

## Statement from The Students' Union President 2025-2026

“As President, I have had the privilege of representing our students and witnessing first-hand the challenges they face in their day-to-day lives. One issue that consistently affects students across our community is the accessibility and affordability of public transport.

For many students, transport is not simply about convenience it is a necessity. It determines whether students can attend lectures, access placements, participate in extracurricular opportunities, or remain connected with their communities. Yet far too often, students face rising travel costs and limited transport options that place unnecessary strain on their finances and wellbeing.

Our Students' Union firmly believes that access to fair and affordable transport should be a priority. Throughout this year, we have worked to ensure that student voices are heard on this issue. We have actively engaged with local leaders

and policymakers, lobbying government and transport authorities to recognise the financial pressures facing students and to introduce fairer travel options that support their mobility and independence.

Students should not have to choose between attending their studies and managing the cost of travel. A fair transport system is fundamental to creating equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background or circumstances. By advocating for improved student travel support, we are working towards a future where education is truly accessible.



This year has also been an important opportunity for the Union to strengthen its role as a representative voice for students. Alongside our campaigning and lobbying work, we have continued to deliver valuable services and enrichment opportunities that enhance the overall student experience. The achievements outlined in this report reflect the dedication of our Union and the collective effort to ensure that students are supported both inside and outside the classroom.

While there is still much work to be done, I am proud of the progress we have made together. By continuing to stand up for students and advocating for meaningful change, we can help build a more supportive and accessible environment for all.

In solidarity,

**Kaynat Ahmad**

*Dudley Students' Union President elect 25/26*

**This report will highlight key areas of work under the DSU core themes and values which are:**

**Representation-** we want students to get the most out of their student experience, DSU represents students, advocates, and campaigns on their behalf.

**Skills development-** we provide volunteering and training opportunities to prepare students for life and work.

**Creating community-** by offering activities, events, clubs and social groups we support students to get the most from their social life, meet new people and make new friends.

**Creating a welcoming community where students can meet like-minded people, try new things, and feel supported instead of isolated.**

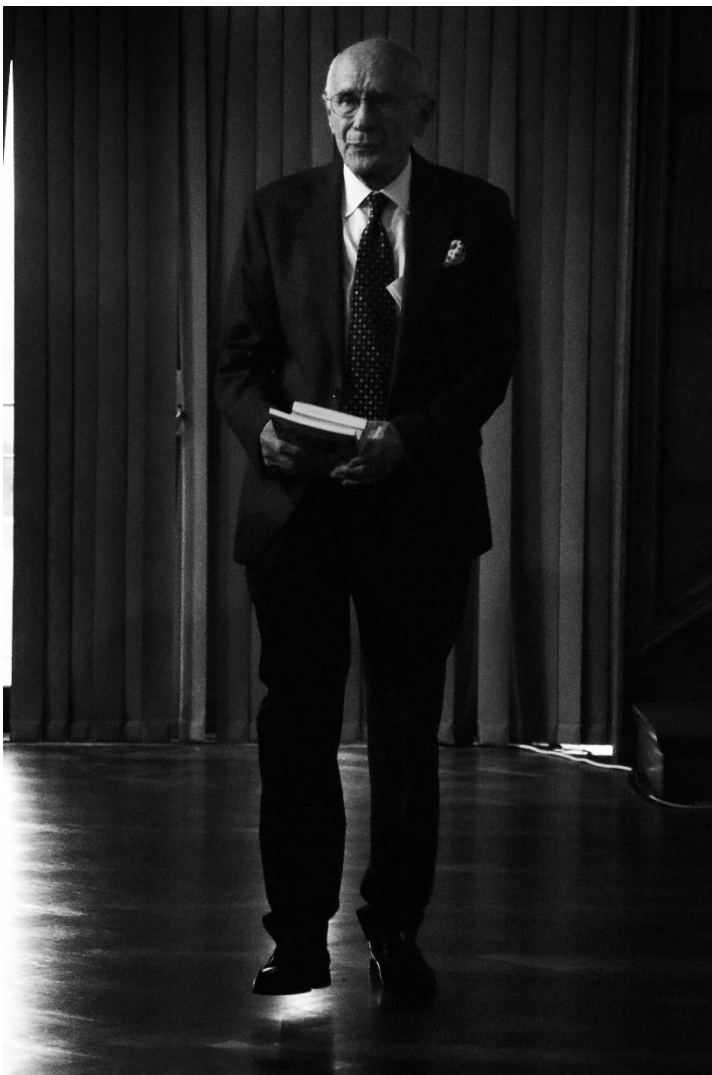
## Holocaust Commemoration “Bridging Generation”

As always, DSU was proud to support the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration, collaborating with Cllr Keiran Casey alongside community and faith leaders to organise one of the region’s largest anti-racism events.



DSU President Kaynat Ahmda contributed to the event by delivering a powerful poetry reading centered on this year’s theme, “Bridging Generation.”

### This year’s Poem- Bridging Generation



We come to sit today to hear  
horrors of the past.  
Impossible to comprehend,  
Their courage will always last.

We listen to the stories told,  
Days so dark and brave.  
Memories shared from long ago,  
Forget not, those lives who gave.

We realise the fear they faced!  
Change attitudes, to choose what’s  
right,  
Make our homes, our towns, our  
world,  
A place to be, of peace and light.

And now their gift we carry on,  
Resilience they have shown,  
To speak up when we witness  
wrong,  
And never stand alone.

Tireless efforts - we *will* understand,  
Hate, Prejudice - to overcome,  
Together, we can show the way,  
Educate, and learn from what was  
done.

Though time moves on and voices  
fade,  
Their lessons still shine bright,  
Kindness, care, strength and hope  
We should always keep in sight.



**Written by SU office support and admin - Amanda Appleby**

This year, we hosted the **Holocaust Memorial Day** commemoration at **St James's School**. We are very grateful to the school and especially to the Principal, **Mr Moo**, for kindly hosting and supporting this important event.

During the commemoration, we had the honour of welcoming **Peter Lantos** (BEM, BMedSci), a Holocaust survivor who shared his powerful personal story. His testimony about surviving the **Holocaust** deeply moved everyone who attended. Listening to his experiences helped students and guests



better understand the suffering endured during that time, as well as the strength and resilience shown by survivors.

The event provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection, learning, and remembrance. Hearing Peter's story reminded everyone of the importance of remembering history and standing together to ensure that such tragedies are never repeated.

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## Islamophobia Awareness Month

This year, the President and Vice President of Campaign organized an event to raise awareness and understanding of Islam among students. The initiative included two stalls held on different days, each designed to encourage learning, engagement, and open conversation.

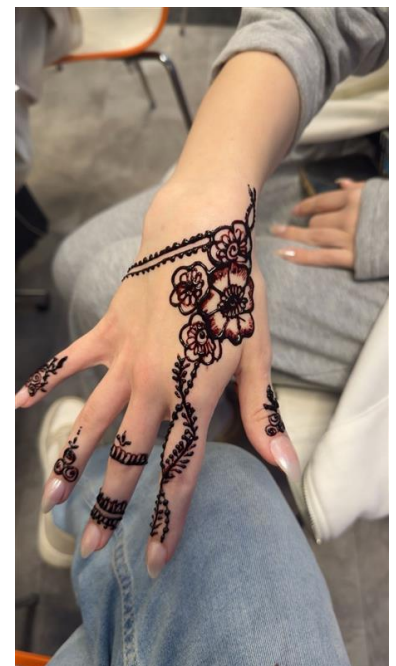
The first stall focused on the **hijab**. Students were invited to learn how to wear a hijab while also learning about its meaning and importance in Islam. The organizers explained

why many Muslim women choose to wear the hijab and how it represents modesty, faith, and identity. During the activity, many students asked thoughtful questions about Islam and showed genuine curiosity about the religion. This created a welcoming space for discussion and helped address common misunderstandings.

The second stall was a **henna stall**, where students were offered free henna designs on their hands. This activity attracted many participants and created a friendly environment where students

felt comfortable engaging in conversations about Islamic culture and traditions. While receiving henna, many students also asked questions and showed interest in learning more about the religion.

Overall, the event was successful and saw strong participation from the student community. Both stalls encouraged meaningful conversations and helped promote cultural understanding. In the future, we hope to continue organizing similar initiatives that raise awareness about

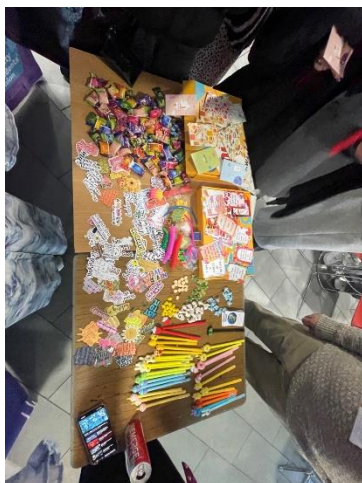


different religions and cultures, helping to create a more inclusive and respectful campus environment.

### Mental Health Activities across campus

Last year, we organized several **mental health awareness sessions** to support students and help them better understand how to seek help if they are experiencing mental health difficulties. During these sessions, we distributed small freebies to students to encourage participation and created a friendly space where they could learn about mental health support and how to report or access help when needed.

Although the sessions were not only held at the Broadway campus last year, we made efforts to engage students at the **Inspired campus** as well. At Broadway, we worked closely with students from the **ESOL department**, who volunteered their time to support the sessions and help raise awareness among their peers. Their involvement played an important role in making the sessions welcoming and inclusive.

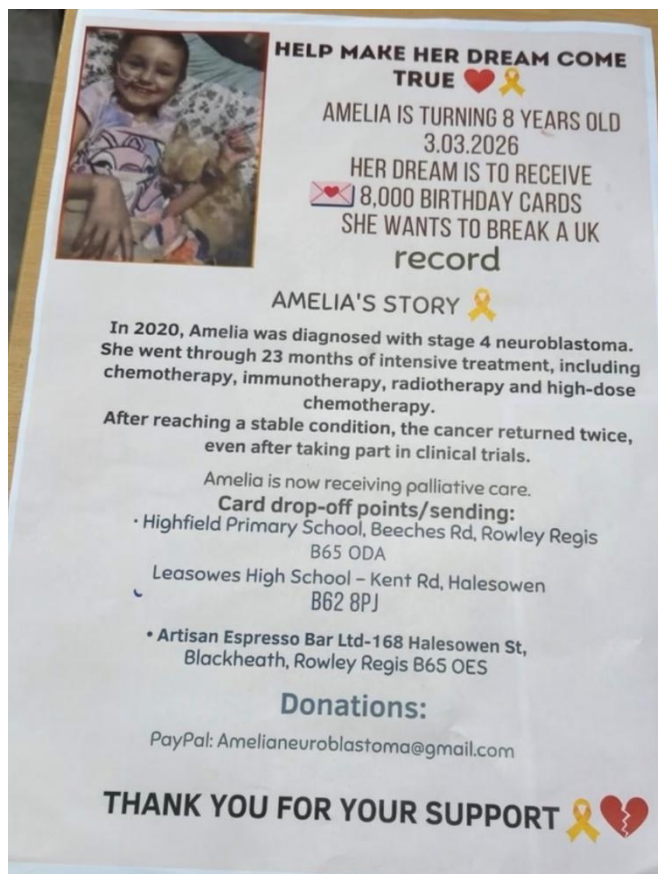


At the Inspired campus, students responded positively to the session and expressed interest in having more similar activities in the future. Many students mentioned that there are limited fun or engaging activities available on that campus, so they appreciated the opportunity to take part in something interactive and supportive.

Overall, the sessions were well received, and the Students' Union is now looking forward to exploring new ways to support students at both campuses.

## Community Support Initiative for Amelia

Recently, many of us saw a story on social media about a brave young girl named Amelia. Amelia had been fighting a rare cancer called neuroblastoma since she was around two years old, and as she was about to turn eight, she had one simple birthday wish to receive 8,000 birthday cards and break a UK record.



When her story began spreading online and in the news, people from all across the UK and even around the world started sending cards to support her. Seeing this, the President and the Students' Union decided that we also wanted to be part of something that could bring a little happiness to her birthday.

The Students' Union organised a small activity where students and staff could make birthday cards for Amelia. To encourage participation, we also gave away free chocolates to anyone who joined in. The response was really heartwarming many students, and staff

were excited to take part and spent time creating thoughtful cards and messages for her. In total, we were able to collect around **700 birthday cards**.

One of our students who works at the Aspire shop shared that their grandmother knows Amelia. Because of this connection, we were able to pass all the cards to the student so their grandmother could deliver them directly to Amelia.

It was lovely to see our college community come together for such a kind cause. In the end, Amelia received **over 60,000 birthday cards**, which is far more than she had hoped for. While the Students' Union helped organise the activity, it was really the **students, staff, and our wider community** who made this possible.

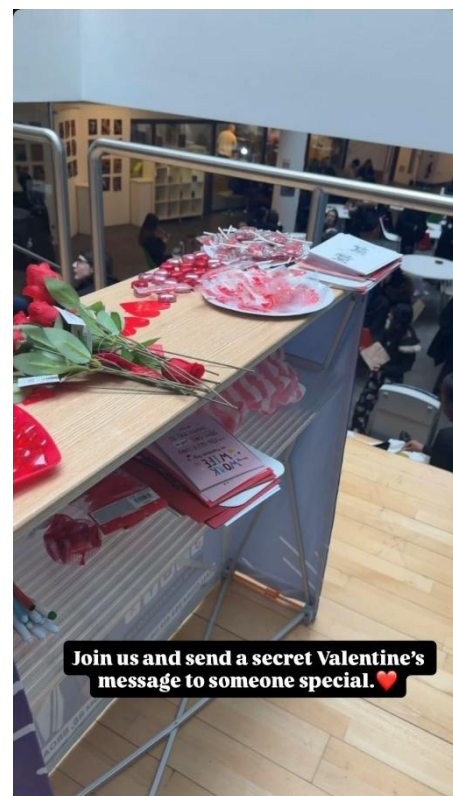
We are very happy to have played a small part in making Amelia's birthday special, and we wish her all the strength and support as she continues her journey. We hope she gets well soon.

## Valentine's and Galentine's Day Celebration

This year, the Students' Union celebrated Valentine's Day and Galentine's Day together, creating a fun and engaging atmosphere for students across the campus.

The Deputy President of Enrichment and Citizenship organised a Valentine's Day activity where students were invited to create cards for their loved ones. Students could make a card for a friend, a partner, or even someone they had a secret crush on. After the cards were made, the Students' Union team helped deliver them across the campus, which added an element of surprise and excitement for many students.

Alongside this, the Deputy President of Communities and Wellbeing organised a Galentine's Day celebration. This activity focused on celebrating friendship, especially among girls. Students had the opportunity to create canvases for their best friends and take part in other creative activities that encouraged positivity and appreciation for one another.



These activities brought a lot of energy, creativity, and positivity to the campus during the month of February. Many students enjoyed taking part, expressing kindness, and celebrating friendships and relationships in a supportive environment.

It was wonderful to see students coming together and spreading positivity across the college. We hope to continue organising similar activities in the coming years to keep building a welcoming and vibrant student community.

## Representation- including campaigning, lobbying, and liberation work.

### AoC Conference

This year, **Kaynat Ahmad**, President of the Students' Union, attended the **Association of Colleges** Conference. The conference brought together leaders, educators, and student representatives from colleges across the country to discuss important topics related to further education, student engagement, leadership, and the future of the sector.

During the conference, Kaynat actively participated in several sessions and discussions that focused on improving the student experience and strengthening student voice within colleges. These sessions provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within further education and allowed participants to share ideas and best practices.

Throughout the event, Kaynat also made many valuable connections with other student leaders, college representatives, and sector professionals. These networking opportunities helped build relationships that can support collaboration between colleges and students' unions in the future.





Kaynat's leadership and dedication were clearly reflected in her engagement at the conference. By representing the college and the Students' Union at such an important event, she demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring that students' voices are heard and that their experiences continue to improve.

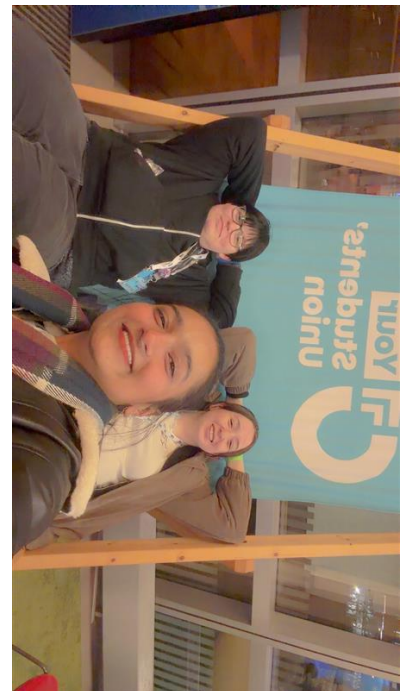
Overall, attending the conference was a valuable opportunity for learning, networking, and sharing ideas. The knowledge and connections gained from the event will help support future initiatives and strengthen the work of the Students' Union in

representing and supporting students.

## National Union of Students: Fair Deal with Future

This year, **Dudley Students' Union (DSU)** once again attended one of the biggest gatherings of students in England the **NUS Liberation Conference** and **NUS National Conference**, organised by the **National Union of Students**. The conferences took place at the **Heart of England Conference and Events Centre**.

These conferences are important democratic spaces where students from across England come together to share their experiences, discuss campaigns, debate policies, and help shape the priorities of the National Union of Students for the coming year. DSU attended with a delegation of three representatives: **Kaynat Ahmad**, SU President and Lead Delegate; **Madina Morton**; and **Dominic**. The conference gave the Deputy Presidents a great opportunity to connect with other student leaders, share





ideas, and learn about the challenges and successes of students from different colleges and universities.

Both deputies took an active part in the sessions, engaging in discussions and asking questions during the conference. Their participation showed a strong commitment to representing the voices of Dudley students and making sure their perspectives are included in national conversations.

During the conference, the DSU delegates also joined the **Funeral of Our Futures**, a rally that highlighted concerns about policies creating a hostile environment for students who want to

study in the UK. The message of the rally was that these issues affect not only international students but also home students and universities as a whole, as education should remain accessible and welcoming for everyone.

We are also proud to share that **Dudley Students' Union** collected the **highest number of signatures** for the **Fair Deal for the Future** campaign. Because of this achievement, DSU received a certificate and a gift hamper in recognition of the efforts made by our students and representatives.

The conference was a valuable and inspiring experience. It gave our representatives the chance to learn, build connections, and bring new ideas back to support and strengthen the work of Dudley Students' Union.



## GOAT Campaign – Go Out and Talk

This year, the Students' Union launched a new campaign called **GOAT – “Go Out and Talk.”** The aim of this campaign was to encourage student leaders to step outside their offices, connect directly with students, and talk about the work they do within the Students' Union.

On the day of the campaign, **Kaynat Ahmad** and the rest of the Students' Union leadership team went around the campus to speak with students. They introduced themselves, explained their roles, and asked students about their experiences, ideas, and concerns. The campaign created a relaxed and open space where students felt comfortable approaching their representatives and learning more about how the Students' Union supports them.



To make the campaign more engaging and memorable, a real **Goat** was brought onto campus. Many students were excited to see and interact with the goat, and for some it was the first time they had ever seen one up close. The activity created a fun and lively atmosphere, attracting many students and encouraging them to stop by and talk with the Students' Union team.

Alongside the GOAT campaign activities, President Kaynat also hosted a stall to raise awareness about **HIV** and **AIDS**. This awareness stall was organised in collaboration with the **What? Centre**. During the event, students were given free cupcakes while learning about HIV, how it affects people, and the importance of awareness, testing, and support.

The campaign was both educational and enjoyable, bringing together fun activities and important conversations. It was great to see so many students engaging with the Students' Union, learning more about its work, and taking part in meaningful discussions about health and wellbeing.

### **NUS VPFE: Building a Stronger Future for FE Students**

This year, our Students' Union President, **Kaynat Ahmad**, has once again put herself forward in the national elections for **Vice President for Further Education (VPFE)** at the **National Union of Students**.

Kaynat's vision is clear: she wants to strengthen connections between students' unions and colleges across England, ensuring that the voices of further education students are heard and represented at a national level. A key part of her campaign is also focused on supporting **apprentices**, making sure their experiences and needs are recognised and included in national conversations about education and opportunities.

In this election, Kaynat is standing alongside another candidate from **Leeds City College**. By stepping forward for this role, Kaynat is showing her determination to champion the rights, needs, and aspirations of college students and apprentices across the country.

Her campaign this year focuses on the messages **“Love FE”** and **“Don't Ghost Your Vote,”** encouraging students to value further education and take part in the democratic process. Through this campaign, she hopes to



**Love FE Vote Kaynat**

**DON'T GHOST YOUR VOTE**

**Kaynat Ahmad**  
**VP 4 Further Education**

- Enhance Academic & Apprenticeship Support & Representation
- Rebuilding the Connection Between NUS and Further Education
- Improve Student Engagement, Campus Life & Career Growth

**@KAYNAT4VPFE**

**Stronger Support, Brighter Future**

inspire students to use their voices and engage with the issues that affect them.

Running for a national leadership position is a significant step, and Kaynat's commitment reflects her passion for representing students and creating positive change within the further education sector. For more information about her campaign, students can visit her campaign page:

[Kaynatahmad4vpfe](https://www.instagram.com/kaynatahmad4vpfe).

## Meet The Team

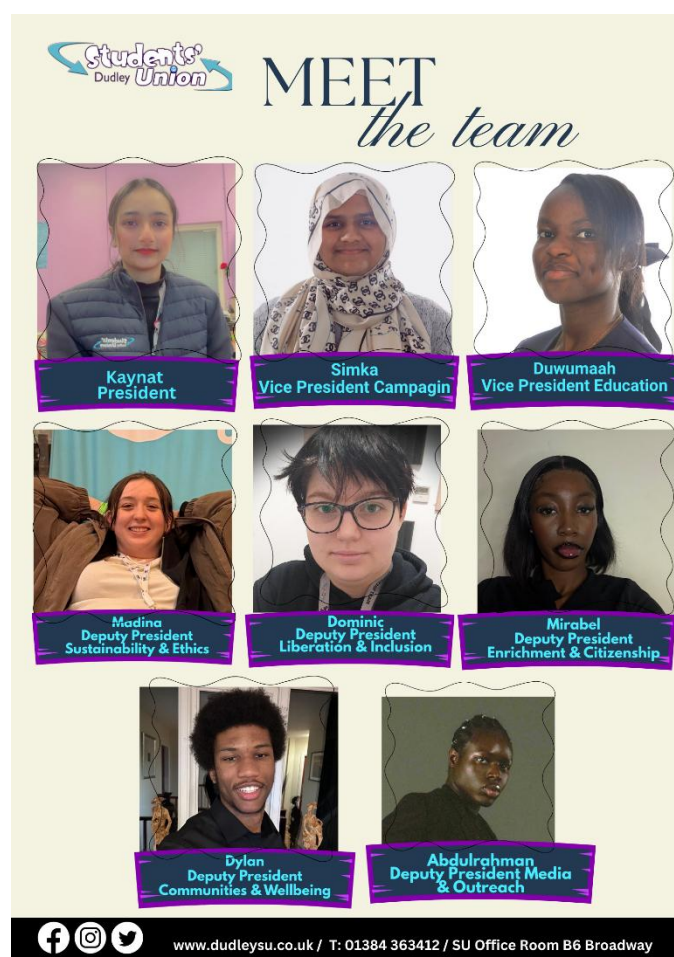
Dudley Students' Union is proud to welcome a **new leadership team** who are ready to represent students and work on the issues that matter most across the college.

After a competitive election, the newly elected representatives received strong support from the student body and are now in a great position to advocate for students' needs.

The new team has set out clear goals for the year ahead. Their priorities include improving **mental health support**, increasing access to **clubs and societies**, creating more **enrichment opportunities**, and continuing to address the **cost-of-living challenges** many students face. These priorities reflect the concerns and ideas shared by students during the election period.

The Students' Union plays an important role in making sure student voices are heard. By working closely with students, college staff, and external organisations, the new leadership team hopes to bring positive changes and improve the overall student experience.

Students are encouraged to connect with their representatives, share their ideas, and take part in upcoming activities and campaigns. With an enthusiastic and committed team in place, Dudley Students' Union looks



forward to supporting students and creating positive change across the college.

## West Midlands Student Transport Lobby Event



Last month, our Students' Union President, **Kaynat Ahmad**, worked with student unions across the **West Midlands** to raise concerns about student transport and advocate for fairer travel options for students.

As part of this effort, Kaynat organised a regional lobbying event where student leaders came together to discuss the transport challenges many students face when travelling to college or university. Invitations were sent to key local leaders, including the **Richard Parker** and **Simon Foster**. While they were unable to attend in person, they sent representatives on their behalf: **Matthew Lewis**, Commercial Director of Transport for the Mayor, and **Waseem Ali**, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Kaynat also invited **Sonia Kumar**, along with eight Students' Union Presidents and officers from across the region, each bringing delegates to represent their student communities.

The event was hosted in the **Dudley Council Chamber**, providing a formal space for meaningful discussion between students and decision-makers. The event was generously supported by **University College Birmingham**, which sponsored the event and provided around £300 in funding.

During the session, student leaders and delegates actively shared their experiences and highlighted the difficulties many students face with the cost and accessibility of public transport. The main message from the group was clear: students need **fairer and more accessible transport**, not only for full-time learners but for **all students**, including part-time learners and apprentices.

The discussions were incredibly positive, and we are pleased to share that the government acknowledged the concerns raised during the event and agreed with the need for change. Plans have been announced to introduce improvements to student transport policies, which are expected to be implemented in **2027**.

After the event, a small lunch was hosted for the attending officers and delegates. This provided an opportunity for students to continue conversations, reflect on the discussions, and strengthen connections between student unions across the region.

It was inspiring to see so many student leaders working together to raise important issues and advocate for positive change. We look forward to seeing how these commitments develop in the coming years and how they will improve transport access for students across the West Midlands



**Skills Development – Including training opportunities, professional development, and volunteering.**

## Unloc Training

This year, **Kaynat Ahmad** and **Simka Rifai** attended the **Unloc** Governor Training in **Cambridge**. The training was designed to support student governors and help them develop the skills and confidence needed to represent students effectively within college governance.

During the training, Kaynat and Simka took part in a variety of interactive workshops and discussions. These sessions focused on leadership, communication, decision-making, and understanding the responsibilities of being a student governor. They also had the chance to meet and learn from



student leaders from other colleges, sharing experiences and discussing how student voice can play an important role in shaping decisions within educational institutions.

The training was a valuable learning experience for both governors. It helped them gain a deeper understanding of how governance works and how student governors can contribute to important discussions and decisions that affect students.

At the end of the training, participants were given the opportunity to apply for the **Youth Member position on the Unloc Board**. Both Kaynat and Simka decided to apply for this opportunity. We are pleased to share that **Simka Rifai** was successfully selected for the role. She has already



attended her first board meeting in **Portsmouth**, representing young people and contributing to discussions at a national level.

It is inspiring to see our student governors stepping forward to take part in such opportunities and demonstrating their leadership, confidence, and commitment. Their involvement reflects the strong

dedication of our students to represent their peers and make a positive difference both within the college and beyond.

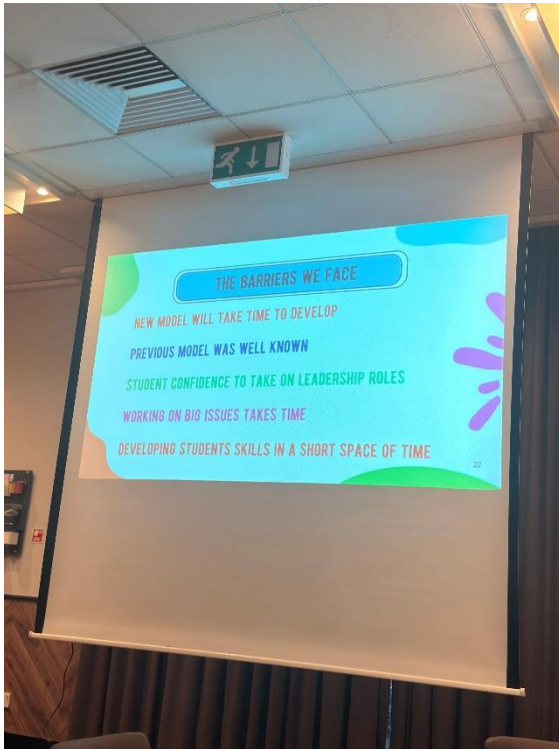
## NAMMS Conference

This year, **Sophia Daly** and **Kaynat Ahmad** attended the **NAMSS Annual Conference** in **Birmingham**. The conference brought together student services professionals, engagement teams, and student leaders from colleges across the UK to share ideas and discuss ways to better support students.

During the conference, Sophia and Kaynat delivered a session where they spoke about the work being done by the Students' Union and the college to support and engage students. They shared examples of different activities, campaigns, and events that help students feel more involved in college life and encourage them to have their voices heard.

Their session focused on the importance of student voice and leadership, and how creating opportunities for students to participate can make a positive difference in the college community. Many attendees showed interest in their work and engaged in discussions about student engagement and support.





Alongside presenting, Sophia and Kaynat also attended several workshops and networking sessions during the conference. These sessions covered topics such as student wellbeing, inclusion, enrichment, and improving the student experience. The event gave them the opportunity to connect with people from other colleges, exchange ideas, and learn new approaches that could be used to support students.

Attending and presenting at the conference was a valuable experience and showed the commitment of both staff and student leadership to improving opportunities and support for students. The ideas and

connections gained from the conference will help continue strengthening student engagement within the college.

## Sports Leadership Programme – AoC Sport

Dudley College Students' Union currently has five Sports Leadership Programme (SLP) Ambassadors actively delivering student-led projects across the college:

- 2 – This Girl Can Ambassadors
- 2 – Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Ambassadors
- 1 – Sustainability Ambassador

The This Girl Can Ambassadors have successfully launched two new student clubs: Badminton and Chess. Both clubs have seen a big amount of interest and both clubs have been growing steadily

Our EDI Ambassadors are currently planning an inter-college football tournament, with the aim of engaging



students from across all campuses, including CAT and Advanced.



The Sustainability Ambassador is leading a project focused on walking maps to promote mental health and wellbeing, encouraging students to explore local walking routes and increase physical activity while supporting environmental awareness.

These projects demonstrate strong student leadership,

engagement, and community impact across sport, inclusion, and sustainability initiatives

## STI (Sexual Transmitted Information)

This year, **Kaynat Ahmad** raised awareness about **Sexually transmitted infection** (STIs) by organising two informative sessions for students. One session was held at the Broadway campus and the other at the Inspired campus.

Both sessions were delivered by **Brook**, who provided expert guidance and information about sexual health, the risks of STIs, and the importance of awareness, prevention, and testing.

Many students attended the sessions and showed genuine interest in learning more about the topic. For a number of students, it was their first time learning in detail about STIs and the effects they can have on health.

The sessions encouraged open conversations and allowed students to ask questions in a safe and supportive environment.



It was encouraging to see students actively engaging with the topic and gaining valuable knowledge that can help them make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

## Final Notes from us



Dudley Students' Union continues to work hard to represent and support students across the college. Over the past year, the team has been involved in a wide range of activities, campaigns, and initiatives that aim to improve the student experience and ensure that student voices are heard. From organising awareness events and wellbeing sessions to working on

regional and national campaigns, the union remains committed to making a positive difference for students.

Dudley SU is proud to be one of the **most active Further Education Students' Unions in England**, and this motivates the team to keep pushing forward and doing even more for the student community. The dedication shown by our student leaders, volunteers, and representatives reflects a strong passion for creating opportunities, supporting wellbeing, and as we move forward, the Students' Union hopes to continue building on this momentum by introducing new ideas, campaigns, and activities that benefit students both inside and outside the classroom. The upcoming elections will also bring new energy and leadership, and it will be exciting to see who will step forward to represent students next.

We look forward to seeing what the future holds and what the Dudley SU team will bring next. One thing remains certain Dudley Students' Union will continue working hard to support students and create a stronger, more connected college community. Check out everything we are doing and follow us on socials:

Instagram: [@dudleysu\\_](https://www.instagram.com/dudleysu_)

TikTok: **@dudleysu**

Website: [Dudley SU](#)

If you would like more insights into the work of the union, please do not hesitate to contact either President [Kaynat.ahmad@dudleycol.ac.uk](mailto:Kaynat.ahmad@dudleycol.ac.uk) or Student Development Officer [Sophia.Daly@dudleycol.ac.uk](mailto:Sophia.Daly@dudleycol.ac.uk)

It has been a positive start to the year, and we look forward to building on this success through continued campaigns, events, and student engagement opportunities.