

Students' Union Report to Corporation

November 2020 to June 2021



Welcome to the final report back to Corporation I will be delivering as Students' Union President. The first thing I would like to say is how incredibly proud I am of the work of the Students' Union has delivered over the past 6 months. The Officers, volunteers, and staff have excelled themselves in what has been an extraordinary year. We have indeed been able to keep up the momentum of support and activity even with the shadow of Covid.

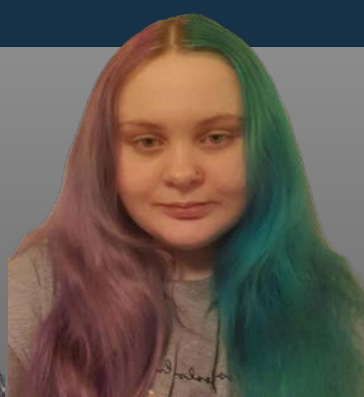
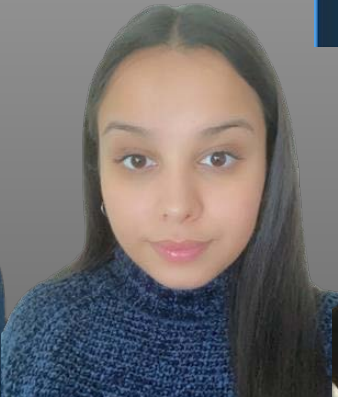
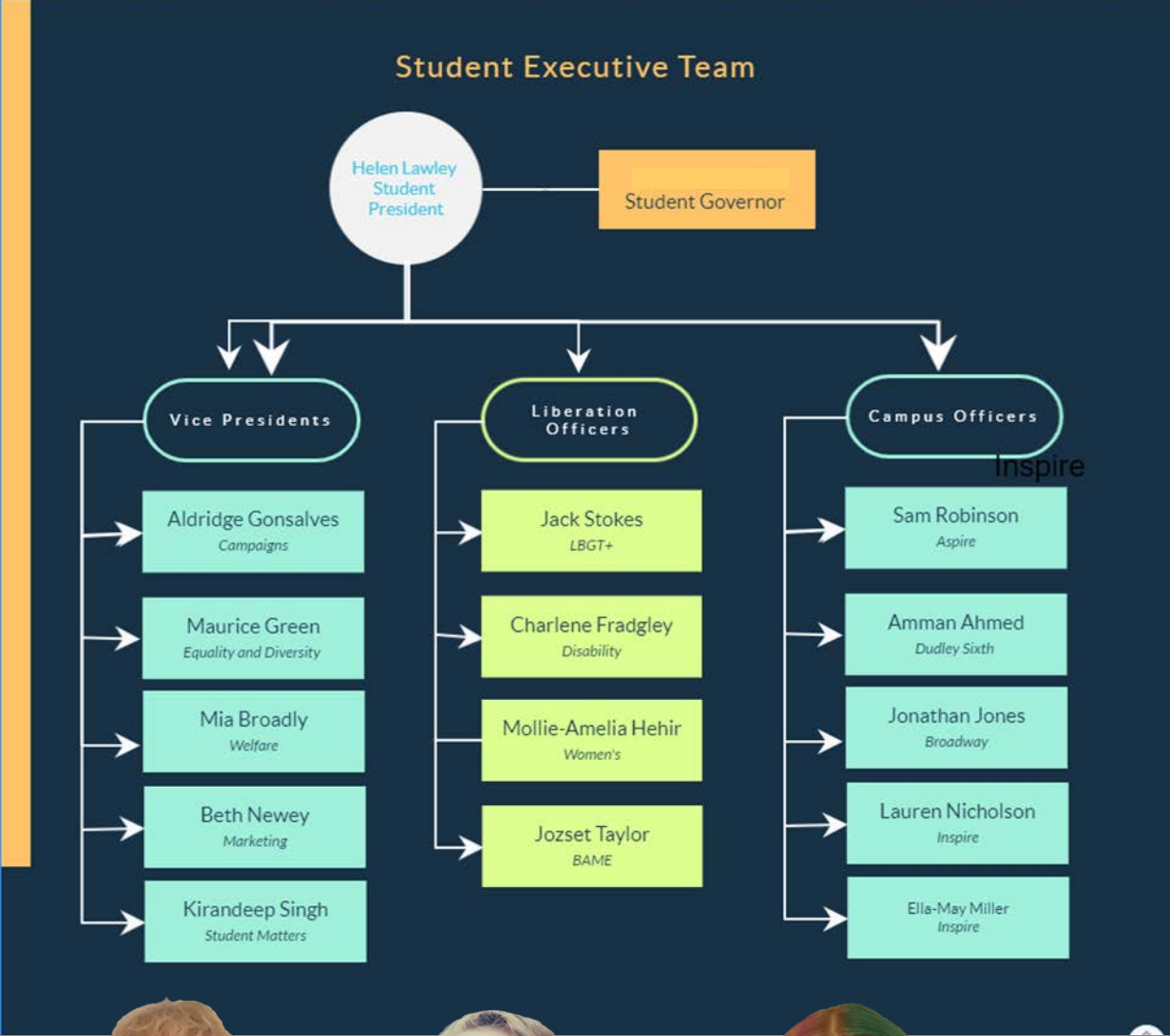
It has been my honour and pleasure to have been leading such an amazing organisation and I wish my successor Mollie-Amelia as good as experience as I have had.

This report highlights some of the best of what has taken place over the last 6 months, but cannot possibly convey some of the feeling that has been achieved by the activity – you've got to be there to benefit!

I hope that the Corporation can continue to value the excellent and inspiring work of the SU and I wish the college all the very best in what looks to be some very exciting times ahead.



This year the SU Executive Team have worked so incredibly hard and we should all be proud of what they have done for students. Their commitment and enthusiasm has been amazing. Please join me in thanking them...



Student Opinion Survey

Autumn Term 2020

This report outlines the findings from the Student survey carried out in December to gather student opinion on the pandemic and how well the college has adapted to government guidelines and the national lockdown/s. The Student Union offered an incentive of a prize to gain responses, they advertised the survey through Class Representative training sessions on our social media platforms, the website and Myday. With this effort the Union received 292 responses before it closed on the 18th December.



Of students gave their online enrolment process a 4-5 star rating indicating "Good" and "Excellent"



34%

Of Student had a weak or intermittent WiFi signal at home

87% of Students said



They could speak to their tutor about anything during Lockdown

Students Responded *

1 in 12



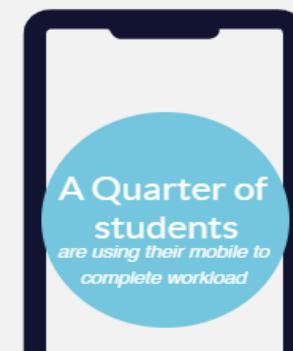
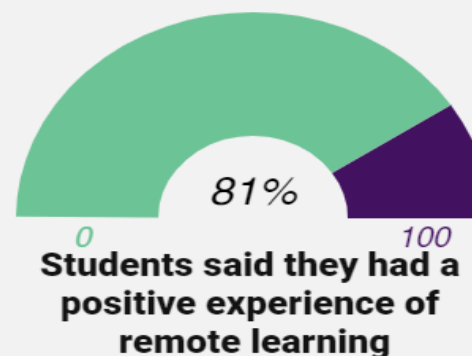
73%

Of Students rated the quality of remote learning between 4 and 5 stars



"In the beginning it was hard to concentrate being alone in the room and sitting in front of the screen for lessons but now I am comfortable and have learnt a lot. I can now interact with others in virtual group works and my computer skills are improving each time."

Dudley College Student



A Quarter of students
are using their mobile to complete workload

STUDENT *REPRESENTATION*



350 Class Reps

Regularly attending Learner Voice Sessions as well as MS Teams Chats and Information Updates notifications



24 Learner Voice Sessions

Platform for Students to air their concerns as well as whats working well



Q+A Sessions with Staff

Students attend regular sessions with Neil Thomas as well as other members of staff on a variety of subjects



Operation Santa and Food Bank Collections Nov/Dec 2020

Back in November and December Officers and volunteers of the SU worked incredibly hard to run collection activities for the Black Country Food Bank and Operation Santa. A project group of 12 students worked together to deliver collection shifts in Dudley Town and spread the word between their peers and staff. We extended the Food Bank Collection to include Operation Santa too after being approached by the organisers who were aware of our support for this activity over past years. Their collection helped over 6,200 children in the Dudley Borough, a record breaking year for them.



BLACK COUNTRY
FOODBANK
LOVE · CONNECT · INVEST



Christmas 2020

Certificate of Appreciation and Thanks awarded to:

Dudley College Students Union

Thank you so much for collecting food for families and individuals in your local community. We will use all the food you have donated to make emergency food parcels for people in crisis.

You have donated 118.3kgs of food, an incredible amount, enough to provide 237 meals. This is absolutely wonderful and we are so thankful that you have supported us in this amazing way.

THANK YOU!!



Registered Charity No: 1136676



Competition Time

Every Month the SU held a different competition hoping to engage students in alternative ways. The themes ranged from photography for mental health, poster competition for LGBTQ+ awareness, a poetry competition celebrating the role of influential women in our lives to name a few. The SU also continued with their weekly online quiz delivered over Facebook Live – lots of students tuned in to participate in a chat and chance to win. Some feedback from students stated that it had helped keep them motivated over lockdown periods and they looked forward to the challenges.



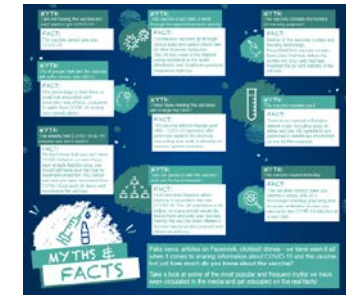
Mental Health Ambassadors

We all know that mental wellbeing continues to be a priority to the success of our students. The SU continued their peer led support activity – the Mental Health Ambassador Project’ in association with Dudley Young Health Champions, recruiting 15 students to develop their own peer led activities and campaigns. The focus of the most successful projects were on Bereavement and Grief, Generalised and Social Anxiety and Depression.

All Health champions completed the European Health Champion certification and have been involved in other community projects such as the Dudley Borough Health Forum.

Looking forward the champions are focusing on Anxiety post the pandemic and what will most support students to look after their mental wealth when attending college either for the first tie or returning.

Some of the Ambassadors also chose to take up additional volunteering as Covid-19 Young Health Champions. They spread clear messaging amongst young people and their communities about the risks of covid and the requirements from Government.



Holocaust Memorial and Lessons from Auschwitz



James Hibberd –
Dudley College LFA
Ambassador

Once again Dudley SU worked alongside, Lord Austin of Dudley, and Dudley College to organise the borough's annual commemoration which is attended by VIPs, faith leaders, members of the community and students from across the Dudley.

We had the great honour of being joined by Holocaust Survivor, Manfred Goldberg BEM, Manfred was awarded the BEM in the Queen's New Year's Honours List in 2018 in recognition for his work in Holocaust education.

We also heard recounts from James Hubbard who took part in last year's Holocaust Education Trust Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

Every year the SU supports a number of students to sign up and participate in the training to become LFA ambassadors. This year 5 new students have attended the course which was delivered online. Next academic year they will be disseminating messages of hope and understanding as part of their ongoing commitment to the College and LFA as ambassadors.

The service is an opportunity to ensure that the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides are not forgotten, trivialised or denied. We will remember and continue the campaign against injustice, hatred and discrimination which has always been central to the role of Students' Unions and Trade Unions.

The event itself was held online and attracted just under 300 live views – it was a brilliant learning curve for all involved!



Manfred Goldberg BEM

LGBTQ+ Community club activity and support

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- Active club was established in lockdown and has seen on average 20 students a week attend
 - Passed policy to the Executive Committee to create the post of Trans Officer – this was filled almost immediately by openly trans m2f student Spencer Shuttleworth
 - LGBTQ+ Club organised a forum event for all students with a number of guest speakers. Dudley hate crime reporting, the What Centre spoke on sexual health, personal experiences of being LGBTQ in Dudley College community were shared, member of college staff spoke about the commitment from the college to the community. Representative from the National Union of Students spoke about the importance of the work that Dudley SU was doing and the position of NUS in supporting SU's
 - Body Positive and Coming Out sessions organised and delivered in association with ArCus LGBTQ charity
 - Place in this Years Birmingham Pride secured
 - LGBTQ+ officer Jack shortlisted for National Award
 - LGBTQ+ Committee 2nd runner up in National Societies and Volunteering Awards



Disability Committee Forum

Event presented by members of the Disability Committee

The Committee held the event on MS Teams, and had guest speakers: Kat Lafferty - from the community safety team who talked about the importance of reporting hate crime, Stuart Steele spoke about living with MS, defeating the odds and how having a positive outlook is beneficial to health, Leo Adams the disability representative at NUS spoke about the importance of representation in society and how attitudes need to change so that accessibility is no longer an issue.

The hour-long event was attended by 22 students and had an excellent review in the feedback responses. We hope to make this an annual termly event in the future.



Training Opportunities

The SU offer a wide range of Training Opportunities for Students e.g. Covid Champions, Mental Health Ambassadors, Executive Team, LFA ambassadors, DofE ambassadors, Club leaders, Stand Out training programme, giving our members the opportunity to try new things, develop their skills and improve their confidence.



#SUMAKESYOU



Critical Thinking Training with Lisa Stevenson

Thursday 28th January
12.15pm till 1.15pm
Via Microsoft teams

[Click here to become outstanding!](#)



MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADORS

[CLICK HERE APPLY TO BECOME A MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADOR NOW!](#)

- 1 Are you supportive, friendly and compassionate?
- 2 Willing to commit 6 hours to training?
- 3 Ready to support your fellow students?

MH Ambassadors will NEVER be expected to provide mental health support in the role but they will be provided with details of where to signpost people for professional support with their mental health - if you need help or guidance, please contact: counselling@dudleycol.ac.uk



#SUMAKESYOU



Public Speaking Training with Neil Thomas

Thursday 4th February
12.15pm till 1.15pm
Via Microsoft teams

[Click here to become outstanding!](#)



#SUMAKESYOU



Leadership Training with Neil Thomas

Thursday 28th January
12.15pm till 1.15pm
Via Microsoft teams

[Click here to become outstanding!](#)

#StudentsDeserveBetter!



Working with NUS, Students Deserve Better Campaign

- We attended different focus groups, to get a national picture of the hardships Students were facing due to the pandemic which collectively became the national NUS, Students Deserve Better campaign
- We were invited to speak at the NUS national conference Students Deserve Better campaign where I represented Dudley SU and spoke about hardships students in Dudley were facing regards to remote learning, free meals, families now facing a loss of income and students no longer having the autonomy over their funding since EMA was abolished in England

Awards and Nominations

A stylized illustration featuring a large gold trophy with a red ribbon in the center. To its left is a silver trophy, and to its right is a silver trophy with a yellow ribbon. In the background, there is a large white certificate with black lines representing text. The entire scene is decorated with green leaves and yellow stars.

Long listed for a 'Community Activism Award' in the National Societies and Volunteering Awards for the Food Bank/Operation Santa Project

Long Listed for the 'Committee Excellence Award' in the National Societies and Volunteering Awards for the LGBTQ+ Group and **won 2nd runner up**, from 480 entries

LGBTQ+ Officer – Jack Stokes - has been successfully shortlisted in the National Queer Student Awards for School/College student of the year – Winer announced on July 1st

Dudley Sixth Leavers Event

We couldn't let our extremely hard working students at Dudley Sixth leave without a special goodbye therefore Sixth Campus Officer (a leaver himself) thought it was incredibly important the SU stepped in to show the students that we recognise their dedication and commitment in what has been a super tough year for them. It was simple but effective, with music, goody bags, leavers badges and balloons it made the day really special. We also compiled a photo album of the event on Flickr which has since racked up a rather impressive 500 views. Students told us it was a memory to last a lifetime and they were so pleased to have the opportunity to be recognised in this way



Organised by Sixth Campus Officer Amman Ahmed and members of the SU student and staff team



The Big Student Get Together –

rebranded from Student Council, the Get together gives students from across all curriculums the opportunity to get together and find out what their SU has been doing for them, receive feedback on Officer activity and the opportunity for students to participate in motions for debate. The motions that have been passed into SU campaign priority work can be seen below:

Safety on Campus – addressing Lad culture, Sexual harassment, hate crime, and the increasing knife crime in the area

Respecting Hidden Disabilities— asking the college to be listed on the hidden disability website as a place where it is recognised, to set up their own Voluntary scheme so that staff can easily identify disabled students.

Trans Inclusion – to allow preferred names and pronouns on college systems and the development of broader trans inclusion support

Services expansion - services like the SU, student finance, student services and the library to be mirrored into Brierley Hill

PIP reform – to standardize PIP sessions and open them out to adult students what wish to participate, having PIP session centralised on Teams assures the quality and standard of delivery.

Focus on Mental Health – to locate and create open spaces around campus for the purpose of mental health gardens or seating areas where students and staff could go and reset their mental state

[Click for full document](#)

Introducing the Student President Elect for 2021/22

Hi, I'm Mollie and I was previously the SU Women's Officer. I've just completed my qualification in Health and Social Care Level 2.

I was member of the student voice forum in secondary school and was a prefect too. I'm a corporal in the army cadets force and a young leader in scouts. I'm also doing a Btec in cadets in teamwork and personal development. I'm a DofE Gold Award participant too. I like to stay busy!

I'm a very social person and love to help out and get involved with different activities. This past year the SU helped me to feel I was part of the college community, helped me make friends and helped me stay positive and active – that is why I wanted to stand for President. My experience being a volunteer officer was so inspiring.

I am a major advocate for fair treatment and equality and this is something that will run through my campaign aims. Our diversity is our strength.

I thank students for all the support they have given me – I won't let them down.

- Link to my Manisfesto [Here](#)



Appendix

- Student Survey report for September to December

[Student Opinion Survey Report for Term 1.pdf](#)

- Executive team

<https://www.dudleysu.co.uk/meet-the-executive-team>

- Student union Event Calendar

<https://www.dudleysu.co.uk/events>

- Student Deserve Better Rally

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXLAp7Dskjg>

- Big Student Get Together

<https://bit.ly/3x5YIYi>

