

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE**Learning and Teaching Committee – 26 February 2025****The Changing Learner Research Report****Report by Vice Principal Curriculum****1. Introduction**

The attached Changing Learner Research Report has been produced by the College Development Network (CDN) to highlight current challenges facing learners in Scotland. The report highlights a number of trends in student behaviours and issues which have been identified through College discussions.

2. The Changing Learner Research Report

The CDN report, based on research conducted with Forth Valley College and Fife College, reveals a trend of lower academic performance, delayed skills development, underdeveloped social skills, increased anxiety, and decreased resilience among students. While the pandemic exacerbated these issues, the report suggests they were already emerging before 2020. The rise of digital technology is also identified as a key factor influencing learner behaviour.

While the research focusses on school-college partnerships, experience within our own College suggests that the issues identified are relevant to wider student cohorts.

In response to these issues, the College has sought to enhance support for student wellbeing, resilience and mental health, with greater staff resources allocated (including counsellors and a well-being officer) and providing higher profile and more targeted interventions, particularly at the start of the academic year. Alongside this we have focused staff training on dealing with more complex student needs, such as training on adapting lessons for the neurodivergent brain and taking trauma informed approaches to teaching and wider service delivery.

3. Impact on Students

The report explores how increased reliance by prospective students on digital communication can impact their development of social skills and attention spans, potentially leading to difficulties with engagement and sustaining college study.

4. Resource Implications

The research highlights a notable increase in anxiety and a decrease in resilience among learners which may mean they require more support and nurturing approaches which could lead to increased demand on College services.

5. Equalities

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

6. Risk and Assurance

The issues identified within the attached research report are impacting on student performance and could potentially reduce College achievement rates.

7. Data Protection

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

8. Environmental and Sustainability

There are no specific environmental and sustainability issues arising from this report.

9. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of the report.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Robin Ashton, Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality.

Glasgow Kelvin College
RA, 04/02/2025