

Students' Dudley Union

March —TERM 2



President's Introduction!

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the Students' Union magazine term 2. A lot has happened since the last issue,; we have had multiple trips ranging from Parliament to Go Karting, we have been out & about petitioning for free travel for all students aged 16-19 and we have been representing the LGBT community across college, raising awareness and educating students on this topic.



We have been reaching out to volunteer organisations to help compile a list of opportunities for students to take up!

We have been hard at work organising our annual events; Dudley Politics Live, Welfare event and our increasingly popular Talent Show. So it is surely going to be jam packed within the coming months.

There are still many more things to come, so keep a look out for information around the campuses from class reps, social media and posters.

If you wish to contact the Students' Union, you can find us on social media or our website:



Website— www.dudleysu.co.uk



Facebook—Dudley SU



Twitter—@DudleySU



Instagram—@Su.Dudley

Maryam Ali—YOUR Pre-Grad Officer

The year began with the Students' Union and the Senior Leadership Team working together to form a HE Student Voice Representatives Team. We were joined by enthusiastic and academically driven students in the HE department who helped us throughout the year to critically analyse and improve the Learning and Teaching Standards within their specific subject areas.

Our mission to provide 'Outstanding technical and professional learning' will not be possible if the resources provided are not suitable. Therefore since the beginning of the academic year my main aim was to provide the HE students with a space to learn and develop independently during their free time. By the end of February 2016, we had a brand new HE room equipped with computers supporting the latest technical software ready to be used by all HE students. The room has now turned into a HE learning hub where students work together in groups and individually outside their lesson time.

My secondary aim was to raise awareness of student issues within HE. Since we are a very small cohort, it is very easy for our needs to not surface above the noise without a strong lead. However, the SLT at Dudley College have been very cooperative and attentive to every issue brought forward. From small issues such as regularly updated notice board in the HE room to the quality of assignment feedback; we received prompt solutions. I also had the opportunity to represent the HE Student Voice at all the Learner Board meetings. I took the opportunity to put forward suggestions provided by them to improve the Learning and Teaching Standards.

According to Chapter B5 (student Engagement) of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education by the QAA, the participation of students in quality enhancement and quality assurance process, resulting in:

Improvement of their educational experience is necessary. The Students' Union and the Senior Management Team have organised a group of focused students who come together every 4-6 weeks and discuss ways to enhance the teaching and learning experience at Dudley College.



The first meeting took place on 15th of February and discussions around the subjects of course induction, guest lecturers/lecture sessions at universities, HE specific resources, work placement opportunities and policy reviews such as late submission and course review took place. The students gave their honest feedback and as a result of which I have started to work on several more small projects. One of them includes exploring the opportunities surrounding Erasmus to help plan summer work opportunities for HE students.

I aim to assist the college in following their vision. Having the opportunity to represent the HE Student voice whilst being the Pre-grad officer of the Students' Union and a Student Governor, I hope to achieve much more in the academic year of 2016-2017.

The fight against mental health!

Mental health funding has been slashed across the education sector, more than ever students require the help from ever increasing difficulties of student life. This is unacceptable and we must ACT NOW. We are lobbying local MPs to listen to the concerns we have as students to make sure we are HEARD!



A

quick word from the Vice President of Campaigns—Benjamin Woodcock

Why mental health?

In Dudley College, statistics acquired from the college Counselling department states there are over 300 students suffering with mental health issues with a steady increase year on year - Not to mention the students that don't come forward. Last year alone there were 262 females and 110 males suffering with mental health issues. The three major causes are:

- Relationships
- Anxiety
- Self & Identity

As you can see, these are issues that students become affected by, and due to government cuts to colleges, we need to act to help our

What we hope to achieve

We want the local MPs to represent the views of students in Parliament and lobby the government on our behalf, we need to get the people in power to realise what crippling effects that it can have on peoples' lives.

Mental health needs to be talked about more often. We need to get society into a position for it to become understood to a greater effect.

LGBT History Month

To celebrate February LGBT history month, we have been visiting various campuses to encourage students to show their support they have for the college's LGBT community. It was a perfect opportunity to launch our LGBT Club! In the club we aim to provide support, have fun activities and bring people together. The club members also decided it would be an excellent opportunity for them to go out and educate students who may feel negatively towards the community!



Ben was the first student to place his hand and signature onto the LGBT flag, one of many students to do so!



Students continued to fill the flag up with their handprints, there was an overwhelming positive response from students at every campus!



BIG WIN

Following many talks with college management the Students' Union are pleased that work in collaboration with Summit House will go ahead to host a sexual health clinic at Dudley College. This will cover the majority of sexual transmitted infections including testing for HIV.

At the same time, we supplied information to raise awareness for the local support group 'Summit House' whilst handing out contraception information literature and bracelets which allowed the students to show their support.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Why volunteering is important:

This year the Students' Union want to be able to bring the volunteer opportunities to you. We believe that volunteering is important to students, as the benefits are going to take them further than they ever imagined, it not only contributes to the local community & economy, but it helps develop you as a person, broadens your mind and develops & enhances essential employability skills.



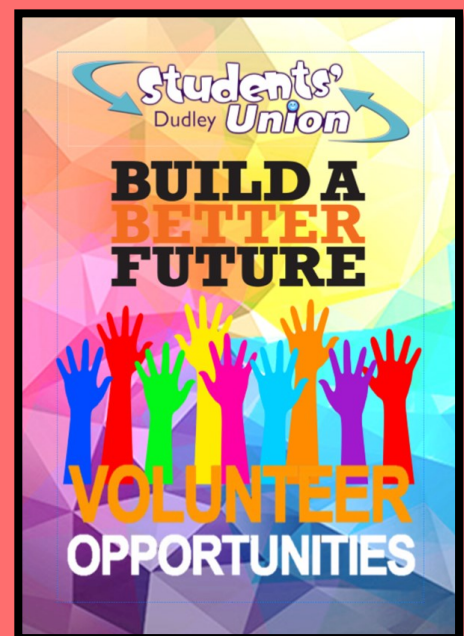
This is why we are bringing the opportunities to YOU , to make it easier for yourself to get involved in local opportunities, not to mention it will save you time looking for these opportunities, all in all making it easier for you!

The Plan

We are creating a booklet that will allow external organisations to place their opportunities.

Students will then be able to see what opportunities are available and find out where they can get more information!

We will then hand out booklets for students to log their hours. Once they have achieved a certain amount of time volunteered certificates will be accredited eg bronze award for 25 hours, silver for 50 etc.



Trips

Your Vice President Social Activities—Joel Taylor-Hammond



I would like to thank everyone who took part in the trips, I can gleefully say that the trips were a success and I would like to announce that the next trip is going to be Paintballing on the 10th April. By taking part in these trips the students have come together to make new friends, develop vital skills such as communication, team working & confidence.



Wolf Mountain

The first trip of 'Reach Your Limits' campaign— students did archery, rock climbing & caving!

Students climbed walls of over 30 foot tall, to test peoples' fear of heights! The caving section also saw students out of their comfort zone as they were plunged into darkness and claustrophobic spaces.



Go Karting

To Full Throttle in Stourbridge - A smaller trip but, none the less, fun.

Part of this year's 'Reach your limits' campaign set students out of their comfort zone racing around the track!



London/Parliament Trip!

Our annual London trip - this year taking over 90 students!

We split off into groups and had a few hours sightseeing, then back to Westminster for the chambers tour which took us through the history of the palace and we learnt about the Houses of Commons and Houses of Lords.

What 's the Exec been up to?



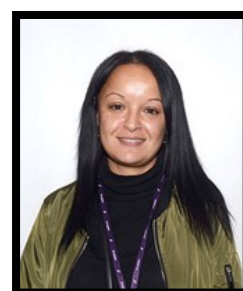
Vice President Rhys & Officer Nuzhat—Finance

The Finance officers have been both working on pushing the sales of the NUS cards, this will help fund the union and allow students to get their hands on some discounts that they deserve.



Vice President Stephen & Officer Naila—Welfare

We have been busy organising the welfare event, this sees over 20 external organisations into the college which allows them, to promote their services to the students of Dudley College, we hope that this can give students the help that they need



Vice President Social Activities

I have been busy carrying out my 'Reach Your Limits' campaign, and the first two trips have already been by and they were a success, many students came along and they had a great time, I am looking forward to the upcoming trips and charity abseil later during the year!



Disabled Officer – Mohammed Lukeman

I have lobbied college management on behalf of all disabled students so we can have the appropriate facilities in the college gym, it was successful, and now I have made the college aware of these issues and they have fixed them!

Vice President Benjamin Woodcock—Campaigns

As you have seen, I have been wanting to lobby MPS so I am able to give them an opportunity to listen to the concerns of students around these mental health issues.



Vice president of Equality & Diversity—Gaurav Jassal

Hi Guys, I have been working on getting the LGBT community recognised by starting up an LGBT club, I have also been helping the team out with the LGBT History month, engaging students and sign posting them to the services that are available in the local area.



Marcus Beese & Cameron Richards—Mons Hill Campus Officers

We have been attending the student union executive meetings, ensuring that Mons Hill gets put into the future plans of the union, as well as keeping our campus up to date with activities!



nus **NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

NUS National Conference 2017
is only but a short month away!

What is National Conference?

This allows the whole student movement to come together and vote on what issues should be tackled by their national Students' Union. It also lets the student members to vote in the elections which will decide who represents the student movement on a national scale!



Why it matters

National Conference gives Dudley College Students' Union the opportunity to represent itself on a national scale to ensure that its voice and its concerns are heard!



It allows the members of our union to be able to raise a mandate with the national leaders, so they are able to carry out work on our behalf. We are also able to request support if needed.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

Our annual Holocaust Memorial event took place in January, where we saw over 300 people from across Dudley attend in remembrance of the tragic events of the holocaust. It is staggering that years ago the event started at Dudley library with less than 10 people in attendance and now the service is attended by hundreds. During the service Holocaust survivor Henri Obstfeld talked about his personal experience during the second world war, and how he narrowly avoided being caught by the Nazis. The service was closed by the lighting of a candle and one minute silence.



The Students' Union President read a poem to reflect the Holocaust Memorial 2017 theme 'How can life go on?' before welcoming Henri to the stage.



Students take the opportunity to have a photograph with Ian Austin MP, the Mayor of Dudley and local faith leaders.



The annual Holocaust Memorial service was held once again in the great hall which was filled with over 300 people from the Dudley community, local schools, religious groups and Dudley College classes.



The Mayor and Henri Obstfeld both lighting the candle in remembrance of the millions that perished in the holocaust.

Vince Cable & NUS Vice President visit



On 17th January Vince Cable (ex secretary of state for business) & NUS (Vice President of Further Education, Vice President of Society & Citizenship, and one staff member) came in to Dudley College to speak to the students to help shape the policy that Vince Cable will be writing to the government - participation was high and students got their concerns across regarding the Sainsbury review.

The purpose of this event was for students to feel comfortable with giving their uncompromised opinion of the education reforms and what they would like to see from it in the future. The comments made were all positive towards Dudley College, however there were some criticism for the structure of education, and the reforms that are going to take place.

Dudley Politics Live!

For the third year in a row, Dudley Politics Live is back and better than ever before! From the five main political parties, there were representatives to state the views of their party, in which the students would vote for whoever's response they thought was the best! Students from all over the Dudley borough came to the event - Dudley Sixth A level politics students, Bishop Milner & Dormston schools all totalling together nearly 100 students!

The event covered three main topics which the students felt would affect them most, which included: mental health, tuition fees & Brexit. Once each representative heard the question, they responded in random order with 2 minutes maximum for their response.

After the audience heard their responses, they would vote with their cards whose response was best for them and once shown, they would mark down who they voted for on each topic on their tracker cards.

Then there was a round up and a final vote. The results are:

Labour	Green	Conservatives	UKIP	Liberal Democrats
23	21	3	7	2



Students taking a vote on the responses that the representatives just gave.



The Representatives from left to right:

Andy Moir (Grn), Ryan Priest (Lib), Cllr Patrick Harley (Con), Ian Austin MP (Lab) & Cllr Dean Perks (UKIP)



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TODAY!

The bottom section features a stack of NUS extra discount cards on the left. The top card is blue with 'nus' in white and 'extra' in large blue letters. It displays a card number '982612 1234 7654 9185', the name 'Margaret Glover', and the date 'dob: 03/01/70'. To the right of the cards is a dark blue banner with white text that reads 'NUS extra discount card from £12 for 12 months Buy your card now'. Below the banner is a row of partner logos including ASOS, Superdrug, ODEON, Apple Store, AA, Amazon.co.uk, McDonald's, The co-operative food, and more sense than money.

Upcoming Events



Welfare Event—29th March

The welfare event sees various organisations come in to the college to provide information to students who may experience certain issues, which includes, sexual health, everyday wellbeing and mental health issues being a few examples.



Paintballing 10th April

The Students' Union are going to the National Paintballing Centre in Birmingham!

Price—£28

Includes—travel, 300 paintballs, equipment, a burger meal & drink



Abseiling down Advance—June

We are raising money for the YMCA by doing a sponsored abseil - we hope to get dozens of students involved, have some fun, and raise money for the YMCA!



National Vegetarian Week - 15th—21st May

We are going to get people on board with trying vegetarian foods and helping people to see the benefits of a vegetarian diet!

20 students will get the chance to go along to a vegetarian restaurant!

Other News

Student Council Term 2

Term 2 Student Council took place in February, where the Students' Union gave feedback to the student body on what we have been doing so far in the year.

We also had guest speakers in from Citizens UK & NCS The Challenge.



Citizens UK delivered a presentation on the impact that can be made if people come together and lobby for change.

They also explained to students what the upcoming Mayoral election is about, and announced that the Students' Union are taking up to 50 students on the 29th March to the university of Birmingham Mayoral Election pre assembly.

The National Citizen Service gave council information about their organisation and what they can offer to students.

Examples being:

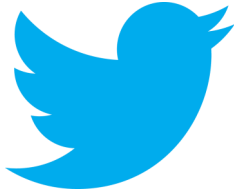
- 3 weeks in the summer holidays
- Developing skills, such as communication, team working & leadership
- Working in a group to create community campaign to make a positive impact

Fairtrade Pop Up Café



To raise awareness of Fairtrade and what benefits it has for the workers, we set up a café in our Base room where students could get a tea, coffee or even a hot chocolate as well as banana (all Fairtrade). Fairtrade literature was available on the tables as well as a slideshow showing the benefits and what working conditions are like for some if Fairtrade isn't involved.

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