

Statement from The Students' Union President 2025-2026

As I conclude my term as President of Dudley College Students' Union, I do so

with immense pride, gratitude, and a deep sense of achievement. This past year has been one of the most transformative and rewarding experiences of my life, and it has been a privilege to serve and advocate for the students of Dudley College.



From the outset, my priority was clear: to ensure that every student felt heard, represented, and empowered. Throughout this year, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen the student voice, expand opportunities for engagement, and create a Students' Union that is more democratic, accessible, and responsive to the needs of our diverse student community.

Together, we have delivered meaningful change. We launched campaigns to address the cost-of-living crisis, championed student

welfare and inclusion, increased student engagement in Union activities and decision-making, and strengthened the structures through which students can influence their educational experience. These achievements have not only responded to immediate challenges but have also laid the foundations for a stronger and more sustainable Students' Union for future generations of students.

This progress has been made possible through the collective dedication of many individuals. I have been fortunate to work alongside an outstanding team of elected officers, student leaders, staff colleagues, and volunteers whose commitment, passion, and belief in our shared vision have driven the Union forward. Their support, expertise, and unwavering dedication have enabled us to increase our impact, strengthen our governance, and enhance the Union's capacity to serve students effectively.

This year has also demonstrated the resilience, determination, and strength of our student community. In the face of challenges, students have continued to

raise their voices, support one another, and shape the future of their College. It has been inspiring to witness the power of student leadership and collective action in creating positive change.

As I step down from this role, I do so confident that Dudley College Students' Union is stronger, more visible, and more influential than ever before. The progress we have made is not simply measured by individual initiatives or achievements, but by the culture of engagement, representation, and empowerment that we have continued to build together. The foundations are firmly in place for the Union to continue growing as a respected and impactful voice for students across the College.

Representing the students of Dudley College has been a profound honour and responsibility. The experiences, relationships, and lessons gained throughout this journey will remain with me for years to come. I leave this role with gratitude for the trust students placed in me, pride in what we have accomplished together, and optimism for what lies ahead for the Students' Union and the students it serves.

In Solidarity,

Kaynat Ahmad, President of Dudley College Students' Union

Representation- including campaigning, lobbying and liberation work.

Presidential Elections 2026- Vote for the GOAT (Greatest of All Time)

This year's **Presidential Election went off with a bang** you could even say it was truly **"GOATed"**!

We were delighted to see **two outstanding candidates** step forward: **Crystal Ferguson and Callum Bonnar**. For the first time, **voting was conducted entirely online**, moving away from the traditional ballot system. The impressive turnout is a testament to how passionate and engaged Dudley College students are about the future of their Students' Union.

To encourage participation, this year's campaign embraced the bold and brilliant theme, **"Greatest of All Time (GOAT)."** Hundreds of cans of Coca-Cola were given away across our campuses, **helping to make democracy not only accessible but enjoyable for everyone involved.**

We are thrilled to announce that **Callum Bonnar** has been **elected President of Dudley College Students' Union for 2026–2027**, securing an **impressive 70%** of the vote.

Callum brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served for several years as **Campus Leader at Wolverhampton Street Campus**. Having recently completed his **Automotive studies**, he is now ready to begin an exciting new chapter leading the **Students' Union and building on the achievements of those** who came before him. Callum will officially take office on **1st July**, and we couldn't be more excited to see him lead the Union over the coming year.



Please join us in congratulating Callum on his election victory and wishing him every success in the year ahead!

Presidential Handover: Kaynat to Callum

Throughout **June**, the Students' Union facilitated a **comprehensive and structured handover** programme between outgoing President **Kaynat** and incoming President **Callum**. This month-long transition period was designed to ensure a **seamless transfer of knowledge**, responsibilities, and ongoing **strategic priorities, supporting continuity in the Union's leadership** and operations.

As part of the handover process, Kaynat provided detailed briefings on key **campaigns, strategic objectives, governance responsibilities**, stakeholder relationships, and **current projects**. The programme also included guidance on the **day-to-day functions of the Presidency, leadership expectations**, and the role of the Students' Union within the wider **College community**.

The extended transition period enabled **Callum to shadow** the outgoing President, **attend meetings with College staff** and external stakeholders, engage with student representatives, and gain valuable insight into the Union's operational and strategic work. This approach has provided a **strong foundation** for Callum to begin his term with confidence, clarity, and a thorough understanding of the opportunities and challenges ahead.

By investing in a **robust leadership transition process**, the Students' Union has ensured continuity of service, maintained momentum on key priorities, and strengthened its capacity to deliver **effective student representation**. Most importantly, it ensures that the interests and voices of Dudley College students remain at the heart of the **Union's work as it enters a new chapter of leadership**.

Callum's Presidential Statement

I first engaged with the Students' Union (SU) during my second year as a Class Representative, when I worked with the SU to help resolve an issue involving a tutor. Following this positive experience, I continued in my role as a Class Representative and later took on the position of Campus Leader.

Throughout this time, I received invaluable support from the SU team. In particular, Kaynat played a significant role in supporting my development and leadership journey. While managing her day-to-day responsibilities, she dedicated time to assist me with planning student trips and events, always providing guidance and encouragement.

I set myself a new challenge by putting myself forward for the role of SU President for the 2026/27 academic year. Their confidence in my abilities motivated me to pursue the opportunity. During the election campaign and subsequent transition period, Kaynat continued to offer exceptional support, patiently answering questions, providing advice, and helping me navigate the responsibilities of the role. She was always willing to answer my questions, offer advice, and help me understand the responsibilities of the role.

The encouragement, mentorship, and dedication demonstrated by Kaynat and the wider SU team have been instrumental in my development as a student leader and have greatly contributed to my positive experience within the Students' Union. Her guidance has been invaluable, and I am incredibly grateful for the support she provided as I prepared to take on the presidency.

Social Media and under 16s

This initiative was undertaken by **DSU** in collaboration with MP Sonia Kumar.



Following an outreach from Sonia's office enquiring whether we would be interested in organising a discussion event on this subject, we agreed to take it forward. The topic is currently generating significant **debate across the United Kingdom.**

We organised the event and extended invitations to **local schools, welcoming 40 young students** along with **their teachers**, as well as a number of our own students. The discussion centred on whether **banning social media for under-16s** would be an

effective and beneficial measure. As part of our research, we found that **Australia and several other countries** have already introduced such a **ban for under-16s**. However, upon **examining the wider picture**, it became evident that **VPN usage had increased significantly in those regions**, alongside a **rise in fake date-of-birth registrations** as young people sought to bypass the restrictions.

The event also **explored what alternative solutions** might look like if a ban were **not pursued**, as well as the **potential disadvantages** of implementing one.

The event concluded with **overwhelmingly positive feedback**. DSU staff member Aldrich Gonsalves **facilitated a range of engaging activities** throughout the session, ensuring the discussions remained **interactive and dynamic rather than passive**. The quality of the discussion and the **insights shared by attendees** were highly valued. Sonia Kumar commented that the **views and perspectives gathered** during the event would help inform future

discussions in Parliament, highlighting the importance of ensuring that young people's voices are heard in national policy conversations.

APPG and Lobby Day (Don't freeze our Futures)

Our Students' Union **President** Kaynat Ahmad, and **Deputy President** for **Enrichment and Citizenship** Mirabel Iyoha, travelled to **London** to attend the **APPG and Lobby Day**. This year's campaign focused on the theme **"Don't Freeze Our Future"**, bringing together students and Students' Unions from across **the UK** to **advocate for fairer student funding and financial support**.



As part of the campaign, students gathered **outside Parliament** to raise awareness of concerns surrounding **student finance** and the **increasing financial pressures** facing students. **Protestors** called on Chancellor **Rachel Reeves** to reconsider policies affecting **student loans**, with campaign messages including **"Don't Be a Loan Shark"** and **"Don't Freeze Our Future"**. The campaign particularly highlighted concerns about **Plan 2 student loans** and the impact of increased interest rates on home students. To attract attention to the issue and engage the public, some students wore **shark costumes** as a visual representation of the campaign's message.

The delegation also had the opportunity to enter **Parliament** and meet with **Members of Parliament** to discuss issues affecting students. During these meetings, President Kaynat Ahmad raised concerns **regarding apprenticeships** and the **need for increased funding** and support for apprentices. Several MPs responded positively and indicated that they would consider raising these issues within Parliament, demonstrating the value of direct student engagement with **policymakers**.

In addition, West Midlands officers had the opportunity to engage with the office of Shabana Mahmood. Although she was unavailable due to parliamentary commitments, Officers met with her caseworkers and discussed concerns relating to student **safety across the West Midlands**. This provided an important opportunity to ensure that **local student experiences** and challenges were communicated directly to **representatives** working within government.



The day was both meaningful and impactful, **enabling student leaders** to represent the interests of **their peers at a national level**. It demonstrated the importance of **student voices in shaping discussions** around higher education, **student finance, apprenticeships, and community safety**, while strengthening relationships **between students, Students' Unions, and policymakers**.

Youth Strategy Roadshow

Dudley Students' Union recently hosted a **"Seen and Heard" Youth Strategy event**, bringing together young people to ensure **their voices, experiences, and ideas were recognised** and valued. The event was delivered in collaboration with **"iwill"** and members of the **local council**, creating a space for meaningful conversations between **young people and decision-makers**.

The event welcomed young people from **Dudley and Wolverhampton**, with **students participating** alongside the Students' Union **President** and **Vice President**, who supported the delivery of the session and **co-hosted** the event with the **iWill team**.

Throughout the day, young people discussed **key issues affecting their lives**, shared their experiences, **raised concerns**, and contributed ideas on **how communities can better support young people**.



The aim of the event was to ensure that young people across Dudley have an active role in shaping local and national youth strategies. By creating opportunities for **open dialogue and collaboration**, the event supported the development of a stronger, **more inclusive community** where **young people**

feel **heard** and **empowered** to influence **positive change**.

One **youth ambassador** highlighted the importance of the event, stating:

"Being able to come here, share ideas, and hear other people's ideas on how we can make our community better for young people creates a better place where everyone feels able to express themselves."



The **"Seen and Heard"** event demonstrated the **value** of youth voice and participation, providing a platform for young people to **connect, collaborate**, and contribute to **decisions** that **impact their future**.

Citizens Uk Roundtable

Following the Community Iftar event, President Kaynat Ahmad had the opportunity to **meet with Saidul Haque, Lead Organiser at Citizens UK**, to discuss key community issues, **particularly women's safety across the West Midlands**.

During their discussion, Saidul shared Citizens UK's vision to expand its community **organising work into the Black Country**. Citizens UK is already working successfully **with seven community groups and organisations across Birmingham**, and there is a growing interest in developing a **similar broad-based alliance** across the **four boroughs** of the **Black Country**.

Kaynat welcomed the proposal and expressed her commitment to **supporting this important initiative**. Recognising **women's safety as a significant** issue affecting local communities, she agreed to work closely with Citizens UK and take a leading role in helping to establish and strengthen partnerships within the **Black Country**.

Following these discussions, Saidul confirmed via email that Citizens UK had been **consulting** with a number of civil **society leaders across the region** over the **past year** to explore the creation of a **new broad-based alliance**. As a result of this **engagement**, it was agreed that the next stage of discussions would take place in July.

To support this work, **Dudley Students' Union (DSU)** has agreed to host a **roundtable event** at the college on **9 July**. The event will bring together **councillors, community representatives, senior leaders**, and key stakeholders from **across the region** to discuss the most pressing **issues facing local communities**, including women's safety and community cohesion.

As Kaynat will have completed her term before the event takes place, responsibility for supporting and facilitating the roundtable will be handed over to **Sophia and Aldrich**, who will continue the Students' Union's involvement in this important **initiative** and ensure ongoing collaboration with Citizens UK and community partners.

National Success and Recognition for Dudley Students' Union



Building Black
Country Citizens
- Dudley
Roundtable



Thurs 9 July 2026 | 10.30am - 12.30pm
A venue in Dudley to be announced shortly

Citizens UK have been invited by a number of civil society leaders in the Black Country to work with them to build a broad-based community organising alliance that builds positive working relationships between communities, elected power-holders and businesses, making sure everyone is heard and no one is left out.

By sharing community organising tools, techniques and hard-won experience to shift the balance of power, the alliance will strive to bring people together across their differences, to find common ground and win change.

With over 13 years' experience locally in the West Midlands of delivering with Birmingham Citizens, civil society organisations across Dudley are invited to join this local roundtable event to find out more, share their stories and consider getting involved to build a new community organising alliance across the Black Country.

Limited places available - please register here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/9-july>

We are **delighted to announce** that our President Kaynat Ahmad, has been elected as the **National Union of Students (NUS) Vice President for Further Education (VPFE)**, representing further education students across colleges throughout the UK.

This is a significant achievement and a proud moment for **Dudley Students' Union**. Kaynat's election continues a **remarkable tradition of leadership** and success within our organisation, further strengthening the Union's reputation on the national stage and adding another chapter to its history of student representation and impact.

In her new role, **commencing on 1 July**, Kaynat will work closely with **Further Education Students' Unions** and student representatives across the country, championing the interests of FE learners and helping to shape national policy and priorities within the sector.

We are excited to see the positive contribution Kaynat will make in this role and the impact she will have on improving the student experience for learners across the UK.

We are also pleased to announce that Kaynat Ahmad has been **shortlisted** for the prestigious **Student Governor of the Year Award**. The winner will be announced on Thursday 25 June at the annual GovFest Conference in London, which celebrates excellence in governance across the education sector.

Being shortlisted for this national award is recognition of Kaynat's outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to representing students both locally and nationally.

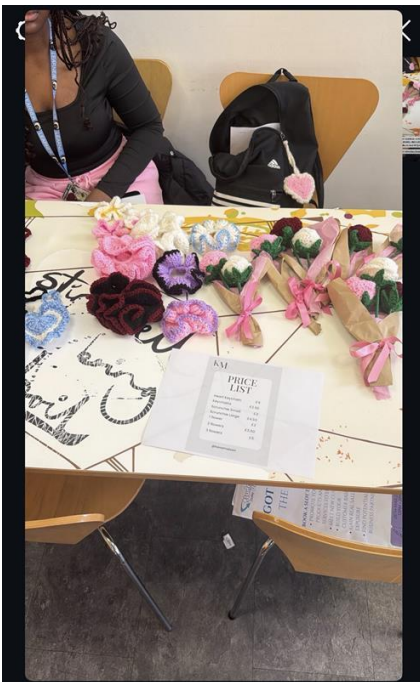
This has been an exceptional year for Dudley Students' Union. We are immensely proud of the **achievements** of our student leaders and grateful for the **dedication, passion, and hard work** they have demonstrated throughout the year. Their success reflects the strength of **student leadership** within our



organisation and the positive difference that students can make within their college, community, and beyond.

Creating Community- supporting students to meet likeminded people, try new things and tackle loneliness and isolation.

POP-UP Market



In March, DSU delivered a creative and engaging student-led initiative called the “Pop-Up Market”, organised by a member of the Leadership Executive Team. The aim of the event was to provide students with a platform to showcase their products, promote their small businesses, and connect with potential customers within the student community.

The event was designed to support students who had started their own businesses or were developing new ideas by giving them an opportunity to gain real exposure, build confidence, and grow their customer base. The initiative received strong interest from students, with many bringing forward their

businesses, products, and entrepreneurial ideas.

Originally, the event was planned to take place in the conference room; however, due to the increasing interest and the need for greater visibility, the location was moved to the Refectory to maximise student footfall and engagement. This allowed student businesses to attract a wider audience and interact with more students across campus.

A range of students participated by setting up their own stalls and promoting their products and services. The Students' Union supported participants throughout the process, helping with stall setup and creating promotional posters to highlight each student business. Many students engaged with the

stalls, collected contact details, and took business cards to support and connect with fellow student entrepreneurs.

The Pop-Up Market was a unique and valuable initiative that encouraged entrepreneurship, creativity, and student engagement. It provided students with a meaningful opportunity to share their ideas, develop their confidence, and create connections within the wider campus community.



Community Iftar Event

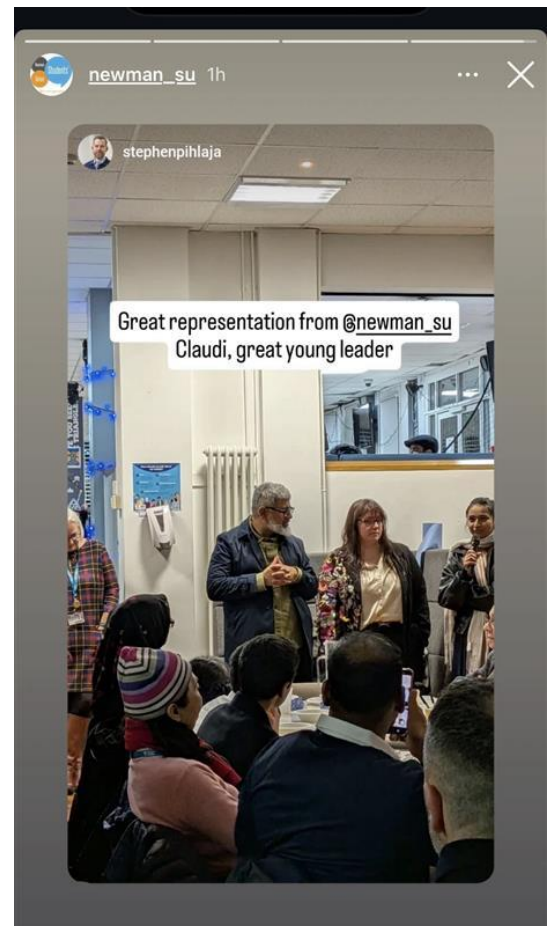
President **Kaynat Ahmad** attended a meaningful **Community Iftar event** hosted by the **Newman's University Students' Union**. The event brought together a diverse range of **community leaders**, stakeholders, and **distinguished guests**, providing an excellent platform for engagement and collaboration.

Among the attendees were representatives **from Birmingham City Council**, as well as **local Mayors and Deputy Mayors from across the Birmingham** community. Their presence highlighted the **importance of strengthening relationships between educational institutions, local authorities, and community organisations**.

During the event, Kaynat had the opportunity to engage in **constructive**

discussions with **senior community leaders** on several key issues currently **affecting the West Midlands**. These conversations focused on community **development, inclusion**, and opportunities for greater **collaboration to address local challenges**.

The **Community Iftar** served as a valuable initiative that fostered dialogue, understanding, and **community cohesion**. It also reflected the ongoing



commitment of Newman University Students' Union to supporting meaningful community engagement and creating opportunities for **positive social impact**.

Denim Day

In April, Dudley Students' Union marked **Denim Day**, a global campaign dedicated to **raising awareness of sexual assault**, challenging **harmful myths surrounding consent**, and showing solidarity with **survivors of sexual violence**.

Denim Day **originated in Italy** during the **1990s** following a controversial **court case** in which a **rape conviction** was overturned on the basis that the **victim was wearing tight jeans**. The ruling suggested that the victim must have consented, **prompting widespread outrage**. In response, **women members of the Italian Parliament wore denim jeans** as a **symbol of protest and solidarity**. Since then, **Denim Day** has become an **international movement** promoting **awareness, education, and support for survivors**.



This year, Dudley Students' Union took a **creative approach** to the campaign. On the **first Wednesday** of the month, students came together to **decorate and**



paint denim jeans with messages of support, empowerment, and awareness. On **21 April**, participants wore their decorated denim to demonstrate solidarity with survivors and to **encourage conversations** about **consent, respect, and healthy relationships**.

The campaign helped **raise awareness of sexual violence** both within the **college community** and beyond, while **reinforcing** the importance of creating **safe, supportive, and inclusive environments for all students**.

Pride 2026

The **Students' Union** once again **proudly led** a vibrant delegation through the streets of Birmingham at this year's **Birmingham Pride Parade on 23 May**. The event was a **powerful celebration** of **identity, diversity**, inclusion, and solidarity, **bringing together thousands of people** from across the region to support and **celebrate the LGBTQ+ community**.

With **rainbow flags** flying and **placards promoting equality**, peace, and

solidarity, our **students marched proudly** alongside **community groups**, organisations, and allies. The parade provided an opportunity to celebrate individuality while demonstrating our commitment to creating an inclusive environment **where all students feel valued, respected, and supported**.

This year marked a **particularly significant milestone**, as **members of our LGBTQ+ Club** actively participated in the parade. Students expressed their **enthusiasm** for being involved in events of this kind, **highlighting** the importance of having opportunities to **engage** with the wider community in spaces where they feel safe, welcomed, and **represented**.

Participation in **Birmingham Pride** reflects the **Students' Union's** ongoing commitment to promoting **equality, celebrating diversity**, and ensuring that all students have opportunities to **connect, belong, and thrive**.

Unity Day

This year, the Students' Union proudly celebrated **Unity Day**, a refreshed and **reimagined version** of our **annual Cultural Day**. The event focused on bringing **students together**, celebrating diversity, and **promoting a strong sense** of community across the college.



For 2025, the Students' Union **collaborated** closely with the **ESOL Department** and **aligned** the **celebration** with the **ESOL Awards Ceremony**. The **ESOL team** provided **invaluable support** throughout the **planning** and **delivery** of the event, and their **partnership** was instrumental in its success.



Preparation for Unity Day began three months in advance, with the **Students' Union leadership team** dividing **responsibilities** and working collaboratively to ensure the event ran smoothly. Their **dedication** and careful planning contributed to a **well-organised** and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

As in previous years, the **ESOL Awards Ceremony** attracted a vibrant and **diverse audience of students, staff, and guests**. The atmosphere throughout the event was positive and celebratory, with attendees expressing their enjoyment and appreciation for the programme.

The Students' Union also welcomed **several external organisations** and **community representatives**, further strengthening links between the college and the wider community. **Students** played a **central role** in the event, showcasing their talents through a variety of performances, including **traditional** and **contemporary dance** routines, musical performances, and singing.



One of the highlights of the day was the **much-anticipated fashion show**, which remains one of the most popular elements of the event. Students **proudly showcased traditional** clothing representing a wide range of cultures and **backgrounds**, celebrating the **diversity** of our college community. A particularly memorable



moment saw members of the **Kurdish student** community invite the **Deputy Mayors** to join them in a **traditional dance**, creating an atmosphere of joy, inclusion, and cultural exchange.

The feedback received from students, staff, and guests was **overwhelmingly positive**. Unity Day successfully celebrated the rich diversity of our college community while promoting understanding, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for all.

Europe Day Celebration 2026

This year, Dudley Students' Union successfully **secured funding** to attend the **Europe Day Celebration 2026** at the **European House in London**. The opportunity was the result of several months of **preparation**, planning, and **engagement** through our work as **part of the EPAS** (European Parliament Ambassador School) programme.

The event brought together **school ambassadors** from across the United Kingdom, with **only nine schools selected** to receive funding and attend the celebration. We were proud that **Dudley Students' Union** and our student representatives were among **those chosen** to participate.



The first part of the programme featured an **engaging question-and-answer** session with guests from the European Parliament. Students had the opportunity to learn more about **European institutions**, democracy, and **youth**



engagement, while also discussing issues that affect young people across Europe.

The second half of the event focused **on celebrating European** cultures and diversity. **Participants** took part in a **variety of interactive** activities representing different **European countries**, providing valuable opportunities to learn about different **traditions, cultures**, and **perspectives**. Students also enjoyed networking with other young people from across the UK and **capturing memories** of the day through photographs and shared experiences.

Following the event, the group took the opportunity to explore some of **London's**

cultural landmarks, including viewing artwork associated with the renowned street **artist Banksy**. Although Banksy's identity remains unknown, his work has had a significant impact on **contemporary art** and **public culture** around the world.

The visit was an enriching and memorable experience for all involved. The event was exceptionally well organised and provided **valuable educational**, cultural, and leadership development opportunities for the students who attended. We were pleased to be able to take a number of our **student leaders**, enabling them to represent Dudley Students' Union on a **national stage** and further develop their skills, knowledge, and confidence.



Dudley Students' Union Achieves EPAS Accreditation

We are delighted to announce that Dudley Students' Union has **successfully achieved accreditation** through the **European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) programme**. This achievement represents the **culmination** of many **months of hard work**, dedication, and collaboration by **both staff and student ambassadors**.

In **May**, we received **confirmation** of our accreditation along with an invitation to attend the **official accreditation ceremony hosted by the Greek School of Ayia Triada in Birmingham**. In their invitation, **organisers noted** that the event would **provide accredited** schools with their **official school plaque, digital logo**, and **personalised certificates** in recognition of their **success** within the **EPAS programme**.

To mark this achievement will attend the ceremony on **30 June** to receive their certificates and celebrate the accreditation.

The occasion is **particularly significant** as it **coincides** with the **final day** in office for **our President, Kaynat Ahmad**. It is a fitting way to recognise the hard work and commitment that have contributed to the success of the EPAS programme at Dudley Students' Union and to celebrate the positive impact of student leadership throughout the year.

This accreditation reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting active citizenship, **democratic engagement**, and **international awareness** among students. It is a **fantastic achievement** for the **entire Students' Union team**, our student ambassadors, and everyone who has **supported the programme**.

Please join us in **congratulating** our **outstanding DSU team** on this well-deserved recognition and celebrating another successful milestone for Dudley Students' Union.

Skill Development – Including training opportunities, professional development, and volunteering.

Leadership Team Residential Training

This year, Dudley Students' Union organised a **two-day residential training** programme for the **Student Leadership Team** in **Stratford-upon-Avon**. The residential is an **important part** of the Students' Union calendar, providing

student leaders with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to effectively represent students and **deliver on the commitments** made in them

election manifestos.

The programme brought the leadership team together away from their usual environment, **creating valuable opportunities** for learning, **team building**, and personal development. The primary aim of the residential was to help student leaders gain a **deeper understanding** of how the Students' Union **operates** and the **responsibilities associated** with their roles.



Throughout the two-day programme, participants took part in a range of training sessions covering key leadership and professional development topics, including:

- Time management
- Public speaking
- Communication skills
- Team building and teamwork
- Planning and project management
- Event planning and organisation
- Professional conduct and office etiquette
- Understanding office procedures and responsibilities

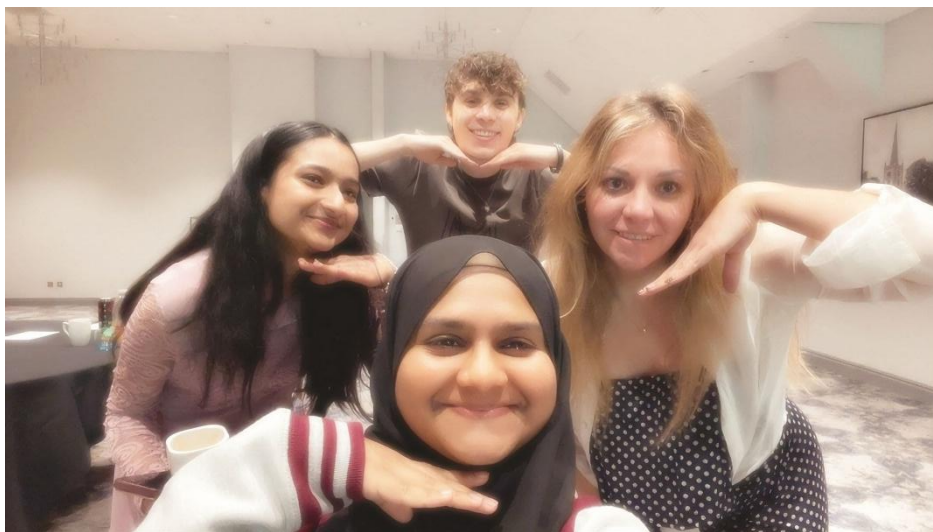


A particular highlight of the residential was the involvement of a **former Students' Union President Jack Stokes**, who attended as a **guest speaker**. Drawing on his own experience in student leadership, **he delivered engaging sessions on public**

speaking and effective communication, sharing valuable **insights** and practical advice with the current leadership team.

The residential also provided an opportunity for reflection and feedback. At the end of the programme, student leaders were invited to share **their views** on the Students' Union, including **what was working well** and **areas where further improvements could be made**. The feedback received was both **positive and constructive**. Many students praised the work of the Students' Union and recognised the **support provided by staff**, while others offered thoughtful suggestions for future development. Several participants also shared personal messages of appreciation for individual staff members and their contribution to the student experience.

Overall, the residential was a highly successful and enjoyable experience. It **strengthened relationships** within the leadership team, encouraged collaboration, and helped students build confidence in their roles. Most importantly, it provided a **strong foundation** for future **projects and initiatives**, enabling student leaders to **work together** effectively and make a positive impact throughout the year.



Laurence Jabczynski Memorial Trophy

This year, Dudley Students' Union once again hosted the annual **Laurence Jabczynski Football Tournament**, organised by Students' Union staff member Aldrich. The event has become a valued tradition within the college, bringing students together through sport, teamwork, and friendly competition.

The tournament attracted an impressive **12 teams** from across the college, demonstrating strong **student engagement** and **enthusiasm**. It was particularly

encouraging to see students from the **CAT Centre** and **Automotive Department** participating alongside teams from a wide range of curriculum areas, highlighting the event's ability to **bring together** different parts of the college community.

Matches were played **throughout the day**, creating an exciting and **competitive atmosphere** for both **participants** and **spectators**. The tournament provided students with an opportunity to develop teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership skills while building connections with peers from across the college.

Following a series of closely contested matches, we are delighted to congratulate the **Plumbing Team**, who **emerged as this year's champions**.



Their victory reflected their dedication, teamwork, and commitment throughout the competition. In recognition of their achievement, the team's **name** has been **engraved** on the **tournament trophy**, creating a lasting record of their success.

The **Laurence Jabczynski Football Tournament** continues to be an important event in the Students' Union calendar. It encourages participation, **promotes student wellbeing** through physical activity, and **strengthens** the sense of community across the college. We look forward to continuing this tradition in **future years** and providing opportunities for even more departments and students to take part in this popular and successful event.

Summer Socials, Stay connected with Students

As part of our ongoing commitment to student engagement, Aldrich is once again delivering a **Summer Social programme** this year. The programme includes a variety of **activities** such as **badminton**, **football**, an **air fryer cooking** course, and several other **social** and recreational events.

The initiative provides an important opportunity for students to remain connected to the college community during the **summer period** while **promoting wellbeing, physical activity**, and social inclusion. Many students **remain in** the city throughout the holidays, and **the Summer Social programme** offers **meaningful opportunities** for them to engage with their **peers** and **participate** in structured activities.

In addition, we worked closely with the college to address concerns regarding student transport. Discussions were held to **secure extended bus pass** provision, recognising that the **cost of travel** can present a **financial challenge** for some students. We would like **to thank Diana** for her support in agreeing to this arrangement, which will help ensure that more students **can access** and benefit from the summer programme.

We are committed to continuing the growth and **development** of the Summer **Social initiative** and look forward to expanding its reach and impact in future years. Aldrich is leading the programme alongside the new President to ensure its successful delivery and ongoing contribution to the student experience.

Trip to the Peak District, Derbyshire

As part of its annual programme, DSU organised a **three-day educational trip** in collaboration with the **Photography Department**, with support from **Phil Brooks**. This year's destination was the **Peak District in Derbyshire**, one of the most beautiful natural areas in England.

For many students, this was their first opportunity to **travel outside the city** and **experience** the **countryside**. The group stayed at a **local youth hostel**, which provided comfortable accommodation throughout the trip.



The visit was an amazing experience for everyone involved. Students took part in several **hikes**, **exploring stunning landscapes** and enjoying breathtaking views from the **hilltops**. They also had the opportunity to visit and **explore caves**, making the trip both exciting and educational.

For photography students, the trip was particularly valuable. They were able to capture a wide **range of images**, including beautiful **natural scenery**, landscapes, and **candid photographs** of people. The experience helped them

develop their photography skills while gaining inspiration from the surrounding environment.

Overall, the trip was a great success, providing students with memorable experiences, opportunities for **personal growth**, and **valuable practical** photography experience in one of England's most **scenic locations**.



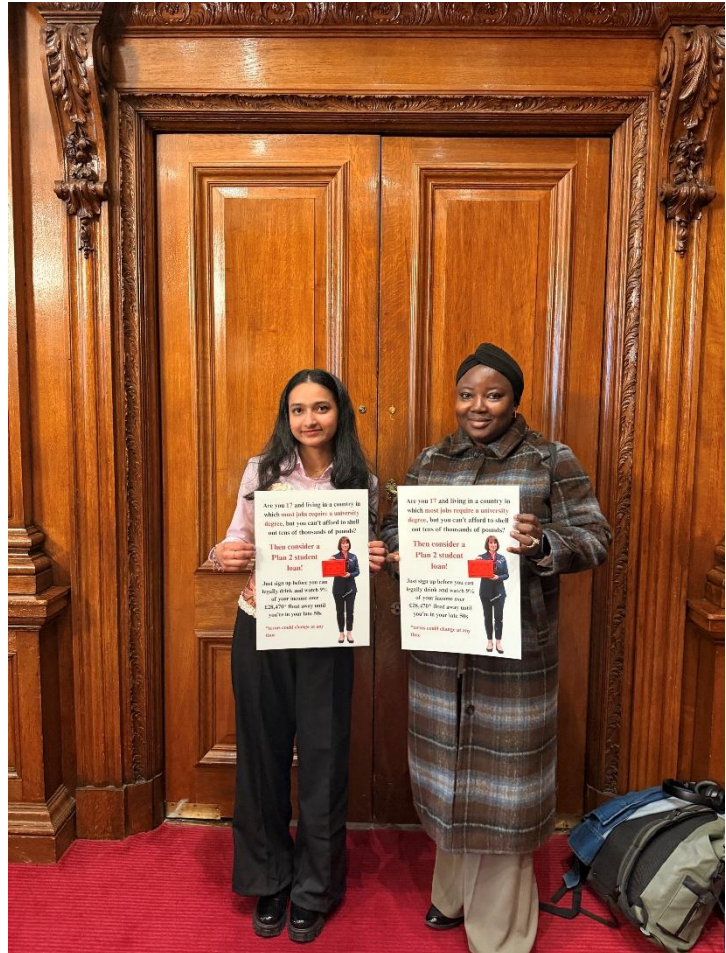
Final Notes from us

Farewell to a Magnetic Leader: Kaynat Ahmad ends her term as SU President

As Kaynat Ahmad's remarkable tenure as President of Dudley College Students' Union comes to an end, we take the opportunity to celebrate a period defined by **passionate leadership**, **bold advocacy**, and **meaningful impact**. From the beginning of her presidency, Kaynat brought **incredible energy**, **vision**, and **determination**, driven by a clear **commitment to building a Students' Union** that was **powerful**, **transparent**, and **truly student-led** placing students at the **heart of every decision** while ensuring their voices were represented on both local and national platforms.

Under Kaynat Ahmad's leadership, Dudley College Students' Union reached new levels of influence, representation, and student engagement. Her presidency was built on a commitment to making sure every student had the opportunity to be heard, valued, and supported. One of most significant achievements was leading the nationally recognised **Fair Deal for Our Future** campaign, which gained over **400 petition signatures** and achieved **strong** recognition compared to Students' Unions **across the country**. She also successfully campaigned for **improvements** such as **free college meals** and **fairer transport funding**, ensuring that student **welfare and accessibility** remained at the centre of her work.

Kaynat's leadership extended beyond Dudley College, as she worked alongside **student representatives across the West Midlands** and engaged with decision-makers to advocate for **better opportunities**, stronger support systems, and improved experiences for young people. Her ability to connect student voices with wider conversations demonstrated her commitment to creating lasting change.



Her dedication to student **wellbeing was equally powerful**. Through campaigns and initiatives **focused on mental health, sexual health, equality, and inclusion**, she helped create a more supportive and understanding college environment. Her work raising awareness around issues such as **Islamophobia, HIV, STIs, and mental health** encouraged open conversations and **strengthened a culture of respect, safety, and belonging**.

Kaynat also championed democratic participation through initiatives such as **Politics Made Better** and **Don't Ghost Your Vote**, inspiring students to understand the importance of having their voices heard and taking part in shaping the future of their communities.

On a **national level**, Kaynat represented Dudley College Students' Union with **pride and distinction**. Through her regional leadership role with the National Union of Students, she contributed to **wider campaigns** supporting apprentices, students, and young people. Her work also supported Dudley College's achievement as a **European Parliament Ambassador School**, creating further opportunities for students to **engage with democracy, citizenship, and global issues**.

Beyond campaigns and policies, Kaynat represented the true meaning of student leadership. She supported **charitable initiatives**, encouraged student ambassadors, **promoted women's safety**, and **represented students at local, national events**. Throughout her presidency, she led with compassion, resilience, and a genuine commitment to making a difference.

Kaynat leaves behind a legacy that goes far beyond her achievements. Her greatest impact can be seen in the students she empowered, inspired, and represented. Her passion for **equality**, social justice, and student voice has created a strong foundation for future leaders to continue building upon.

Thank you, Kaynat Ahmad, for your passionate leadership and for proving that student leadership is not just a position, but a powerful force for change, progress, and inspiration.

