Annual Campus Report (no. 11)
For Reporting Year 2017-18
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1. Executive Summary

The Universities at Medway comprises the University of Greenwich, the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, all located on the conjoint campus at Chatham Maritime.

Following the completion of the new Student Hub at the end of 2016, the facility has proven to be an integral part of the campus, utilised by students, staff and for various events. Further information of the wide range of activity that takes place in the Student Hub, and the work of GK Unions, can be found on pages 12-15 of this report. The campus has also benefitted from the opening of the Multi-faith space in the Pilkington Building. This facility has provided dedicated space for the campus community, including student societies and faith groups, to meet, practice their faith or have some quiet contemplative time. The appointment of the Campus Chaplain has also resulted in a variety of organised activity across the campus for student and staff, and more details about the role of the Chaplaincy can be found on pages 10 and 11.

The Drill Hall Library has long been the heart of the campus, providing and innovative learning space. In 2017/18 a new unified library management system was rolled out at the Medway campus and at each of the three Institution home campuses. Thought to be the first project of its kind with UK Higher Education, the new system has helped to strengthen the already excellent service that the Drill Hall Library provides to the campus. More information of the work and activity of the Drill Hall can be found on page 9.

The commemoration event for the 100th Anniversary of the Drill Hall bombing was held on campus on 10 September 2017. The event was as a result of cross-campus collaboration and strong liaison with the Royal Navy to support the event, with a display of poppies in the Drill Hall Library near the commemorative oak plaques containing the 131 names of those that had died on the bombing. A smaller version of the poppy display remained in-situ for Remembrance Day.

The three Universities are continuing work on enhancing the access to sporting facilities for students, sporting societies and staff, including negotiating access to local facilities via a ‘passport’ scheme, and looking at improving transportation for students and sports team via a small fleet of minibuses. It is the intention that this work will well underway for the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

The Universities continue to work with our local partners, most notably Chatham Maritime Trust, and the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, and support many local events, such as the annual Medway Food & Drink Festival.
2. Outputs in relation to the project

2.1 Student Outputs

Reporting Period: Academic Year 2017-18

The figures stated below are the combined total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students from all three Universities at Medway.

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<tr>
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<td>7088 *</td>
<td>7010 *</td>
<td>6623 *</td>
<td>6472 *</td>
<td>5810 *</td>
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*MKC student numbers are no longer included.
2.2 Job/Staffing FTE Staff Outputs

Reporting Period: Academic Year 2017-18

The figures stated below are the combined totals of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff from all three Universities at Medway, broken down by ethnicity.

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<td>211</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>312</td>
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<td>578</td>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>648</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*MKC staff numbers no longer included
3. General Campus Update

3.1 University of Kent

Our new Centre for Music and Audio Technology (CMAT), launched in September 2017, will admit its first students in September 2018 on UG programmes in Music Business & Production, Music Performance & Production and Music Technology & Audio Production. Based at The Historic Dockyard, CMAT is a successor of the School of Music and Fine Art which will close in summer 2019. Other new UG and PG programmes and related research, innovation and enterprise activity are also being developed to establish a broader Creative and Cultural Industries offer at Medway under the auspices of a new Institute. A Memorandum of Understanding signed at Medway in March 2018 by Professor Karen Cox (Vice-Chancellor and President) for the University of Kent and Darren Henley (Chief Executive) for Arts Council England recognises the potential to develop Medway as a thriving hub for the Creative and Cultural Industries. The MOU commits Kent and Arts Council England to working together in that context and in the areas of Arts, Health and Wellbeing.

Another new programme launched at Medway in September 2017 is the University Entrance Diploma. This full-time course is designed for students who enjoy learning but want an alternative to traditional A level or BTEC courses. Of our current cohort of 23 students, four are doing the course in one year, twelve in two years and seven who started in January 2018 will be with us for 18 months. Aged 16-19, most of the students are from the Medway area although some travel from further afield such as Dartford, Faversham and New Romney. Some of them were referred to us by their school or by organisations such as Medway Youth Trust. All four of the one-year students have applied to a range of universities via UCAS and have received offers.

Students from Kent School of Architecture have continued their work at Medway throughout 2017/18, responding to an initiative by our Medway Strategy Group to improve the connections between Pembroke and the Historic Dockyard and develop a stronger sense of place here. Their work this year has been part of a final-year module on Urban Intervention.

In 2017/18 the Royal Dockyard Church lecture theatre was the venue for two public lectures in partnership with Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. The first, in September 2017, was by Frances Crook (Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform) on prison reform. The second, in April 2018, was by Sir Neil Cossons (former Director of the Science Museum and Chairman of English Heritage) on the global implications of the Industrial Revolution with particular reference to Chatham, a fitting way to launch Chatham Dockyard's 400th anniversary celebrations.
3.2 University of Greenwich

In terms of academic developments, the new BEng in Chemical Engineering programme was launched in September 2017 and received its first intake of students. The new students joined the engineering common first year and the new chemical engineering labs were designed and will be created in the summer of 2018. Our collaboration with partner college, Mid Kent College, came online in September 2017 offering HNCs in Civil Engineering, Construction, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Building Services.

In April 2017, four Greenwich programmes (BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering (Extended), BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering, MEng Civil Engineering and MSc Civil Engineering (Technical)) gained full accreditation from the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM). The JBM monitors and upholds professional standards for the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Structural Engineers, the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, and the Institute of Highway Engineers. It ensures all higher education civil engineering programmes globally deliver the training required for students aiming to become chartered professional engineers.

During 2017 a further suite of science and engineering degree apprenticeship programmes were approved and the first students will be admitted to the programmes in September 2018. In addition, a suite of programmes for the Greenwich International College was approved and the first students will also start in September 2018.

Significant effort has been made to enhance the student experience and this has included social activities such as the summer and Christmas balls, Robot Wars, and by the end of the 2017-18 academic year £500k of improvements and enhancements will have been made to the teaching facilities including a new Forensic Science and Chemical Engineering laboratories together with refurbishment four other laboratory areas. In terms of satisfaction, the Department of Applied Engineering and Management achieved the highest NSS result for student satisfaction in the University, 97.6%.

In 2017/18 a total of six public lectures were held in the Ward Room covering a range of subjects on Aquaculture in Africa, climate change, bionic limbs, nanotechnology for synthetic fuels, manufacturing futures and Dunaliella an extremophilic alga shaping a new kind of industry for food, feed and pharmaceuticals.

Research continues to be a significant part of the Greenwich activity at Medway with 210 registered PhD students and a research income exceeding £15m. Highlights include a significant grant from the Gates Foundation and the University’s Natural Resources Institute (NRI) recently won the Rockefeller Global Cassava Innovation Challenge valued at $500,000. Carbon8 Systems Ltd, a University of Greenwich spin-out company, won the 2017 Queen’s Award for Enterprise: Innovation.
3.3 Canterbury Christ Church University

The vibrant community at our Medway campus is a mix of professional academics in subject teams working for the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing and the Faculty of Education. Since the majority of our programmes require experience within the public sector, we are proud of our excellent and embedded relations with local businesses, employers and practitioners, who we continue to work with in partnership to support our undergraduate and postgraduate student’s success. The majority of our Medway graduates remain in the immediate vicinity, with 98% in graduate level employment within six months of completing their studies, which supports a sustained positive economic impact calculated at £83 million of output and 690 full time equivalent jobs.

Our partnerships have enabled the broadening of our academic portfolio during 2017-18, which now includes the BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy, BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy, and MSc Physicians Associate. These additions complement our established offer to support initial career development in Nursing and Midwifery, the Allied Health Professionals, Public Health, Social Care, Early Childhood Studies and Teaching. In addition, our new MSc in Advanced Practice adds to our portfolio of ‘Continuing Development’, which assists those in employment to update, or develop further specialist or advanced knowledge and skills. This allows individuals to meet the changing needs of their organisation, and experience interesting, rewarding and varied careers locally.

During 2017-18, our staff and students were honoured to be able to reconnect with the contribution of healthcare professionals from the past. The Royal Navy Centenary Commemoration of the Bombing of the Drill Hall Library provided our staff and students with the opportunity to reflect, explore and remember those who died that day, by attending the event in the uniform of their profession. Family members of relatives travelled from across the globe to attend and the unique interactions enriched student learning, enabled connection with the realities of their professional life in the past and to pay tribute to those who died. (https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/medway/about-medway/about-medway.aspx).

During 2017-18, Canterbury Christ Church University, in partnership with the University of Kent, successfully bid for 100 government funded medical student places, which is supporting the development of the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS). This new school will recruit medical students for 2020 entry, and these students will undertake clinical placements across Kent and Medway. The first cohort will graduate in 2025, and become part of the future medical workforce of the county.

Our postgraduate medical offer at the Institute of Medical Science continues to thrive, and in 2017-18 our partnership working with Health Education England and the local NHS Trusts has led to the development of a ‘Clinical Fellows’ programme which is designed to address specific local medical workforce shortages, through an attractive recruitment, clinical practice and education package. This is just one example of our enterprising approach.

Other enterprise activities at our Medway Campus include masterclasses, short course training, conference events, summer schools, and ‘taster days’. These draw on our subject expertise and our research interests (Arts and Health; Mental Health; Practice Development; Social and Health Inequalities; Child Health and Wellbeing; Clinical and Medical Science). We are also leading in simulation learning innovation by bringing together experts and practitioners to enable transfer of knowledge to care environments. In addition our Medway campus provides stakeholder engagement events relating to our European grant funded research
grants (DWELL, ADAPT, CASCADE) on diabetes and wellbeing, assistive technologies in healthcare and dementia practice innovation, to enable the Medway community voice to be heard.
3.4 Drill Hall Library

Through the 2017/18 academic year the Drill Hall Library has played an integrated role in academic activity across the campus. During this period the management team renewed the strategy for the library, giving a clear direction for service development and delivery until 2020.

In September 2017 we marked the centenary of the bombing of the Drill Shed with a major public event led by the Royal Naval Association. The families of those lost in the attack along with the local community and representatives of the universities attended a service along with a performance by the band of the H.M. Royal Marines and a march by H.M.S. Collingwood, followed by refreshments and tours of the Drill Hall. A permanent exhibition within the Drill Hall was unveiled, and a unique poppy display was installed for the event.

Services that Empower
We introduced auto renewals of library loans in September 2017 after listening to the feedback from our users. With this new system in place, we have seen a huge reduction in overdue charges and substantially fewer fines appeals.

After researching the Customer Service Excellence Standard, we formulated a working group and an action plan for the Drill Hall team to work towards achieving the CSE by 2020. Staff will review evidence, looking for potential gaps and improvements to ensure we are delivering the highest customer service standard for people using the library. We have already evaluated our evening service requirements and reconfigured our evening provision to extend support service until midnight to further improve access to support.

Study Environments
In the Archibald Hay Mess café exhibition space we have showcased a wide range of work from students as well as external groups. We have also had various topical displays for Black History Month, LGBT+, Woman’s history month and exhibitions from St Mary’s Island History Group.

With student wellbeing in mind we created the ‘Headspace’ program of wellbeing events in the library, ranging from Chill and Chat with Lynne the campus Chaplain to an area in the library dedicated to giving students a break from study.

Partnerships
Following the launch of the new Unified Library Management system in conjunction with staff across CCCU and Kent’s library and IT teams, a collaborative ULMS Administrators group meets on a bi-weekly basis at the Drill Hall to drive forward further system integration and innovation, and service improvements, with the Drill Hall team playing a central to the project.

Technological Infrastructure
This year saw the shared desktop upgraded to the latest and most secure Microsoft desktop operating system, Windows 10. The Technical Support team in the Drill Hall have also been reviewing servers and processes to maintain a safe and secure environment for all data held. The wireless service in the Drill Hall and Pilkington has also been completely upgraded.

Library Resources
In January 2018 we successfully appointed a University of Greenwich graduate Harry Burgess as an intern with the responsibility of collecting, collating and analysing Drill Hall library data and statistics. This work allowed us to demonstrate how well used the library facility and resources at Medway are used and valued in the context of the wider sector.
3.5 Medway Chaplaincy

Faith Space
Our Faith Space in Pilkington building opened on 8th May 2017. Our Islamic students are the ones who use the space most, though the Christian Union and a Catholic Group have also used the space on a weekly/fortnightly basis. There have been a few points of tension which have largely resulted from differing interpretations as to what ‘multi-faith’ means. I have been in discussion with the Chaplaincy Board in this regard.

Pastoral Contacts
A good portion of my time is spent in meeting students (and occasionally staff) in a pastoral role. Below is a breakdown of students I have met during this past year. Although stats are weighted towards University of Greenwich we expect to see more of a balance in the coming year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTUTION</th>
<th>Greenwich x 60</th>
<th>Kent x 8</th>
<th>CCCU x 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STUDY LEVEL</td>
<td>Undergrad x 44</td>
<td>Masters x 19</td>
<td>PhD x 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENDER</td>
<td>Male x 35</td>
<td>Female x 41</td>
<td>Neutral x 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIONALITY</td>
<td>British x 21</td>
<td>EU x 9</td>
<td>Non-EU x 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION</td>
<td>Christian x 20</td>
<td>Catholic x 6</td>
<td>Muslim x 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>x 1</td>
<td>Hindu x 5</td>
<td>Sikh x 0</td>
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<td>Unknown x 18</td>
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In total these 77 students have equated to 226 contact points, either face-to-face, via phone or email. The nature of contact covers academic stress, mental health issues, housing/financial problems, bereavement, etc; plus questions relating to faith or the Faith Space.

Regular Events
- World Café: Run every Wednesday from 12-2pm the World Café provides free refreshments for students and a chance to meet new people. Number this year have been between 10-50 students.
- TABLEtalk: Run on Thursday evenings, TABLEtalk is a social come guided discussion night primarily, but not exclusively, for international students. Attendance can fluctuate greatly, especially during exam season, and over the past year has ranged from 5 to 35 students.
- PhD Café: I have helped to support the fortnightly PhD Café since it began

FB and BLOG
- You can find us on Facebook – ‘Medway Campus Chaplaincy'
- Our blog receives an average of 700 page views each month. Do check us out at: [http://medwaystudents.blogspot.com/](http://medwaystudents.blogspot.com/)
Events and Activities

Below is a fairly comprehensive but not exclusive list of further activities in which Chaplaincy has been involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June – Dec 2017</td>
<td>Dec 11th – Carols on Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16th</td>
<td>Bowling Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 8th</td>
<td>Trip to Medway Foodbank</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23rd</td>
<td>Summer BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27th</td>
<td>Petanque night</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31st</td>
<td>Medieval Jousting event at Hever Castle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 7th</td>
<td>Beach Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21st</td>
<td>Bring &amp; Share Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 5th</td>
<td>Faversham Hop Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11th-15th</td>
<td>Variety of Welcome/ Induction events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 17th</td>
<td>GRE Welcome Café w/Accommodations dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 30th</td>
<td>Welcome Tea &amp; Scones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 10th</td>
<td>World Mental Health Day campus-wide event</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Five film nights in relation to Black History Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 5th</td>
<td>Fireworks Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6th-10th</td>
<td>Inter-Faith Week activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1st</td>
<td>World Aids Day event</td>
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<td>Dec 5th</td>
<td>Christmas Film Night</td>
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### 2018

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<tr>
<th>Jan – May 2018</th>
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<td>Jan 11th</td>
<td>- UoG International Orientation day</td>
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<td>Jan 14th</td>
<td>- Bring &amp; Share Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 22nd-24th</td>
<td>- Cathedral’s Group Chaplaincy conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19th-23rd</td>
<td>UoG led Green Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20th</td>
<td>- Well-being festival</td>
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<td>March 21st</td>
<td>- Chaplaincy tea &amp; scones at Diversity Fair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March-May</td>
<td>- Chaplaincy pop-up stands at CCCU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March-May</td>
<td>- Series of 10 weekly pop-ups in DHL … giving out water, sweets, exam tips,</td>
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<td>- de-stress tips; colouring and a chance to chat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>- Easter Sunday Bring &amp; Share Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5th</td>
<td>- Annual Service of Remembering for staff, students and loved ones who have</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- passed away. Held in St George’s Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21st</td>
<td>- Student trip to the English Festival, Rainham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28th</td>
<td>- Attended ‘Theology for Everyone’ day at St Augustine’s College.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb to date</td>
<td>- Involvement with UoK Medway College Life for Staff events.</td>
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3.6 GK Unions

Introduction

GK Unions (Greenwich and Kent Students’ Unions Together) is a partnership on the Medway campus between the University of Greenwich Students’ Union and Kent Union. It is formally governed by the Kent Union Board of Trustees, with oversight via the GK Unions Strategy Board and Operations Committee, which include representation from both unions and institutions, as well as current students.

GK Unions is run by students for students to ensure that they have a voice, fulfil their potential and get the most from their University experience at Medway. GK Unions services include:

- Activities – sports, volunteering, societies and a varied Give It A Go programme
- Advice Centre – confidential, impartial advice on issues such as housing, finance and academic
- The Deep End – the SU bar, offering Starbucks coffee, food, drink, live events and the biggest screen on Campus for live sport.

Student-led Societies

This year there have been 600 individual memberships within 37 student led societies. Since September, 5 new societies were ratified - a substantial number considering only 2 folded. There has been a diverse and inclusive range of societies available ranging from Music Society, dodgeball, Nepalese, Medway Pharmacy Student Association and Chemistry. There have been many events, trips and activities and numerous highlights this year, the Music society organised a very successful weekly live music night leading up to a ‘Battle of the Bands’ competition in which the winners earned the opportunity to perform at the Kent Union Summerball in June. Diversity Fair was a huge success celebrating a safe and inclusive environment for all students, with henna from the Islamic Society, performances from the Nepalese Society and a Hindu Society led Holi Festival. The Student Hub hosted the Medway Amateur Dramatic Society Musical, with 50 tickets sold, earning them over £450 in ticket sales. The Big Events Fund allocated nearly £3000 to events organised by and for Medway students, including a successful Summer Ball for Pharmacy, a series of ‘history month’ talks, Women Inspiring Network and a club night led by Tamil Society.

A record-number of nominations were received for the annual GK Unions Awards, where the Netball Club were awarded ‘Fundraiser of the Year’ for their £400 contribution towards the Molly McLaren Foundation, and Chinese Christian Society won ‘Best New Society’ for hitting the ground running with very well-attended Chinese New Year activities in the Hub. It has also been a productive year for the 6 elected students who form the Societies Council Committee. They have been integral in ratifying the 5 new societies and allocating the big events fund to applying societies. They also played a role in the Societies Council meetings, one of which had the highest turnout of committee members we’ve ever had.

Student-led Sport:

It has been a fantastic year for sport at Medway, with 334 memberships within 20 clubs comparable with 250 memberships and 13 clubs last academic year. The brand of ‘Team Medway’ continues to promote inclusivity and opportunity which is evidenced by 6 new clubs being ratified this year (Women’s Volleyball, Women’s Rugby, Medway Triathletes, Judo, Boxing and Handball) which has added to the variety of sports on offer at Medway. The #FitForPurpose survey was a huge success with over 1200 responses, gathering detailed feedback on existing sports facilities in Medway and giving students the opportunity to inform future enhancements to the facilities on Campus, and help us to develop partnerships with local organisations to broaden the offer.

Team Medway had a very successful Varsity, with an overall win 7-4 against Team Greenwich. There were 2 more teams playing this year, taking the total fixtures from 9 to 11. The event received sponsorship of £1500 from Student Places and the funding was used to make improvements to the event such as a live DJ and food stalls, and to provide transport from Medway for players and spectators (148 students used the service). Medway students also offered sports massages for free for players. The Deep End hosted the ‘Varsity Launch’ UV Ping Pong Party with Varsity cocktails where we launched the official Varsity video and fixtures.
17 teams booked tables for the event which resulted in over 100 student attending and enjoying the night.

The Football club created a new 3rd team which played in BUCS and Varsity and created a ‘Social Membership’ to give more students the opportunity to play football, this resulted in the club significantly increasing their membership numbers. The football 1st team won the league on the last day of the season and all 3 teams won their Varsity match Vs. Greenwich. A great year for Team Medway football!

We’ve had good engagement from students on the committees this year, with 81% of available positions filled in the Spring Elections, with a much more targeted approach to electing strong leaders into the roles.

Team Medway Futsal went unbeaten the entire season, which meant they were crowned league champions and the South Eastern Cup winners. They scored over 120 goals in 12 games.

Team Medway Judo competed in BUCS for the first time, earning a bronze medal in the BUCS nationals. Team Medway Thai Boxing pushed for their best results in their history, with only 1 loss out of 6 fights this year.

An umpire course was taken by 5 members of Team Medway Basketball to develop their knowledge of the sport off the court.

Kent Sport have generously sponsored the handball club with £300 to help with coaching and kit, and The Women’s Rugby Club are going from strength-to-strength with a £1000 grant from Student Rugby Union to help stimulate growth for female students participating in the sport. The Women’s Rugby club won ‘Best New Club’ at the annual Team Medway Sports Awards and have solid foundations for next year in place.

The annual Team Medway Sports Awards has grown significantly year-on-year with 117 tickets sold, compared with 56 last year. The Student Hub was transformed with a red carpet welcome, and the atmosphere was conducive with celebrating all the excellent achievements within sport at Medway this year. With participation rising, and increased momentum around enhancing the on-campus and local offer, 2018/19 promises to be an exciting year for Team Medway.

**GK Volunteering**

Over 9700 volunteer hours were recorded on the GK Unions Toolkit reflecting on the numerous roles that students carry out. These roles include running our sports and societies but also the numerous charities and organisations that benefit from our student dedication. This year we had 4 students go into Burnt Oak primary school to help children with their reading.

We have continued to work with the Kent Wildlife Trust on a weekly basis supporting their management of Darland banks, an area of scientific interest in Gillingham. Tasks can include clearing scrubland and over growth to allow native species of flora to thrive. 9 students have been involved this year.

Post Pals has continued to be popular with nearly 200 cards being made and sent to the children from the charity and a special project was set up at Christmas to send a seasonal card to all children.

The Get Crafty group organised activities to create Christmas stockings for the children in Dolphin ward, at Medway Hospital and ran a craft session with young carers.

Blythswood Care’s shoebox appeal attracted much student interest, from checking the boxes to helping with the dispatch process, the shoeboxes, these were then delivered to the poorest people in Eastern Europe.

Students have also volunteered at a variety of events organised by GK, including Sports Awards and Varsity.

Medway RAG and Clubs and Societies raised nearly £1400 for 7 organisations including local charities like the Molly Maclaren Foundation and Medway Night Shelter. Students also fundraised for national charities, including, Pets as Therapy, Movember, Amnesty International, Children in Need and Guba Foundation.
Student Voice
Campaigning on important issues and representing student interests has historically been led by the ‘home unions’ for Kent and Greenwich students at the Medway Campus. A joint Representation Review was conducted in November 2017 to see whether this model was working, and whether home union representation was effective for students on the Medway Campus. Expanding the visibility and impact of student voice in Medway is at the heart of GK Unions’ work. We are developing key student leadership positions for Medway students to become agents of change, channelling student feedback, ideas and suggestions via a new online localised system to enable GK Unions to develop its services, and joining up with the home unions on matters affecting academic policy. Schools are being empowered as partners to assist with the appointment of strong student representatives (reps), ensuring wider diversity and more meaningful engagement with students outside of the leadership elections, and developing vibrant academic communities. A shared Students at Medway Committee will be developed to better represent Kent and Greenwich students on the Medway Campus, working with full-time Officers and staff from both Unions. Our student voice work moving forward is based on the principle of “Medway solutions for Medway problems”. We have supported officer campaigns on housing, mental health awareness, exam de-stress and consent workshops.
Highlights from the past year include: Leadership Elections events and voting for both student unions taking place in the Student Hub building with engagement doubling since 2017 from Medway students running for positions and voting in the election.

Advice Centre
GK Unions Student Advice Centre has, once again provided free, confidential and impartial advice to all University of Greenwich and University of Kent students studying at the Medway Campus. Advice has been offered in a range of areas including academic, finance, student funding, immigration, and housing. Throughout the academic year students have been able to access services via booked appointments, drop-in sessions, a dedicated telephone advice line and via email.
Student Advisers have had a number of key successes and achievements during this academic year, including running a Housing Fair on campus for the third consecutive year helping students find accommodation and understand their housing rights and responsibilities; attending Fresher’s and Refresher’s Fairs to promote the services available and interact with the students; helping a student appeal a Bursary refusal which was ultimately successful with them being awarded £5,500 in bursary funding from the University; helping a student with Access to Learning Fund helping them avoid eviction due to rental arrears; supporting a student to overturn a Student Finance England decision to refuse funding under the ‘long term residency’ criteria meaning student will now receive full funding totalling approximately £52,500 over the duration of their course (including Tuition Fee Loan to pay their fees). Students have also been accompanied to a range of academic and disciplinary hearings with Student Advisers offering support and advising students of their rights.

Student Hub Development
In January 2017 the Student Hub officially opened. The vision for the hub was to create a ‘home from home’ for students; a well-designed, flexible space where students can relax, congregate, meet and make friends, eat, drink and play, learn and debate, conduct their own student activities, as well as receive support from GK Union’s professional advisers and membership services team. The Hub is proving successful in supporting the development of a broad range of key events on Campus including Fresher’s fair, Refresher events in January, and a new end-of-year international arts festival, MedFest. "For the first time in three years I’m proud to be a Medway student, and I can show people THIS is where I went to Uni."
The mezzanine floor has provided flexible meeting space for student training, University meetings, and a newly launched TED talk style programme in collaboration with academics from Kent and Greenwich Universities to be streamed live on social media. The Hub is also home to GK Unions’ flagship programme of drop-in events, activities and trips, Give It A Go, which has had 1562 students participating in the programme in its first year.
GK UNIONS GIVE IT A GO

YEAR 1 2017/18

THE GK UNIONS VISION 2017-20
‘TO BE THE ACCESS POINT AND MAIN SERVICE PROVIDER FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY AT THE MEDWAY CAMPUS, DELIVERING FIRST CLASS SERVICES TO KENT AND GREENWICH STUDENTS ENABLING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WIDE RANGE OF STUDENT COMMUNITIES’

THE ENHANCED GIVE IT A GO PROGRAMME IS DEVELOPING A VIBRANT ATMOSPHERE ACROSS CAMPUS WITH A FLEXIBLE, VARIED AND STUDENT LED APPROACH TO ITS ACTIVITY. THE PROGRAMME HAS ENHANCED OUR EXISTING ACTIVITY TO BOOST STUDENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND WE ARE ENGAGING WITH A MUCH BROADER RANGE OF STUDENTS INCLUDING MATURE, PART-TIME AND COMMUTER STUDENTS.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS ENJOYING THE PROGRAMME

1562

£1000

£3000

UNIQUE STUDENTS ATTENDING THE PROGRAMME

737

GREENWICH 282

KENT 390

GUESTS (FOR FREE EVENTS) 65

AGE

FEMALE (42/1)

MALE (1/6)

GUESTS (9/6)

22-25 (2/1/1)

25-30 (6/6)

30-35 (7/7)

35-50 (6/6)

50-65 (7/7)

65+

Year of Study

2ND YEAR (2/1/1)

5TH YEAR (1/2)

1ST YEAR (5/8)

3RD YEAR (1/6)

4TH YEAR (6/6)

5TH YEAR (1/6)

PLACEMENT YEAR (1/5)

QUOTES:

MEAGAN, GREENWICH STUDENT
‘I HAVE ENJOYED ALL THE OFFERED EVENTS, THEY ARE OF A WIDE RANGE AND AT A REASONABLE PRICE’

GEORGE, KENT STUDENT
‘NERF WARS WAS REALLY FUN’

EVELINA, GREENWICH STUDENT
‘I HAVE PUT ALL THE GIVE IT A GO EVENTS IN MY CALENDAR’

JONNY, KENT STUDENT
‘I LOVED TODAY’S SESSION, IT WAS A LOT OF FUN AND BALLROOM IS SOMETHING I WANTED TO LEARN FOR A WHILE’

DARSHIKA, GREENWICH STUDENT
'THE BEST THING ABOUT GIVE IT A GO IS HOW EASY IT IS TO ATTEND WITHOUT HAVING TO TRY A MEMBERSHIP’

KEY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS DURING YEAR 1:

- Pure Massages & Nails - 25
- Bluewater Trip - 72
- Archery Tag - 44
- Chinese New Year - 12
- GK Pub Quiz - 38
- Odeon Trip Justice League - 35
- Bubble Sports - 28

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Successfully trained and equipped student staff to run GAG events.
- Created positive partnerships with a number of local providers, including Medway Council, MidKent College & ASD Coaches.
- Empowered student groups to run events and activities.
- Developed a reputation amongst campus with students and university departments.
- Created a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere across campus.
- The student hub acted as one stop shop for purchasing tickets, receiving information and hosting a variety of GAG events.

AFFORDABLE | FLEXIBLE | TAILORED | STUDENT LED

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