

Welcome to the first issue of KC Connect that has been written and edited by students! Thanks to Ben, Lily, Grace, Sanah and Kiran for your fantastic contributions.

With a nod to Valentine's Day and LGBTQ+ History Month, our theme for this issue is LOVE.

If you would like to contribute, please contact studentsunion@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

SU ANNOUNCEMENT – CHARITY OF THE YEAR



Written by Ben Blank

Student Parliament members voted for **S2R Create Space** to be our supported charity of the year. S2R is an independent mental health charity promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in our community. They offer different opportunities for people to engage with creativity through workshops and courses and promote wellbeing through experimentation, learning and sharing.

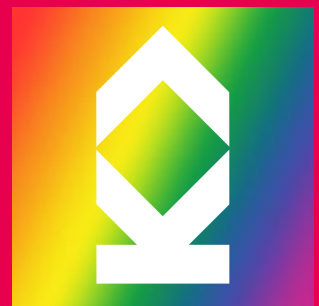
The Students' Union is also proud to announce the launch of our KCSU Student Fund alongside supporting S2R. 30% of all funds raised through SU activities will go straight to this fund, with the other 70% supporting S2R. All KC students will be able to apply to the fund during times of hardship to help pay for equipment, trips or to support them to remain in education.

This is where we need YOUR help. Due to Covid-19, we are restricted to online fundraising. Please email your fundraising ideas to support these two amazing projects. studentsunion@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

Written by Grace Woodyet

February is LGBTQ+ History month and as your Students' Union, we want to celebrate this with you! LGBTQ+ history month is celebrated across the world and was started in 1994 by a Missouri high school teacher called Rodney Wilson. You can find out more about Rodney and other LGBTQ+ icons [here](#).



This is an important month for LGBTQ+ people as it is the chance to reflect on what the community has been through and celebrate the changes made over the years towards the world being more accepting of LGBTQ+ people.

LGBTQ+ culture is becoming more mainstream nowadays with TV shows like RuPaul's Drag Race becoming very popular and more celebrities coming out publicly! Even chocolate companies are getting involved with normalising gay relationships. Cadbury's recent advert for creme eggs features a gay couple and quickly became a trending topic online.

Even though we should all recognise that we have made great strides towards equality, there is still work to be done. **Galop** is a charity who support all LGBT+ people who've experienced hate crime, domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Our KC Community will be marking this special month with blogs, interviews with members of our college, celebrating the achievements of LGBTQ+ people around the world and relaunching our LGBTQ+ group. Keep an eye on our socials or email studentsunion@kirkleescollege.ac.uk to find out more.

We hope you choose to celebrate LGBTQ+ history month safely with us or with others online!



KC COMMUNITY STARS



Written by Lily Robinson

To celebrate and recognise our KC community, each edition we will announce our 'KC Community Star.'

Our staff have been busy nominating students who have made a positive impression with their community spirit!

Congratulations to Chloe Gallagher, who has been chosen as our KC Community Star.

Chloe was nominated by her tutor and Progress Coach, they said:

"Chloe is a Bricklaying student and has really stood out to us this year. She turns up to every session and gives it 110%. She is really well-mannered and will help anyone. She supports her peers and has really impressed us with her skills in the bricklaying department. She's just so determined!"

Congratulations Chloe and thank you for making such a great contribution to our college!

Our next star will be a member of staff who will be nominated by students. Who has made you feel welcome in the KC Community? Who stands out as someone who always represents our values?



Please send your nomination to studentsunion@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

VALENTINE'S DAY LOCKDOWN DATE PLAN



Written by Sanah Imran

We hope you didn't think that lockdown meant no dates! If your relationships and friendships are all long distance due to lockdown but you still want to plan the perfect date, there's a way you can make it happen!

Spend your time getting dressed up and cook a meal together over a video call. After you can watch a movie and grab yourself some popcorn to enjoy. You can use Netflix party to sync up!

For couples who live together or are in a support bubble, you could take a walk for a change of scenery. Take a flask of tea or coffee to keep you warm and maybe even a box of chocolates. Use this time to be with your loved one.

Valentine's Day is about spending time with people you love and that includes your friends, so use this time to have a zoom party. Remember to love yourself and focus on your mental and physical health. Click [HERE](#) for self-care ideas.

It's always worth remembering that not everyone on the internet has your best interests at heart. Safer Internet Day took place on 9 February to promote using the internet in a positive and responsible way. Click [HERE](#) for top tips on how to stay safe online.

Our #SaferInternetDay Top Tips

Take positive action

By working together, we can make the internet a better, more respectful and more trustworthy place!

saferinternetday.org.uk #AnInternetWeTrust UK Safer Internet Centre

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video created by West Yorkshire Police for Safer Internet Day which features some of our students.

Our #SaferInternetDay Top Tips

Talk it through

If you see something misleading, upsetting or worrying online then speak to a trusted adult

saferinternetday.org.uk #AnInternetWeTrust UK Safer Internet Centre

It's going to be a different one, but you can still have that moment with that special someone.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Under current restrictions it can be difficult to volunteer safely and make a difference to your community. We have secured funding to enable us to support 10 students to volunteer with a local organisation who offer temporary accommodation and advice for homeless people.

The volunteering will take place remotely and comply with Covid-19 guidelines. Volunteers will develop and deliver movement for wellbeing sessions to homeless people. As we all know, our physical and mental health are closely linked and exercise also offers an opportunity for social time.

As well as the people who use the service, volunteers also benefit from taking part:

- Learn new skills
- Improved self esteem
- Employability
- Contribute to society

To find out more please contact support@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

YOUTH CENTRAL

We know times continue to be hard for so many of us, there are activities and useful advice, including live chat with a youth worker on Youth Central's page.



This is also where we house our online enrichment programme designed to boost the skills you need beyond your chosen course.

Click [here](#) and sign in with Microsoft using your college details.

Don't forget to log all your enrichment activity (even online) on Navigate. Speak to your Progress Coach to find out more.



ADDITIONAL MATHS AND ENGLISH CLASSES

We are running additional small online group classes for both GCSE and Functional Skills maths and English. These are for full-time students aged between 16-19 who have not yet achieved their maths and/or English at grade 4 or above.

Please contact the following teachers for further information:

- Sarah Palmer for maths – SPalmer02@kirkleescollege.ac.uk
- Jay Subhan or Marie Francis for English – JSubhan@kirkleescollege.ac.uk or MFrancis@kirkleescollege.ac.uk

Alternatively, contact our maths and English lead, Kay Kaye - KKaye@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

