



Promoting Student Voice

This year the students union had the largest amount of applications for the exec team EVER! This led to three of the positions being contested, so an election had to be held! This spanned across five days and various campuses, where the candidates had to engage with the students to let them know what they want to bring to the students' union.

We had nearly 400 votes cast in our elections, an excellent result for voluntary posts!

Congratulations to:

- Sandeep Kaur elected to Vice President of Social Activities Position
- Jordan Pike elected to Vice President of Student Matters Position
- Kerry Ball elected to Vice President of Welfare Position

Image: SU Count team



Raise and Give - Food Bank Donations Requested

Black Country Foodbank helps vulnerable individuals and families in crisis through the provision of 3 days emergency food supplies while a longer-term solution is developed. The services they provide have an enormous impact on the people who use them, giving them an important breathing space at a time of great need.

The College offer a food bank voucher system and over the years the SU has made several referrals into the service. With news in the press recently that some families will have to choose between heating or eating this winter the SU feel that as part of a wider Welfare remit we should do what we can to support local people and students.

All staff and students have the opportunity to donate to the famous Dudley SU Food Bank Trolley and we ask that people give what they can.

Image: Dudley learners and Black Country Food Bank volunteers



ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES

Representing Our Community - AoC Student Video of the Year

For the first time ever, the AoC has created a competition for students to enter which would test their editing & filming skills, and their ability to deliver the message of 'How colleges transform lives and communities'.

Dan has produced this video independently as a representative of the students here at the college and we as a collective are very proud of the results Dudley College of Technology has achieved. The video is only but a snippet of what the college achieves on a day to day basis.

Check out the three finalist videos here:

<https://www.aoc.co.uk/about-colleges/awards/student-video-the-year-award-finalists>

Also for more videos from Dudley SU, check out our YouTube channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFg8rp9f99M>



Students' Union Service - Citizencard

One of our annual events, the FREE citizencard allows us to give as many students as possible a chance to get a free age ID card, and this year over 300 students applied for theirs for free saving our students over £4500! Every year the SU work with Dudley Trading Standards to offer the Citizen card, which is a government approved form of identification that can be used as a proof of age to buy age restricted items or enter areas. This saves students taking out their passports or driving license, and at a much considerably cheaper price, a citizencard is the best way to go!

<https://www.citizencard.com/>

Citizen Card is £15 if bought from the official website, students can now purchase theirs from the office for the admin fee of £2.50, all you need to do is fill out a form and bring in a passport sized photo! <http://www.dudleysu.co.uk/services>

community information point

New Students' Union Service - Community Information Point

Dudley SU staff and volunteers have attended training to become Community information Champions.

Information Champions provide signposting to health, wellbeing and care services, or help people to understand where to go for benefits or debt advice.

We are hoping that the new service will be another offer that can help support and signpost students to the appropriate places for advice and guidance around a host of issues.

Information champions are not trained to give advice but are trained to have a better understanding of the local community services available. This partnered with an understanding of the college offer will ensure a robust service.

For more information see:

<https://healthwatchdudley.co.uk/infopoints/>



Clubs and Societies - We Socialise Too! update

We Socialise Too! youth group has been busy over the Summer period taking part in a range of activities to boost their confidence and maintain relationships with their friends during the long Summer holiday.

The group took part in trips to Monkey Forest, Stratford's Butterfly Farm and Drayton Manor Park.

See pic of the group having fun at the Butterfly Farm attached

The Group were also honoured to be asked to perform at the Dudley Centre for Voluntary Service Awards evening at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. The evening was a wonderful celebration of all of the volunteering that takes place across the Black country. The Group performed Octopuses Garden in Makaton.

For more information about the group see <https://www.facebook.com/We-Socialise-Too-Project-167135376953515/>

Image: We Socialise Too! members at Butterfly Farm Stratford



Campaigns - Save Our Disability & LAC Youth Services Campaign!

Recently, the council has announced their new proposal to cut youth services right across the Dudley Borough, resulting in dozens of redundancies, and hundreds of young people left unsure about the future.

Disabilities Officer for the SU Morgan Sivitar has accessed many of the Disability Youth groups across the borough over the years and says 'The Council believe drafting in the voluntary and community sector to replace the services lost is an alternative, but members of the clubs and concerned parents/carers do not feel that this will work and could lead to the closure of the clubs. Many of the disability youth workers have worked for the service for many years, are professionals and have built up relationships with these young people. The Council have not asked the young people or carers what their view is which is very frustrating. Those with disabilities often find change traumatic and the more future notice of any change the better. I do not feel the Council have put young people or the community first in any of these decisions. Many of the young people that access the youth groups have very limited social opportunities, losing familiar faces and ways of working could be highly detrimental'.

Many of the students that attend Dudley College access the youth groups and the SU wholeheartedly support any campaign to save the service as does local MP Ian Austin.

To check out the campaign video, follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/1687830197956901/videos/1689203394486248/>

Image: Petition lead Sam Colley, President Dan Wood and SU disabilities Officer Morgan Sivitar

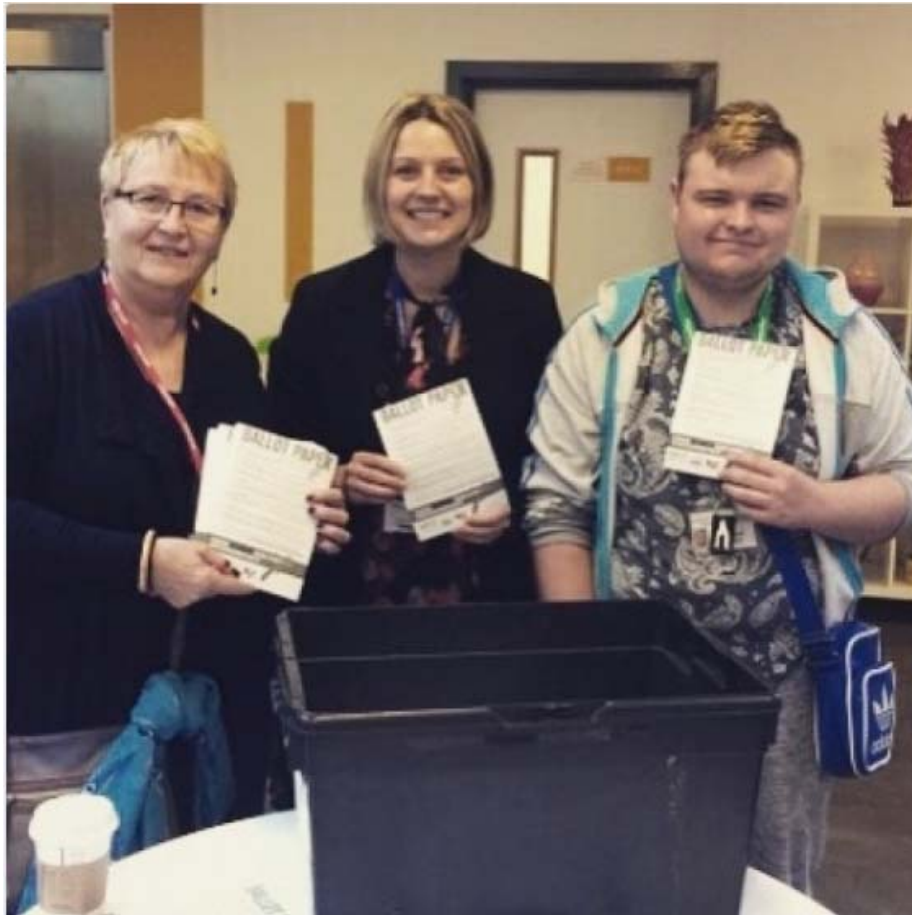
nus ZONES CONFERENCES

National Voice - NUS Zones

Annually, NUS hosts an event called zones, which spans over two days, this allows delegates from Unions across the country to learn about the priority campaigns of the National Full Time Officers. It also gives delegates a chance to run for a zone committee, whereby the elected delegates will hold the officers to account, and shape the work of the relevant zones.

We are proud here at the Students' Union, that all four of our delegates ran for a committee, we wish them best of luck in the elections as they are up against many delegates from unions all around the country. No matter what position they come, we are still extremely proud that our delegates put themselves out there, especially with their speeches to all the other FE unions that were there.

We find out the results in the next few days, so fingers crossed for Dudley SU!



Promoting Student Voice - Make Your Mark Ballot

The UK youth parliament, wanted to give thousands of young people a chance to mandate their representatives to debate on issues that matter most to them. This resulted in the campaign of 'Make Your Mark', which saw a ballot run in schools & colleges up & down the country, giving students a choice of 10 different matters to choose from.

Morgan Siviter SU Disabilities Officer is also a member of the local youth council, led on this ballot across all the campuses.

Local councillor Hilary Bills and Leader of the Council Patrick Harley came along to help out with the ballot touring Evolve and Aspire on the way.

The total votes cast at Dudley College were 346, with Mental Health being the top priority, followed by Protect LGBT+ People & votes at 16.

The SU have prioritised Mental Health as one of its key areas of work over the last few years and it was no shock at growing awareness of the issue as it is a large contributing factor to the ill health of more and more young people.

PM Theresa May has recently announced plans to make mental health an everyday concern and has committed new support for schools with every secondary school in the country to be offered mental health first aid training and new trials to look at how to strengthen the links between schools and local NHS mental health staff. We feel that this offer needs to be extended to all post 16 education and we will be lobbying decision makers on this issue.

Image: Cllr Hilary Bills, Assistant Principal Diana Martin and SU Disabilities Officer Morgan Sivitar

HAVE A NATTER. RAISE AWARENESS. CHANGE LIVES.



Tea and Talk Promoting positive Mental Health

Tuesday 17th October
10am to 1pm
The Base B5, Broadway

**Come along, have a chat, relax, drink tea and
eat biccies!**

Campaigns - Mental Health Tea & Talk and Mental Health peer support group

Posted on behalf of null

Mental Health year on year is gaining more & more momentum as a national issue, so that's why, as part of our five ways to wellbeing, that's why we are incorporating the se five ways into everything we do, and one of them is this, the Mental Health Tea & Talk. This will fit into the strand of 'connect' as students will be meeting new people fr om across a wide range of curriculums, whereby they would have never have had the chance to meet them otherwise. As well as students they had the chance to meet, the y also had a wide range of mental health professionals from across Dudley there, whi ch talked to students regarding mental health, so if any students ever needed to know where they could go, these organisations were there to promote their services too! W hat the union is setting up this year is a peer support mental health group, which will aim at tackling students low level mental health issues, such as stress & low level anx iety. This is due to help the colleges counselling services out, as many of the referrals do not need counselling, but there isn't enough support in the college to help them wit h the lower level issues. If we win the bid, then the union will be able to hire a mental health professional to lead the group in the right direction. If successful, then this sho uld, in time, help to boost students wellbeing, grades & attendance.



New Students' Union Service - Hate Crime Reporting Centre

Posted on behalf of null

Since the vote to leave the EU, Hate Crime has risen by 17% in Dudley, this has meant there has been an increase of attacks on ethnic minority populations in the local area. But hate crime, doesn't just stop there, it affects the LGBT+ Community, people with disabilities and various religious groups, but not enough people are reporting it. That's why, Dudley College Students' Union is going to take action and help to educate our students. Dudley College is proud to be a very diverse community of people, and with the college's close ties with the community, the union has taken upon itself to become a hate crime reporting centre where students can report any incidents and be signposted to further support. If they wish we will help them to facilitate a report to the police through <http://report-it.org.uk/home>, this will then help the police target their policing more effectively in the community. We will be working closely with the college's safeguarding team in order to facilitate the signposting/reporting service. The BBC have recently released a documentary on Hate Crime - focusing on Dudley as an area where incidents have risen dramatically the documentary features one of our very own students who suffered very serious Hate Crime, watch it here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b098thgb>



Feeling Part of the Union - Fresher's Fair

Posted on behalf of null

Despite the rainy weather, it did not dampen our spirits as this years Fresher's Fayre which was once again a super success with over 1,000 students attending, surpassing even last year's records! Year on year, the fresher's fayre is well received by students and organisations alike. We gave out our 1,000 free goody bags, candy floss, popcorn, & much more to students, plus the opportunity to take part in lots of activities, such as, the animals down from Dudley Zoo, fire engines from the fire services and a rodeo bull for students to test their grip! We had over 35 organisations come in to promote their services, such as banks, universities, mental health groups, opticians, drug & alcohol awareness service, road safety, public services, and many many more! The lovely catering students & staff from Stir handed out free samples of food this in turn provided them with excellent work experience. We certainly look forward to next year's freshers! See some pics on our facebook page here - <https://www.facebook.com/dudley.su/posts/1658466350853487> Image: West Midlands Youth Service and Dudley Leavers



Equality and Diversity - Black History Month celebration and information event

Posted on behalf of null

An annual activity in the SU calendar the celebration of Black history Month remains an important one to show appreciation for the contributions of black people to society that can sometimes be overlooked or ignored. Black History Month is essential in promoting learning, providing information and contributing to community cohesion We celebrated on one day by offering traditional food cooked for us by Stir, hosting a film screening and running a quiz. We also offered information and literature for students to take away to read in their own time. For more information on the importance of celebrating Black history month see: <https://youtu.be/dSfUfuXpwl> In November we will celebrate Disability History Month



BLACKCOUNTRY STUDENTS' UNIONS

UNITING STUDENTS ACROSS THE BLACKCOUNTRY

Promoting Student Voice - Black Country Students' Union

Posted on behalf of null

The Black Country Students' Union is a new initiative all about bringing the local unions together, to share good practise, develop campaigns, and strengthen the student voice throughout the region. This has been identified as a key issue across the student movement. Time and time again, unions keep failing to keep connected once the NUS events are over, Black Country Students' Unions aims to fill in that gap, so unions are continuously learning, developing, sharing & working together, for a better future for students in the black country. Dan has already met with the Wolverhampton University Union, Wolverhampton College Union, and has three upcoming meetings with Walsall College, Sandwell College & Halesowen College Students' Union's. Once these meetings have been had, the first of the three meetings will commence where BCSU will be officially launched. The group will then set the three priority campaigns which will run throughout the year & organise the first of four events. The first of which will be the class rep conference. At this conference, there will be class reps brought in from all over the black country where breakout sessions will take place, where reps can build on their skills, qualities, & network with other reps from across the region.