

Glasgow Kelvin College**Board of Management Meeting - 07 October 2021****Principal's Update Report****Report by Principal****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of key activity and events considered by the Principal to be noteworthy or of particular interest to members which are not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

This report will cover the four and a half week period from the last Board of Management meeting held on Monday 30 August 2021 until Wednesday 29 September 2021.

2. Key Activity - Management of COVID-19

Since my last update the situation has not changed other than minor amendments within Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and community learning and development providers offering further clarity.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework update - June 2021 (last Update 22 Jun 2021). The College continues to be fully compliant.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and community learning and development providers (last Update 24 September 2021). The College continues to be fully compliant.

At present the College continues to operate under "beyond level 0" guidance restrictions. The Glasgow region remains at "beyond level 0" alongside the rest of Scotland.

- Robust risk assessment processes in place
- Face coverings will continue to be worn in indoor public areas within the College.
- Lateral flow testing will continue.
- 1m social distancing will be maintained in classrooms in the initial period of transition with respect for personal space being promoted in all areas.
- Rigorous hygiene practices will continue.
- Suitable levels of ventilation will be managed and monitored.
- Transit control measures will remain in place in place. e.g., one-way systems.
- Home working, where possible, will continue, however, the return of staff to campus working will continue to be managed in line with staff wellbeing discussions and business need.
- Positive ongoing promotion of vaccination benefits to staff and students.

Therefore, for term 1 of AY 2021/22 most students will experience a continuing blended delivery format, however, practical activities, activities to support vulnerable groups, and activities critical for student experience will be face to face on campus.

The safety of our staff and students is paramount and while we are making progress, continued caution is being exercised in strict adherence to SG guidance and in close consultation with union colleagues and Student Association representatives.

COVID-19: Information for the education sector, including related ministerial communications sent to the university and college sectors, can be accessed here at: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/COVID-19/COVID-19-education.aspx>

3. Key Activity - National Awards Finalists

Glasgow Kelvin College recently made five submissions to the Colleges' Development network (CDN) Skills Development Awards. These were:

- Skills Development - YES programme
- Health & Wellbeing - H&W Support modules
- Community Learning - Community Achievement Awards, Street Connect
- Employer Connections - MADE Barbering Academy
- Virtual Placements – Sport

I am pleased to report that the College has been shortlisted under the Skills Development Award category.

The College has also been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2021 Green Gown Awards – Student Engagement category, for our hard work in establishing the East End Community Garden at our East End Campus in Haghill.

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP, MSP for Glasgow (Region), contacted the College to offer her congratulations on its achievement and presented a motion in the Scottish Parliament which congratulated Glasgow Kelvin College on being finalists in the 2021 Green Gown Awards.

4. Key Activity - COP 26 Activity Update

Discussions being held with partners to help College students and staff engage in some activities to highlight COP 26.

International:

In discussions to establish seminars around the themes of COP26 involving our students and staff potentially involving:

- British Council India.
- Lemon Tree hotels in India.
- Monoto TV link.

Local:

- Springburn Winter Gardens Trust event / seminars.

College:

- Student COP 26 publications with ideas and links.
- East End Community garden event.
- A range of other campus events.

5. **Key Activity - Departure of Director of Digital Services and Recruitment of Replacement**

Friends and Colleagues at the College will be sad to see Andy Laszlo, our Director of Digital Services, move on to pastures new.

Andy has been the driving force behind our Digital Transformation Strategy which has seen excellent progress over the past few months and has been the bedrock for enabling College staff to exceed expectations in delivering learning, teaching and support throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Andy will be leaving us in October, and he leaves behind some large shoes to fill. However, the recruitment process for his replacement is well underway with interviews scheduled for the first week in October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy for all the support he has given me over the past two years and the outstanding service he has given to the College for many years.

6. **Key Activity & Events - Other**

Partnership meetings:

- Inaugural meeting of the college sector Strategic partnership Forum
- National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) meetings
- National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) “lessons learned” workshop
- Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) Implementation Planning Group
- Sandy Begbie Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) College Sector Discussions
- Colleges Scotland, College Principal's Group (CPG)
- Colleges Scotland Funding & Finance Committee
- North East Sector Partnership Board
- Principal and Senior Team from Dumfries & Galloway visit and discussions
- Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG)
- Glasgow East Arts Company (GEAC) Board

Stakeholder engagement:

- Jenny Gilruth MSP, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, one to one meeting
- Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, meeting with college and university Principals
- New Board Secretary and Non-Executive Members meetings
- GCRB Strategy Day presentation and discussions
- GCRB Executive Director meeting

7. Risk and Assurance

There is no specific impact on Risk or Assurance associated directly with this report.

8. Equality

No negative impacts on people with protected characteristics have been identified as a consequence of this paper.

9. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications as a consequence of this paper.

10. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of this update report.

11. Further Information

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report from Derek Smeall, Principal – dsmeall@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

DSm, August 2021