

Item 11
For Discussion and Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Learning and Teaching Committee of 22 November 2023

Foundation Apprenticeship and Senior Phase Report

**Report by Director of Enterprise and Student Experience
and Schools Liaison Manager**

1. Introduction

This paper compares Foundation Apprenticeship and Senior Phase recruitment between 2022/23 and 2023/24 and provides commentary on the impact of the withdrawal of taxi transport by local authorities on senior phase programmes.

2. Performance Analysis

2023/24 saw a slight increase in school programme enrolments (combined Foundation Apprenticeship and Senior Phase) from 276 to 295 at the start of the academic year. 57 of these enrolments were Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) and 238 were Senior Phase (SP) programmes.

The number of pupils attending class as of the 9th November is 239. A significant reason for the volume of withdrawals has been low levels of recruitment in some courses which led them becoming unviable at the start of term. Six classes were cancelled because of this with pupils either allocated to other college programmes or returning to school for a timetabled course. Notwithstanding this, improving retention on Senior Phase and Foundation Apprenticeship delivery is a priority and the College is working closely with local authority colleagues to support more sustained attendance of school pupils,

In addition to some SP programmes being cancelled, the College's FA portfolio has also been reduced. This is due to a combination of staff availability and achieving a viable cohort.

Foundation Apprenticeships

The College now offers a one-year Civil Engineering and two-year Mechanical Engineering programme. The College also delivers the year two Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering for returning students. Previously, the College also delivered Creative and Digital Media and Children and Young People frameworks but has been unable to recruit viable cohorts for these subjects this academic year.

By focusing on viable programmes, the College has also improved retention rates. The Civil Engineering FA has had 100% of pupils returning for year two and over 90% retention for the one-year framework.

The two-year Mechanical Engineering framework has not had good retention rates for the last two years. Consequently, the College has taken the decision to focus on the one-year Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering frameworks for 2024/25.

Senior Phase

The College has focused on strengthening the North East Schools (NE) Partnership and developing the new East Dunbartonshire (EDC) Schools Partnership. One notable success has been the direct engagement of faculties in these partnerships with new programmes in performing arts now being delivered in Bishopbriggs Academy and St Mungo's Academy.

The College's Schools team is keen to develop faculty relationships through the NE and EDC partnerships and is facilitating discussions between partner schools and the College Fashion and Jewellery teams to develop new short courses.

Transport

Council funded taxi transport has been withdrawn from senior phase pupils for 2023/24 due to funding pressures. To date, this has not presented any significant issues regarding numbers and retention. This is due to the College's focus on NE and EDC partnership schools which means pupils can either walk or come in using free bus passes or council funded train tickets.

2024/25

Discussions are already underway with faculty directors about academic year 2024/25. The College intends to review its current schools offer which has been relatively static for a number of years. There will be an emphasis on more STEM courses in addition to developing programmes that reflect school demand and with more faculty involvement. This demand will be identified through continuing NE and EDC partnership meetings.

3. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4. Risk and Assurance

No risks are identified. This report provides assurance that the College continues to prioritise the provision of college learning opportunities for local school pupils.

5. Equality

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

6. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

7. Impact on Students

There are no student implications arising directly from this report.

8. Environmental and Sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendations

Members of the Learning and Teaching Committee are asked to note the content of this report.

10. Further Information

Further information can be provided by contacting Alastair McGhee: Director of Business Development: amcghee@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk Alan Shields: School Liaison Manager: ashields@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk