

‘Summit’s going on in Learner Engagement....’

Listening, Learning and Acting on the Learner Voice

**Francis McGeachie
Assistant Principal - Learner Support Services
James Watt College
31st March 2011**

- **Co creators of the learning process**
- **Co owners of the learning process**
- **Learner Engagement agenda**

The Journey

Summer 2009

- **James Alexander Seconded from NUS**
- **James's remit was to ensure the learner voice was heard and acted upon**

Student Association

- **Rewrote constitution**
- **Clarified the structure, roles and responsibilities**
- **Resourcing – 2 part time Presidents covering 4 campuses and a mentor**
- **Elections – highest ever turnout and participation**

- **New role of Assistant Principal – Learner Support Services**
- **Destination - Embedding a positive ethos of learner engagement throughout the college.**
- **Journey – Begins with a summit?**

Concept of a Summit

- **Voice of the Learner**
- **Common and Consistent messages**
- **Vehicle for Change**
- **Key decision makers / influencers to drive change**

Preparation for Summit

- **Focus groups**
- **Presidents participation**
- **Surveys**
- **Class Reps**
- **Day to day activities**
- **30 + possible 'hot' issues**





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Big Day – 20th January 2010

Goal of the day: Commit and Deliver

Who?

- Guests
- Participants
- Chief Executive - Scottish Funding Council
- Principal
- Chair – Board of Management + 3 members
- Vice Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Key function heads
- EIS/UNISON partners
- Student Presidents, Class Rep, Learners

- Introductions and presentations from:
The presidents and the college leadership team
- Lunch with class representatives (Ambitions)
- 12.30 – 1pm Workshop 1
- 1 – 1.30pm Workshop 2
- 1.30 – 2pm Question Time
- Signing ceremony
(signatories and witnesses)





- What are your hot topics?
- Rank these topics
- What resources would be required?
- Are expectations realistic?



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Our workshops /sub-groups

- Environment, Water and Temperature
- College Day
- Work Experience
- Feedback and Commitment
- Same day Declarations

Declarations

**People are different and we commit to treating others
as we and they wish to be treated**

We commit to listen and respond to one another

We commit to learners being at the heart of everything we do

**We will provide virtual social and learning spaces to enhance
learning and promote a community of learners within two years**

**We will introduce suitable types of work experience as an
element of each college course within two years**



**James Watt
College**

All learners should and will be supported to actively participate in their learning and the life and work of the college

We will develop our estate to provide better access to drinking water in all college campuses by June 2010

We will provide an appropriate and comfortable learning environment throughout all parts of the college and create focus groups to provide ongoing review of the learning environment and identify key priorities at all campuses

We will reduce congestion and enhance access to all college services by introducing a system for varying lunch and break times during 2010/11

We will continue to review all college services (canteens, student funding, library ELS etc..) to ensure they meet the evolving needs of our learners annually through the portfolio review process

It's all about learning

Signatories

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Geraldine Shambach, Student President (Finnart Street)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Clare Lydon, Student President (North Ayrshire)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Sue Pinder, OBE, Principal, James Watt College

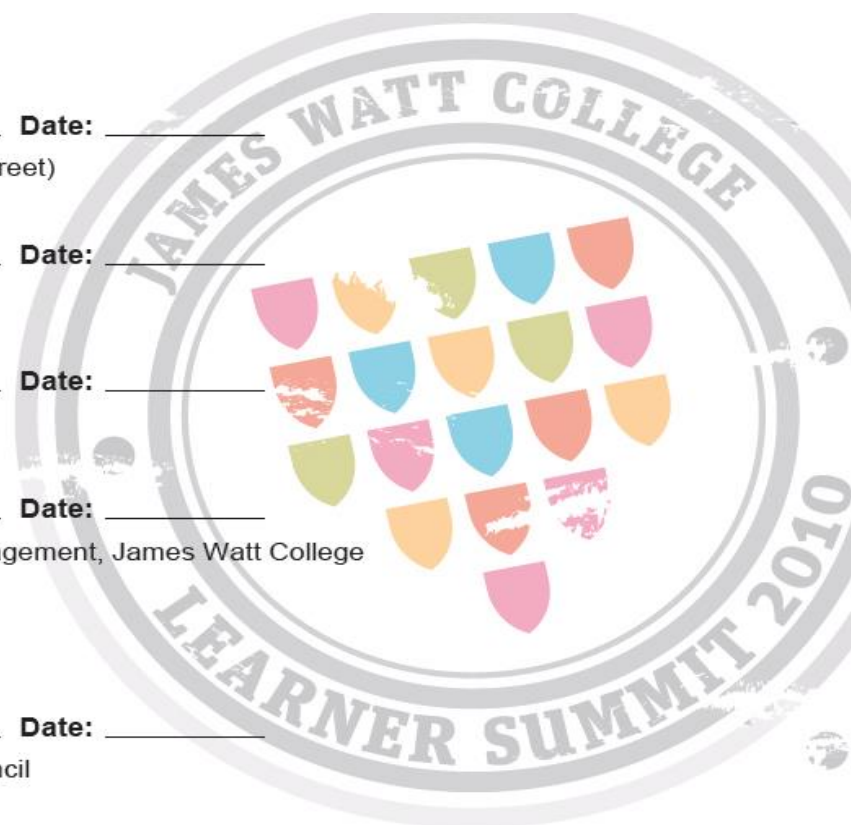
Signed: _____ Date: _____

Drew Duncan, OBE, Chairman of the Board of Management, James Watt College

Witnessed by

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Council



- So where are we now.....

“People are different and we commit to treating others as we and they wish to be treated”

- Ongoing RESPECT campaign; Student Association diversity and Equality Officers in place; SeeMe Mental Health campaign across campuses

“We commit to listen and respond to one another”

- Learner Survey in October 2010; Class Rep meetings; Learning Centre forums

“We commit to learners being at the heart of everything we do”

- Positive progress reflected in Culture Study; HMIE report and HMIE Aspect Reviews for Care highlighted positive engagement opportunities through Class Reps and volunteering opportunities

“We will provide virtual social and learning spaces to enhance learning and promote a community of learners within two years”

- Access to social networking sites for students. College has Facebook page; Some Course Teams already have own Facebook page (mixed buy-in from staff and students)

“We will introduce suitable types of work experience as an element of each college course within two years”

- Existing component of many vocational courses. Not always practicable but opportunities provided to engage in citizenship events. Highlighted as good practice in HMle Care Aspect Review in March 2011; Peer Mentoring pilot to evaluate opportunities to engage

“All learners should and will be supported to actively participate in their learning and the life and work of the college”

- Opportunities provided for engagement but mixed uptake.

“We will develop our estate to provide better access to drinking water in all college campuses by June 2010”

- Have ‘better’ access but still on-going. Piped water is in Finnart tower block.

Declaration Progress

“We will provide an appropriate and comfortable learning environment throughout all parts of the college and create focus groups to provide ongoing review of the learning environment and identify key priorities at all campuses”

- Additional social seating in place at NAC and FSC. Waterfront has Common Room for lunchtime use

“We will reduce congestion and enhance access to all college services by introducing a system for varying lunch and break times during 2010/11”

- Negative feedback from FSC students around staggered breaks trial in 09-10: Wanted breaks with friends and equal access to produce. FSC: Increased resources have significantly reduced congestion: Diner, Shop, Bibo and Filling Station. NAC shop remains congested at breaks but very popular.

Declaration Progress

“We will continue to review all college services to ensure they meet the evolving needs of our learners annually through the portfolio review process”

- Ongoing. Increased staff engagement in Portfolio Review

- HMle Review – have identified good practice in learner engagement and encourage its continued development
- Staff Review – Increased buy in
- Learner Review – bi annual cross campus surveys
- Further Summits – responding to need.

Unveiling Ceremony



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