



Trans Conference

Our trans officer, Alison, went to the NUS trans conference in Manchester. This conference was held specifically trans students across the UK to allow them to participate in student democracy and ensure they are represented nationally as a cohort.

Some of the main issues that were discussed were, the fact that there are not enough gender neutral toilets around educational institutions. Conference felt that students didn't have a proper understanding with sharing toilets.

Alison came away from the conference and this is what she had to say "I felt that the conference gave me a better insight in to the national political landscape of trans issues, I will be looking in to all the new terminologies that I am unfamiliar with, this will help shape the work that I will, be carrying out within Dudley College."

Student Governor

WANTED! – *Could this be you?*

WHY YOU SHOULD RUN FOR THE POSITION:

Looks great on
your CV
Get to sit on the
highest decision
making board in
the college
Develop soft
skills!



More info @ Students' Union Office (B4),

The Broadway,

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Governor Elections

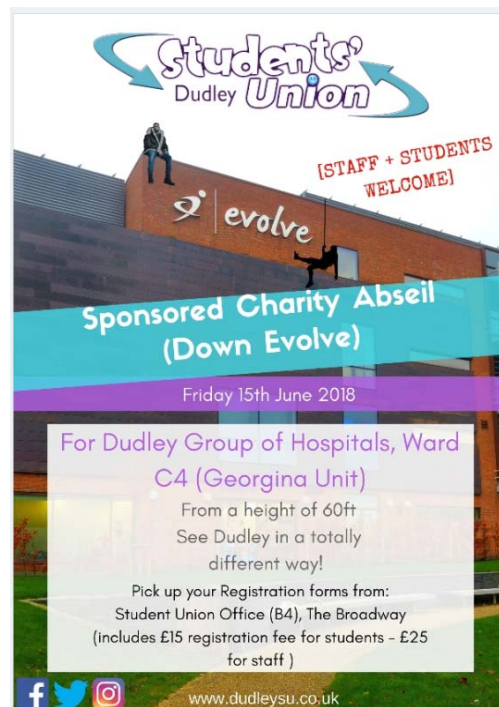
The position of student governor is up for grabs, a position which will allow you to gain an insight into the highest strategic decision making board of the college. This voluntary role is like no other! You will have the chance to develop your confidence, committee skills and your public speaking skills.



QSU

The students union are proud to announce that they are part of the NUS first cohort of Quality Students' Union accreditation group. The cohort brings together a spectrum of SU's from across the UK to work alongside one another whilst working through the QSU criteria.

Once completed the accreditation will be an esteemed quality mark for the SU and viewed in the sector as aspirational. On completion the 20 SUs involved will attend a parliamentary reception to celebrate their achievements.



Charity Abseil

Dudley College of Technology is proud to offer outstanding technical and professional learning, which raises aspirations, develops skills and changes lives. We are also proud of the work our staff and students do to volunteer and raise money to support charities each year.

This year staff and students voted for the Dudley Group NHS Charity 'Georgina Ward' (the borough's main cancer and leukaemia centre) to be the local charity that we would support through money raising activity.

The Students' Union have chosen to organise this abseil event in the hope of raising a significant amount of money. We plan to attract many people to this fantastic spectacle, allowing participants to have fun and challenge themselves whilst bringing people together to support a good cause.

If you are a member of staff or a student wishing to take part in the abseil please email - studentunion@dudleycol.ac.uk or visit the student union office, B4

If you would like to support our cause, you can here at - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dudleycollege>

Students' Union Dudley

Could you be the next president?

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT, DAN WOOD, IS LEAVING!

AND A NEW PRESIDENT IS NEEDED. COULD THIS BE YOU?

- ☑ Be the leading voice for students locally & nationally
- ☑ Earn over £15,000 a year
- ☑ Looks AMAZING on CV
- ☑ Organise campaigns, events & clubs for students

More info @ Students' Union Office (B4), The Broadway or visit our website

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Elections

It's that time of year again where we are looking for candidates to stand in our election! Do you feel that you have the confidence to represent nearly 15,000 full time, part time and apprentice students? Do you want to take up an exciting opportunity to develop skills that will stick with you for life? Do you fancy a salary of over £15,000? If you're agreeing to all of the above, then the president role may just be for you!

If you like the sound of either role, you can find out more here -

<http://www.dudleysu.co.uk/elections> or visit our office in the Broadway Campus, room B4!

C-Card

The Students Union have been working closely with Brook and have attended training to promote the C-card scheme. The C-card scheme gives free condoms to young people. The Students Union is the registration point for students and where they can discuss sexual health topics. The aim of the scheme is to improve young people's sexual health, to reduce unprotected sex, rates of STIs and unplanned pregnancies.

Mind will be delivering training workshops from Monday 14th March for 6 weeks on Monday evenings to help and support students with exam stresses, relationships, body images and depression.

Pre-Grad Officer

Last year, the students union secured additional funding for a paid part time post for the Pre-Grad officer so we can ensure that they are able to give their limited time to the union and get rewarded for doing so.

This year's pre-grad officer is Aaron Hobbins, who successfully made it through his interview to get to the role!

Some of Aarons main goals are:

- To develop a better atmosphere for all pre-grad students
- To ensure the effective communication between the students' union and pre-grad students
- To deliver a 'Dudley Olympics' which will incorporate all curriculums

Bag Pack

Posted on behalf of null

This year for the second time running, we did an annual bag pack for two charities: we socialise too and Dudley Mind. We managed to raise £150 for the charities which will go to helping to provide students with more social activities that will help to reduce isolation and building on skills and Dudley Mind is a partner organisation that the students union has been working with this year to provide low level mental health support and to train 32 staff members across all curriculums.



Talent Show

Our annual Talent Show has come around once again, providing students from across our many curriculums the perfect opportunity to display their talents in front of a large live audience.

The winner of this years talent show was Corey Grant, a Wolverhampton street students studying motor vehicle, who absolutely wow'd the judged and the audience with his explosive dance moves!

Melissa & Louise, a duo act performing their cover to 'you give love a bad name', their powerful voices and their engagement with the audience bagged them second place!

This year, saw two joint third place winners as the judges just couldn't decide who was better, congratulations to Jannico and Chloe!



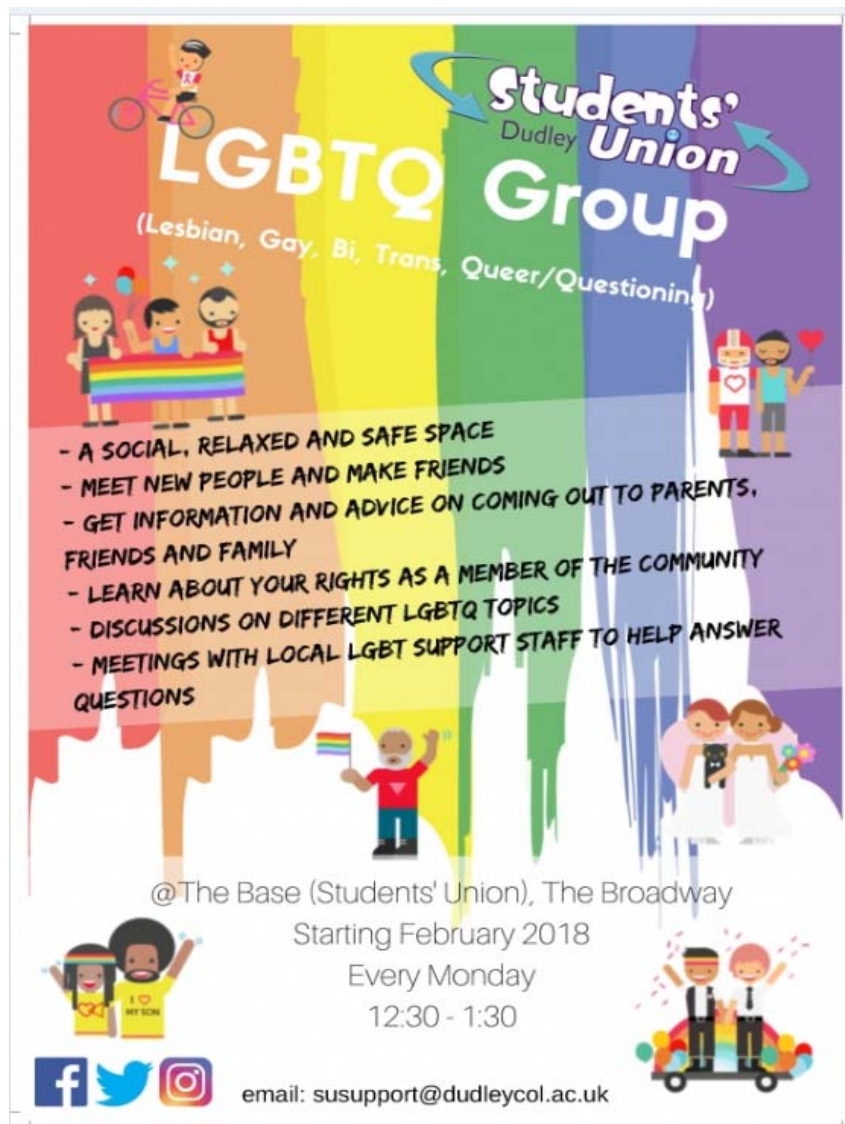
Stir Mystery Shopper

For years and years students have given consistent feedback in regards to the college food facilities and seeing how they have now been taken back into the college's hands, we know that more can be done to try and create a better experience for students.

The union, in collaboration with the stir manager, has conducted a student led review into stir as a whole, ranking each set criteria, the categories were: staff, food, conditions and advertising.

Each student was asked to purchase off of the set menu they chose and were then asked to gain evidence of their experience through pictures and timings. As they were going through they would mark up their mini review to take back to the fully fledged review, so that their ratings could be justified.

Stir came out with the overall grade of 'Silver' which is great!



LGBT+ Club

The club has been gathering together every Monday to further their knowledge on the different aspects of the LGBT community. It also gives students within the community a safe space for them to talk about any queries they might have, either openly or through one to one sessions with the group leaders.

With the club, there are no judgments being made, no hateful comments, where students can meet new people, feel comfortable, make new friends.

The group has continued the relationship with the local summit house support, inviting one of the guidance workers, Dean Perks, to raise awareness about sexual health issues, and to help the group to develop.



Welfare Fayre

Posted on behalf of null

This is the 4th year running the Welfare event, over 30 organisations participated, different stalls offered volunteering opportunities, awareness regarding mental health, sexual health, alcohol, drugs and health conditions, confidence building, CV writing, registering to vote and so much more. The aim of this event is to promote the internal support departments at Dudley College and the local external support services, Students may not always know where to go for help and advice. Many students enjoyed the event, getting to chat to professionals, collecting freebies, free nail painting etc and organisations provided brilliant feedback. Health and Social Care students also used the event for part of their module.

Politics Live

Posted on behalf of null

Politics Live takes place every year and this is the 3rd year of such a successful event, Local MP'S, Councillors and Party Representatives from the five main political parties take part in a Questiontime debate on issues affecting young people such as Brexit, Hate Crime and Votes at 16. Local high schools and students were invited and had the chance to vote used the different coloured cards representing the parties. Local Radiopresenter "different anglez" Charmaine was chair. It was a positive event and was enjoyed by all by taking part in political debate.



Food Bank Donations Delivered!

Posted on behalf of null

Just before we broke up for the Christmas break, the student union took down a trolley full of food & sanitary items, down to the black country bank! We would like to thank all of the student and staff that parted with some cash or spare food to give to those who are less fortunate. They were delighted to have received such donations, especially over the busy Christmas period.



Feel Good Monday - Evolve & Sixth

Posted on behalf of null

For the first time, the students union ran a feel good Monday event over at Evolve and sixth as part of our 5 ways to wellbeing campaign, which got people talking, taking notice of what the students were offering, and it's safe to say the students were delighted with the free popcorn, hot drinks with cream, and the atmosphere brought about by our boom box & microphone. We had the chance to interact with well over one hundred students in the few hours that we were there, where we got students signing up to our talent show, and gathering interest in the sponsored charity abseil that will be running at the end of the year! We hope the students had a nice time, and it was great to put a smile on so many faces!



PGL

Posted on behalf of null

The Students Union executive team went for a packed team building weekend away to PGL Swindon, where the team got to experience a plethora of activities such as fencing, aero ball, archery, orienteering, obstacle course, mountain biking and many more! The team got to strengthen their bond over the busy weekend, as they had to work together, have fun and tried some new activities. This was a really positive experience for the group and has certainly helped them for when they come back to college in their roles. The weekend built on students transferable skills such as communication, team working and leadership.

Principal Q&A

Posted on behalf of null

For his first ever Q&A as Principal, Neil took to the floor to answer students questions from all over the college. Topics that were discussed were curricular activities for students, the new & imminent reforms to education such as T-Levels and what it will mean for Dudley College, as well as the future of Dudley college and the plans it has for the next few years! We hope that Neil found this to be beneficial insight into what students are most concerned about, and we thank him for taking time out of his



Paintballing

Posted on behalf of null

Paintballing at NPF bassets pole was the first trip the union ran in March which gave students the exciting opportunity to have a day filled with exercise, team work and adrenaline. For many it was the first time that they got to go paintballing and it's safe to say many of them want to go again. The group were split into Reds & Blues, and the Blues came out on top winning 6/8 matches, however it was a valiant effort from the Red team!



NUS - FEstival

Posted on behalf of null

FEstval is a annual event organised by the NUS which brings together the FE unions of its membership (making up more than 65% of the national unions membership) for the day, where they can be trained or enhance their knowledge on certain topics of their choice, such as mental health in colleges, the education reforms, how do we get effective apprenticeship representation, etc. It also give students a chance to hold their elected national representative to account, where they will report back to the student body.