Item 08

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Academic Board

Summary of Block 1 Stop and Check 12 November 2021

Report by Learner Engagement Officer

1. Introduction

The Stop and Check survey, which is sent out annually, during block one in each academic year, has been adapted to an online format to fit in with the current situation. In previous years, paper copies of the survey were collected by Course Tutors and completed by learners, returned copies were then collated, with results disseminated through various College boards and committees.

The same as in Session 20/21, this session's survey was created using Microsoft Forms and sent to students via their college email accounts, with promotion through the new MyKelvin app, the GKC Student Team page, social media and teaching staff.

A total of 926 responses have been collected, which is an 11% decrease on the previous year, students are receiving more and more information online due to current teaching arrangements and the decision was taken to close the survey rather than continue to send reminders to students electronically. The questions remained unchanged from the previous year, meaning we can compare the results. Learners are also given the opportunity to leave additional comments.

2. Stop and Check Responses

		Yes	Not Sure	No
Do you feel that you are on the right course?	**2021**	**93%**	**6%**	**1%**
	2020	93%	7%	0%

Of the twelve learners who feel they are not on the correct course, five of them are not satisfied with the course, the others are either quite or very satisfied with the course. Some reasons are the online learning aspect of the course, or they feel they are on the wrong level.

		Yes	Not Sure	No
Do you understand what you will have to do on the course?	**2021**	**95%**	**5%**	**0%**
	2020	96%	4%	0%

Again some learners commented that they are finding it difficult engaging with online learning, with some comments unrelated to what they are studying within the course.

		Yes	Not Sure	No
Do you know how to get support?	**2021**	**86%**	**11%**	**3%**
	2020	86%	13%	1%

A few learners feel that they would be better supported in campus rather than online, as it is sometimes difficult to build a relationship with fellow classmates and lecturers through online. A few feel that they would benefit with additional tutorials such as maths and physics. Comments from learners saying that they need support are not specific on what those needs are.

Some learners feel well supported by teaching staff and support departments.

		Very Well	Quite Well	Not Well
How are you coping with online learning?	**2021**	**32%**	**54%**	**14%**
	2020	32%	58%	10%

There has been an increase of learners stating that they are not coping well with online learning. Leaners would prefer to be in campus, with some struggling to concentrate or stay motivated, feeling like they are not able to reach their full potential. Some learners stated that they don't have access to proper Wi-Fi or IT resources, and that they are not knowledgeable in using some of the systems i.e. Microsoft Teams.

A few learners stated that online learning gives them more flexibility with childcare and alleviates travel.

		Yes	Not Sure
Do you have access to appropriate digital resources?	**2021**	**96%**	**4%**
	2020	93%	7%

Of the thirty-eight learners who have stated they don't have access to appropriate digital resources, some comments include lack of appropriate Wi-Fi, lack of access to full versions of software and some learners would prefer a laptop to a chromebook.

		Very Satisfied	Quite Satisfied	Not satisfied
Overall, how satisfied are you with your college experience to date?	**2021**	**56%**	**40%**	**4%**
	2020	53%	43%	4%

Of the thirty-nine learners who stated they are not satisfied with their college experience, again most refer to online learning and the difficulty and stress of it. Some feel that the time they do have in campus is not enough for practical work.

3. Conclusion

Overall, the very and quite satisfied rates remain the same as the previous year at 96%. Although some learners are finding it challenging learning online, with reoccurring issues such as lack of Wi-Fi, issues with technology and preference to be back in campus, there are a lot of positive comments around teaching staff being supportive and understanding of the difficulties being faced. Below are some positive comments from learners.

“Returning to learning after such a long break I am finding difficult, but the lectures are very help and supportive making it an easier transition than if they were not. I'd probably have quit by now if they weren't as supportive and helpful!!”

“I have been out of education for years , and I feel this course in the past 6 weeks has given me more confidence to take my studies to university.”

“This college is the best thing that happened to me in Scotland so far! I am very pleased. School gives me a lot beyond knowledge: books, notebooks, financial and pedagogical support. I love going there and learning! Thank you.”

Some additional training on college systems such as Microsoft Teams and Moodle may be advantageous to some learners. The possibility of more in campus learning could potentially encourage learners to become more motivated.

Learners who have raised concerns regarding lack of IT resources, those who feel they are on the wrong course and any support matters will be contacted directly and signposted to the appropriate department.

4. Resources Implications

No resource implications.

5. Equalities

No equality issues.

6. Risk and Assurance

No risk implications

7. Data Protection

No data protection issues.

8. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

9. Further Information

Further information on any aspect of this report can be obtained from Arlene Sweeney, Learner Engagement Officer.

Glasgow Kelvin College
AS
04/11/2021