

HISA Update:

Over the past couple of weeks, HISA has made several of plans to integrate more activities for the college students to partake in.

Since the last CMC meeting HISA have worked on:

1. Introducing Therapets to the college. Therapets is an organization that works with dogs to reduce stress in various of people. It has been organised that at the start of next year (after Freshers fair) to enrol a couple of days a week (planned so far a Tuesday and Friday) where a volunteer for Therapets comes along for 2 hour sessions with students. I feel this would benefit students for next term as we will also have new students enrolling in college to, and it will help with stress management. This could also be used for introducing people with ears or unsure of dogs to work through this. The next meeting to discuss more on planning for this is on the 21st of May.
2. Clubs and Societies, the college has a ray of students with different interests and this lead to different clubs wanting to be set up for students to enjoy. A student rep, Graham Sinclair, has decided upon setting up a club for Political discussions, for students to go along and discuss their views, debate or even learn about current events. A LGBT+ society out with the college have contacted myself to discuss integration to support students who are LGBT+. This will help ensure students who fit into these categories have a safe place to talk with people who are going through the same motions as them and to have a friendly alliance to talk to. Another club, Book Club, has been asked to set up where students involved can go along to discuss their favourite book, discuss new out-coming books and more. It has also been asked whether I (Hannah Thompson HISA Depute) can develop a system where people can swap books or collect a new one from a bookshelf in college (This will also include text books) exclusive for all students to use.
3. Accessibility needs within the college are needing to be worked on. A student who is wheelchair bound has asked for tuggy straps. The straps attach to doors so herself or assistant dog can open doors with ease. It is of high importance that this gets worked on and can be used to make

sure herself and others can use these doors around the college to access their classes or other college activities.

4. Sustainability, the college has a fantastic system where recycling bins are available within the college for students to use the appropriate bins. However, we need to work on plastic waste, in light of the last student rep meeting I will be working with the students to see what they think would be best to enrol so plastic waste decreases. It was noted that in Inverness UHI College there is a shoe rack for students to use to leave their own (labelled) water bottles over night at the college to use for the fountains the next day. I feel this is a good idea but will be thinking about it more as to how I could adapt it for Orkney College's needs. Another thing that will be working on is organizing a beach clean-up, this clean up would encourage students to pick up rubbish around them on streets, beaches and parks.
5. Lastly, Freshers Fair is in full swing of being planned, my next year as depute I want to ensure all students feel the benefit of this week to not only have fun, meet new students but also learn about the college and the surrounding area. For the next Freshers I wish to be able to include stalls on the different clubs & societies within the college as well as inviting along the usual surrounding business. I feel this year it is important to not only introduce the new incoming students to what Orkney College has to offer but to ensure the continuing students know as well. The days the Freshers have been run on the past few years have been a Tuesday and Wednesday, with an event for student on the evening. The days will be moved over to a Thursday and Friday, with the student event on a Friday night, so it doesn't interrupt college classes.

Overall, the students who attend Orkney College agree that the college is going to be booming with things for students to do. I will be working very hard to ensure everything I have said I will do will get done, from Therapets to a bookshelf to interchange books with other, to a more environmentally friendly college.