

Students' Association Update

Freshers

Freshers Week 2023 was held from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd September 2023. The Highlands and Islands Students' Association put on a calendar of events for students to participate in. Events available were in person and online, enabling students to benefit from shared experiences irrespective of their mode of study.

Student Social Night at Mareel

The upstairs section of the Café bar at Mareel was booked for the sole use of students on the Wednesday evening from 5pm to 9pm. Free drink vouchers were issued to students on arrival and free snacks were provided. The students who attended early in the evening sat and chatted over hot chocolate. There was good interaction with staff and they sent us some photos of them enjoying themselves. Students arrived in groups over the space of the evening, with one group visiting after their night class had finished. There was a great atmosphere, with students congregating in groups around the sofas or bringing groups of chairs together. All appreciated the free drinks provided.

Yoga

Three yoga sessions were provided for students. One was held in person at The Mission, this was well attended with only 2 spaces remaining. The other 2 sessions were held online and were available to students across the partnership, with 19 tickets sold for the events (tickets were free). Positive feedback was received from students who attended both in person and online.

Treasure Hunt

A simple treasure hunt was created at Scalloway and Lerwick campus where numbers were placed at useful spots across campus such as gender-neutral toilets, printers, student support services and student areas. Students were provided an entry form via email and printed versions were made available, so students were not charged by proxy for entry due to the cost of printing on campus. Students could either email their entry or hand a paper version into the library where the staff then gave the students a voucher for use at either Briggistanes or Da Haaf. £140 worth of breakfast rolls were given to students as prizes.

Cinema Ticket Giveaway

Students were offered free cinema tickets for sending in a photo that summed up their student experience so far. There were no conditions or rules, every entry received a cinema ticket and those who had caring responsibilities received extra tickets. A total of 39 tickets were given away. This received excellent feedback from those who participated, with one student commenting that they would not have chosen to have any involvement with the Students' Association if it were not for this initiative.

Halls Takeaway Night

Goody bags containing Student Association freebies – water bottles, USB cables and headphones, notebook and pen, reusable coffee cups and fidget toys were given to all halls residents along with a flier explaining their Students' Association would provide them a free takeaway of their choice on a night of their choice. Once they had agreed on a night that suited them all, the order would be placed and delivered for them free of charge. However, the residents did not respond.