Item 06ci

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24 May 2021

Mr J Hepburn, MSP
Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training
(by email)

Dear Mr Hepburn

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 appointment as Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training.

Glasgow Kelvin College supports around 15,000 students each year to access a wide range of vocational training opportunities across North East Glasgow. We provide local access to nationally recognised specialisms in Engineering, Creative Industries, Science and Leisure Services and we have very effective progression routes to employment or university.

We are strongly committed to playing a proactive role in the social and economic development of our local communities and we provide a number of programs specifically tailored to the needs of some of Scotland's most deprived areas. This includes a number of youth employment programmes, which utilise a team of street-work staff to directly engage the young people in our communities who are hardest to reach. We also directly support the work of over 40 community venues across the North East area, enabling local residents to access a very broad range of social and employment support services aligned to College learning opportunities.

Providing real world experience of work and enabling our students to become job-ready is core to our College's aims and objectives. For example, Glasgow Kelvin College, on behalf of Glasgow Colleges Regional Board, manages one of the largest Foundation Apprenticeship contracts in Scotland and has seen the positive impact that this has had on young people. Indeed, you were kind enough to attend an FA celebration event in Glasgow pre COVID where you met some of these inspiring young people.

The college is also continuing to build on its work with students who have additional support needs. This programme, based on a partnership with India, seeks to establish a framework of employer led work-based learning programme that will provide a route to sustainable employment across a number of sectors. You may recall that, in 2019, you attended an event with our Indian partners and Scottish hospitality employers.

On behalf of the College, I offer you my best wishes and would be very happy to meet you and discuss how Glasgow Kelvin College can support you in your new role.

Yours sincerely

Derek Smeall
Principal & Chief Executive