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24 May 2021

Ms J Gilruth, MSP
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
(by email)

Dear Ms Gilruth

On behalf of the Board of Management and staff of Glasgow Kelvin College, it gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations to you on your new appointment.

Glasgow Kelvin College is particularly active across a number of areas that link to your new portfolio and, in due course, I would be delighted to discuss how the College can support you and the Scottish Government in these areas.

The College's partnership with a number of organisations in India has previously been of interest to the Scottish Government. The Deputy First Minister has visited our project partners in India twice, including a project showcase in Mumbai. This showcase was part of a design partnership that seeks to develop and promote the link between the Paisley Pattern and India, something that is of huge interest in both countries and which generated significant impacts for students and partners alike.

He has also hosted a meeting with our Indian partners in the Scottish Parliament. This partnership is focused on using best practice in India to develop a work-based training framework for people in Scotland with Additional Support Needs which would help them secure sustainable employment.

Glasgow Kelvin College is heavily involved in the cultural and creative industries and runs Scotland's most successful student record label, Electric Honey. This label has been responsible for the launch of bands including Snow Patrol and Biffy Clyro and continues to provide a unique learning and cultural experience for our students.

From a work-based learning perspective, the College delivers a bespoke apprenticeship programme to BBC Scotland and has done so for a number of years. This provides young people with a unique opportunity to gain skills in the creative sector and, at the end of the programme, to secure roles across the industry.

It is my belief that Glasgow Kelvin College is one of the most successful and active colleges in the cultural and creative sector and I very much look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Yours sincerely

Derek Smeall
Principal & Chief Executive