from a range of classes to participate in UHI Definitions Toolkit activity.</p> <p>Student Support Forum scheduled. For students to provide feedback on the support available at College. 1st meeting held in December and 2nd meeting planned for March, 3rd held on June 6th.</p> <p>Supported NHS Borders to hold a focus group with young people to discuss vaping/smoking.</p> <p>Recruited students to take part in a series of Student Support</p>


				<p>interviews to help shape the service.</p> <p>Supported 2 students to sit on the sparqs Student Expert Group.</p> <p>‘What’s stressing you out?’ pulse survey heard from 59 students who identified the Cost of Living Crisis as the most stressful thing for them.</p>
	Increase staff understanding of BCSA.	June 2024.		<p>BCSA involved in recruitment process.</p> <p>Student President attend Block 1 Course Team meetings to share student voices and share the work of BCSA.</p> <p>Monthly meeting held with the Vice Principal – Student Experience to share updates.</p> <p>Increase presence in Staff Newsletter</p>
Governance & Democracy - Democracy				
Our work will be determined by the wants and needs of our student population.	Elect and train Class Representatives.	September 2023.		<p>47 Class Reps elected.</p> <p>Training scheduled for 26th, 28th and 29th of September.</p>






				Training module accessible to all Class Reps.
	Organise Student President and Student Officer initiatives to hear from students and understand their needs and views.	June 2024.		<p>Monthly stalls to raise awareness on specific and speak to students and gather their feedback.</p> <p>Therapet sessions used to support student wellbeing and speak to them about their general wellbeing/address any ongoing issues.</p> <p>Updated and monitored the student games area where we can regularly engage with students to understand their views.</p> <p>Regular visits scheduled for Tweedbank and Newtown to meet students and represent them.</p>
Our democratic processes will be representative of our students and provide all students with a fair opportunity to influence change.	Elect Student President.	March 2024.		Student President elected in March 2024.
	Elect two Vice President for Education & Wellbeing.	October 2023.		<p>Two VPs have been elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH – VP for Education & Wellbeing

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC – VP for Education & Wellbeing <p>A Newtown representative was not elected due to lack of interest but BCSA team will have a regular presence at NSB to ensure representation is provided.</p>
	Work with students to create our Strategic Plan 2023-2027.	September 2023.		<p>Worked with 32 students during their Induction to create our Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Plan now shared.</p>
	Work with students to create our Student Partnership Agreement.	December 2023.		<p>Used student voices to guide our priorities for the current year.</p>
Aware and Active Students - Engaged				
Voluntary opportunities and activities will be accessible to all students.	Provide students with opportunities to hold Ambassador roles within BCSA so they can champion matters and issues important to them.	June 2024.		<p>Student Support Forum scheduled to hear from students to improve the support available to them.</p> <p>This action will be carried into BCSA's 2024/25 Operational Plan as we did have a regular group of student volunteers however they didn't champion specific issues.</p>


	Work with external organisations to provide students with opportunities to volunteer.	June 2024.		<p>Currently working with Borders Citizen's Advice Bureau to share voluntary roles with students.</p> <p>Develop contact and engagement with Galashiels Town Team to represent student voice in the wider community.</p> <p>Student President sat on the Scottish Borders Mental Health & Wellbeing Steering Group.</p> <p>Supported the Red Cross to share voluntary opportunities with students.</p>
Students will feel confident bringing issues to our attention.	BCSA team regularly visit all campuses.	June 2024.		Tweedbank and Newtown campuses visited every Wednesday.
	See increased engagement from students in BCSA activity.	June 2024.		<p>198 responses from students in Big Student Survey 1 (+8% on previous year's survey).</p> <p>Big Student Survey 2 focused on the experience of Student Support at college – 99 students shared their feedback (5% increase from Big Student Survey 2 – 2022/23).</p> <p>Class Rep engagement has increased from last year with</p>


				<p>monthly meetings now taking place.</p> <p>Currently 3 student led clubs in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dungeons & Dragons (x2) • Board Game Club • Herbalist Club <p>89 students voted for One Step Borders in a BCSA charity survey for them to receive funds raised in Mental Health Awareness Week activities.</p> <p>‘What’s stressing you out?’ pulse survey heard from 59 students who identified the Cost of Living Crisis as the most stressful thing for them.</p>
	Students involved in shaping the Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA).	June 2024.		<p>Student Support Mapping Exercise held to better understand current provision.</p> <p>Heard from 24 students who shared their feedback of Mental Health & Wellbeing at College in January 2024. Their voices will be used to guide the work agreed in the SMHA.</p>






				<p>Meeting held with People Services and Assistant Principals to investigate SMHA work.</p> <p>SMHA created and submitted to Board for approval.</p>
	<p>Increase visibility of BCSA with students to build stronger relationships.</p>	<p>June 2024.</p>		<p>Higher number of students raising individual issues/concerns with BCSA team.</p> <p>BCSA participating in Essential Information Days to meet students early and begin to create trust.</p> <p>BCSA supported 4 Quiet Introduction and Supported Enrolment Sessions throughout summer to meet new students, provide tours and share lived experience.</p> <p>Supported Galashiels and Newtown Open Day by providing student tours to meet potential students.</p> <p>Student President met students at the bus interchange during Induction Week to support them to use the college bus and become a familiar face.</p>
Sustainable Resources - Sustainability				

Annually review the roles available to students within BCSA to ensure they meet the needs of our student community and reflect the diversity that makes up our student population.	Student President reviewed Vice President roles.	August 2023.		Student President and Support Officer reviewed the roles available to students. Vice President for Education & Wellbeing roles available this year to reflect the needs of students.
	Support Officer meets with Student Officers at the end of their time in office to review their roles, review the support they received, and work to improve the experience of future Student Officers.	June 2024.		Review session took place on June 3 rd .
Student Officers and the BCSA team are equipped with the skills and knowledge to be effective leaders and student representatives.	Newly elected Vice Presidents supported through Staff Induction, and Induction to BCSA and their role.	November 2023.		Complete.
	Support Officer creates and shares 'Knowledge to Succeed: BCSA Team Reading and Viewing Lists' to support Student Officers and Student President to engage with relevant, external work for personal development.	June 2024.		Reading and viewing lists created weekly.
	BCSA team receive appropriate training for their roles.	June 2024.		<p>Student President attended That's Quality! in July 2023.</p> <p>Student President attended an Induction for Student Board Members delivered by CDN. Second student representative on the Board.</p> <p>Participation in Corporate Parenting training session for staff and Trauma Informed session.</p>


Value & Impact - Growth

<p>The services and activities offered by the Students' Association fit the needs of our students and allow them to engage in new experiences.</p>	<p>Organise events and activities for students to feel supported and have fun.</p>	<p>June 2023.</p>		<p>20 Therapet sessions scheduled between October and Easter for students with BCSA attending to offer advice and guidance to students.</p> <p>BCSA Campus Pantry has supported 30 students to access free food during difficult periods of time.</p> <p>Warm clothing has been provided to 2 students from BCSA clothing collection.</p> <p>Forza Gaming Tournament hosted to promote Cahonas Scotland Self Check Reminder Sign Up – 8 students participated.</p> <p>17 students signed up throughout November to Cahonas Scotland Self Check Reminder Sign Up.</p> <p>Pride Festival to raise awareness for and celebrate the LGBTQ+ Community - £122 raised for Stonewall UK at Galashiels and Newtown Campus.</p>
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				<p>Christmas Jumper Day in December for students and staff - £128 for Cash for Kids.</p> <p>Kindness Wellbeing Parcels – 30 packages for students needing support over Christmas from the money raised from Tattoo the President.</p> <p>Sustainable Period Products – 30 people supported to access free sustainable products.</p> <p>Mini Winter Wellbeing Fair in January to share local organisations with students to support their mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>‘The Big Well Done’ events held at Galashiels and Newtown to celebrate the end of the year with free popcorn and fun games – 88 students took part in activity.</p>
	Big Student Surveys used to assess the needs of students and better understand what they would like from their College and BCSA.	June 2024.		Big Student Survey 1 (September 2023) used to assess the recent Student Induction, improve the student experience and understand what students want. 198 responses collected.

				Big Student Survey 2 focused on the experience of Student Support at college – 99 students shared their feedback (5% increase from Big Student Survey 2 – 2022/23).
	BCSA collect student feedback and share with College.	June 2024.		BCSA collected feedback on Quiet Introduction & Supported Enrolment events from 40 out of 42 attendees. BCSA surveyed 48 students to understand what respect meant to them to support the College's respect campaign. Student President attended 4 Block 1 Course Team Meetings to share Class Rep Feedback on learning and teaching.
The achievements and impact of BCSA will be visible to students, staff and stakeholders.	Student Newsletter created by Student President.	August 2023.		Student President currently recruiting student volunteers to manage Newsletter.
	BCSA share monthly Staff Newsletter articles.	June 2024.		BCSA collaborate on articles to update staff on the activity of the Students' Association.
	Weekly Student President updates on activity shared with students.	September 2024		Updates shared weekly.
	Student Officers and staff attend NUS, sparqs and other relevant external events.	June 2024.		Student President attended 'That's Quality!' event August 2023.

				<p>Support Officer sits on Student Engagement Staff Network.</p> <p>BCSA regularly engage with Heriot Watt Union team.</p> <p>NUS Scotland Conference 27th and 28th March – Student President attended.</p> <p>Colleges Scotland Conference 24th April – Student President attended.</p> <p>Sparqs Tertiary Student Expert group – Student President and VP attending.</p> <p>Support Officer attended National Equality Outcomes conference in May.</p> <p>Student President attended Human Trafficking & Exploitation Workshop organised by QAA Scotland.</p> <p>Student President attended BBC's Debate Night held at the Galashiels Campus.</p>
	Host annual BCSA Staff and Student awards.	May 2024.		9 students and staff receiving trophies and certificates at the end of the academic year to

				celebrate them being inspiring to others.
	Create and share annual 'You Said, We Did' video.	June 2024.		Work in progress to create the video for the end of the year.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 No direct implications.

6.2 Learner Implications

6.2.1 No direct implications.

6.3 Staff Implications

6.3.1 No direct implications.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications/Equality Impact Assessment

6.4.1 No direct implications.

6.5 Sustainability/Environmental Implications

6.5.1 No direct implications.

7.0 RISK COMMENTARY

7.1 No Risk.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 More information on BCSA's 2023/24 work can be discussed with the Student President or Support Officer.

8.2 BCSA will begin creating our new Operational Plan for 2024/25 in July which will align with our Strategic Plan and support the great work carried out by the Student Officers in 2023/24.

Eilidh Forrest and Chris Alder

Students' Association Support Officer and Student President

12/06/24

Previous Board or College Committee Approvals:

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