

REPRESENTING YOU

# Borders College Students' Association Strategic Plan 2023-2027



# Introduction

Borders College Students' Association (BCSA) is pleased to welcome you to our Strategic Plan which looks ahead to 2027. This Strategic Plan explores our vision, mission and values which will guide us through this time period.

Our Strategic Plan will support continuity across numerous years of work completed by changing student officer teams. This continuity will enable BCSA to best represent the Borders College community and support the continued development of our Students' Association.

We have utilised the 'Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations' to guide our Strategic Plan. The themes which make up this framework have been used to assist us in identifying our values which create the structure of this plan and will support us in becoming a stronger, more effective Students' Association. Ultimately, we hope to better represent the students in the Borders College community, enable them to actively influence their learning journey, and create positive change.

Thank you to the students who worked with BCSA to create our Strategic Plan and thank you to the staff who provided guidance and valuable feedback.



# Our Mission

To support, encourage, and empower students to influence change and sit at the centre of the decision-making process at Borders College.

# Our Vision

For Borders College students to be heard by the College, successfully supported throughout their time studying here, and armed with the tools needed to succeed as global citizens.

# Our Values



Steering



Democracy



Engaged



Sustainability



Growth



# Shaping the Life & Work of the College



# Steering

Student voices will be at the heart of decision making at Borders College:

- The development of policies, procedures and guidance will be influenced by Borders College Students' Association.
- Staff and students will have regular opportunities to engage to create positive changes to the student experience which will help students achieve and improve their outcome from college.

Students and staff are aware of the valuable representative work carried out by BCSA:

- Staff understand the purpose of the Students' Association and support BCSA's representation of student voices.
- Students experience the benefits of the work carried out by BCSA and are engaged in helping BCSA to improve and develop the work that we do.



# Governance & Democracy



# Democracy

Our work will be determined by the wants and needs of our student population:

- We will engage with students to understand how they wish to be represented.
- Students will be aware of our democratic processes and will know how to become involved with our representative system.

Our democratic processes will be representative of our students and provide all students with a fair opportunity to influence change:

- Students will be involved in the creation and review of BCSA procedures and processes.
- Student Officers will review the functionality and success of the Students' Association to improve the experience of student representation.



# Aware & Active Students





# Engaged

Voluntary opportunities and activities will be accessible to all students:

- BCSA will offer voluntary roles which support them to achieve their goals.
- BCSA will work with external contacts and local organisations to create opportunities which support our student community and provide them with new opportunities.

Students will feel confident bringing issues to our attention:

- Students are aware of the opportunities available to them to share feedback or report an issue to the BCSA. They can trust that this will be handled appropriately.
- Students across all campuses have equal opportunities to engage with the BCSA.



# Sustainable Resources



# Sustainability

The Students' Association will annually review the roles available to students within BCSA to ensure they meet the needs of our student community and reflect the diversity that makes up our student population:

- Students will have the opportunity to champion matters important to them.
- Student Officers will be appropriately supported in their roles and will meet regularly with BCSA staff to ensure they receive the support needed to achieve their goals.

Student Officers and the BCSA team are equipped with the skills and knowledge to be effective leaders and student representatives:

- Student Officers will be offered an effective induction to BCSA and College.
- Relevant training and CPD is available and accessible to BCSA.



# Value & Impact



# Growth

The services and activities offered by the Students' Association fit the needs of our students and allow them to engage in new experiences:

- Students will have the opportunity to engage with events and activities relevant to them.
- BCSA will work with teams across the College to ensure that the College and Students' Association is inclusive of their needs and identity.

The achievements and impact of BCSA will be visible to students, staff and stakeholders:

- BCSA will share updates on our activity, plans, and the outcomes of our work.
- BCSA staff and Student Officers will engage with other Students' Associations, national bodies, agencies and organisations to ensure the needs and experiences of Borders College students are heard nationally. We will ensure that we are aware of issues affecting students across the country and develop our understanding of best practice.





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