Annual Campus Report (no. 12)
For Reporting Year 2018-19
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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.

GK Unions have continued to develop a strong programme of events, social and sporting, for the student community on campus. Funding provided by the three Vice Chancellors have enabled the leasing of two minibuses to help transport students to sporting matches and training, plus allowed an enhanced scheme of activity under the ‘Team Medway’ banner. More information of the work of GK Unions is contained on page 11 below. The campus has continued to benefit from the Multi-faith space located in the Pilkington Building. This facility provides dedicated space for the campus community, including student societies and faith groups, to meet, practice their faith or have some quiet contemplative time. The Campus Chaplain has continued to offer a programme of organised activities and events for the students and staff on the campus, more details about the work of the Chaplaincy can be found on pages 9 and 10.

The Drill Hall Library continues to be the heart of the campus, providing an innovative learning space. The roll out of the unified library management system for all three Institutions has been a success and the Library has also benefitted from the ‘Room of the Future’ project, with Room DA002 in the Library being redeveloped with innovative technology which provides a flexible layout and is enabled for both virtual and augmented reality features. More information of the work and activity of the Drill Hall can be found on page 8.

The three Universities are continuing work on enhancing the access to sporting facilities for students with tentative plans underway for a Multi-Use Games Area to be located on a spare piece of land near to the Student Hub. Further development work on this proposal will take place during the 2019/20 academic year.

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

Joint Chairs of the Campus Management Board:

David Nightingale
Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost
University of Kent

Professor Martin Snowden
Pro Vice Chancellor
University of Greenwich
2. Outputs in relation to the project

2.1 Student Outputs

Reporting Period: Academic Year 2018-19

The figures stated below are the combined total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students from all three Universities at Medway from the baseline year (2002-03) to latest reporting year (2017-18). For 2017-18 onwards, student Headcount will also be presented.

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*MKC student numbers not included from 2021-13 onwards.
2.2 Job/Staffing FTE Staff Outputs

Reporting Period: Academic Year 2018-19

The figures stated below are the combined totals of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff from all three Universities at Medway, broken down by ethnicity. Data from the Baseline year (2002-03) charts FTE only and from 2017-18 onwards both FTE and Headcount are presented. In showing both FTE and Headcount this has highlighted that there could be a possible anomaly in the previous years’ data in that Headcount data was provided rather than FTE, given the correlation between Headcount in 2018-19 and FTE trend over previous years.

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*MKC staff numbers not included from 2021-13 onwards
3. General Campus Update

3.1 University of Kent

Over the last twelve months there has been further development of our Cultural and Creative Industries offer, including new Graphic Design programmes, under the auspices of our Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries. That theme and two others, Business and Enterprise and Health and Wellbeing, were endorsed by a Task and Finish Group set up by the Vice-Chancellor to recommend ways of improving student recruitment and help shape the University’s future at Medway. The Group’s report included a number of recommendations about the programme portfolio and its delivery. An action plan has been drawn up to ensure their implementation.

Areas of growth include our Postgraduate and Apprenticeships provision. In April 2019 we received a ‘Good’ rating from Ofsted for all aspects of the latter, which is offered through our Centre for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships based in The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. Also based there is Kent Business School which has expanded into space in the Sail and Colour Loft formerly occupied by Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, enhancing the delivery of new Postgraduate programmes.

On 2 April 2019, on behalf of the Universities at Medway, we were delighted to host the visit to Pembroke of Lord Roberts, Road Locomotive No 8903. Built in 1900 by John Fowler & Co (Leeds) and owned initially by Holloway Bros of Market Lavington, Wiltshire, the main contractors for Chatham Royal Naval Barracks between 1897 and 1902, Lord Roberts was almost certainly involved in transporting materials for the construction of HMS Pembroke. We are very grateful to current owner Stephen Cotton for bringing Lord Roberts back to what is now our Medway Campus.

On 9 February 2019 the Paper Hearts Project organised by students from our School of Sport and Exercise Sciences achieved a Guinness World Record for the largest display of origami hearts. 53,704 hearts created by over 40 community groups in the Medway area were displayed in The Deep End, raising money for Cardiac Risk in the Young and The Molly McLaren Foundation.

In keeping with the University of Kent’s civic mission, we continue to offer Community Scholarships to support projects that will benefit the local community. Through the Medway Place Board and the Medway Champions Scheme, we are working closely with Medway Council and other partners to develop Medway’s distinctive profile and reputation as a leading waterfront university city. We are also pleased to be a sponsor of the Medway Leadership Programme for senior managers from Medway’s public sector organisations including the local authority, education, the NHS, the voluntary sector, the army, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Kent Police.
3.2 University of Greenwich

Following several years of slight contraction, this year, the Faculty of Engineering and Science achieved growth in the student numbers at Medway across all areas of activity for the 18/19 academic year. In addition applications to the Medway portfolio for 19/20 are in excess of 10% up on the previous year.

In terms of on Campus academic developments, the new BEng in Chemical Engineering recruitment continues to grow and the first graduates are expected in 2020. To further enhance the provision, the Faculty has recently appointed a new Professor of Chemical Engineering to support both Chemical Engineering and the growing activity associated with food technology, innovation and manufacture. The Faculty is in the process of building a microbrewery which will be in production early next academic session. At postgraduate level, September will see the launch of two 2-year MSc programmes in Engineering Management and Pharmaceutical Science that incorporate an industrial placement year. The development of degree apprenticeships continues to be a focus of the University and with nine degree apprenticeships in the Faculty. Reflecting these new initiatives and the growth in students, twelve new members of academic staff have joined the Faculty during this academic year.

Academic partnerships remain a key part of the activity of the Faculty which currently has more than 6,600 students studying at TNE partners overseas. One of our long-standing domestic partners, the Royal School of Military Engineering, has recently been approved to deliver a suite Bachelor of Engineering degrees in Electrical, Civil and Mechanical & Building Services Engineering; these will provide the academic training for soldiers to gain professional registration as Incorporated Engineers.

2018-19 has been a particularly successful year in terms of research and enterprise activity with total contracts expected to reach £20m across the Faculty. A key component in this is the award granted to the Natural Resources Institute from Research England’s ‘Expanding Excellence in England’ (E3) Fund to increase its research on food and nutrition security. Through a highly competitive process, the E3 fund aims to support the strategic expansion of excellent research units and departments in Higher Education Institutions across England.

This year has seen another series of GREat Talks, a series of public lectures held in the Pembroke Ward Room, covering a diverse range of subjects on climate change, the science of cheese making, team building, bacteria in our bodies and cancer research. In addition Greenwich academics contributed to Medway’s first ever ‘Pint of Science’ research festival at the Command House pub. Media interest in our research continues with on Campus filming for BBC Horizon: the Honest Supermarket, looking at additives in food and for BBC News for living green wall acoustics lab.
3.3 Canterbury Christ Church University

Canterbury Christ Church University’s (CCCU) continues to focus on programmes of study which deliver to the current and emerging workforce needs of our Medway education and health care providers. Integral to this are our successful partnership relationships with local and regional stakeholders which assure high quality student experiences to enable the current and future workforce to deliver high quality education and healthcare to our local and county wide populations.

This year, our portfolio has expanded to offer more diverse routes into professional health and care professional programmes. We successfully tendered for a series of health apprenticeships, for Nurses, Nursing Associates, Occupational Therapist and Operating Department Technicians, which are beginning to be delivered locally.

Alongside this we have introduced the ‘with Foundation Year’ option to all our undergraduate programmes, to support the aspirations of those who require additional support prior to entry into the main three-year programme to become a Nurse, Midwife, Occupational Therapist, Operating Department Practitioner, Paramedic or Diagnostic Radiographer. For those already with a degree, we also now offer a two-year postgraduate route into Nursing / Mental Health Nursing, which includes placement experience within the health and social care facilities within the Medway locality.

Our work in Postgraduate Medicine continues to expand within our Institute of Medical Sciences. This year we have introduced an additional pathway to our established Master in Surgery programme. The new Obstetrics and Gynaecology pathway joins, pathways in Otorhinolaryngology, Orthopaedics and Regenerative medicine, Urology, and Ophthalmology. These programmes continue to support new medical talent to come to train within local hospitals whilst developing the required specialist surgical and academic skills set to support career progression in their chosen area.

CCCU Research and Enterprise continues to grow, with successful bids enabling the University’s contribution towards the Medway towns’ inspiration for regeneration and science innovation. The local CCCU Stem Cell Research and Bio Engineering Laboratory (SCRaBEL) has recently been relocated into the heart of our CCCU community at Medway, to enable growth in the scope of the research. The state-of-the-art equipment enables high quality science on stem cells to be undertaken and it team of staff have hosted the first school students during their summer holidays reflecting its remit to inspire young minds in the world of science and technology. Alongside this, the IMS Team delivered its annual Medical Fayre where 140 school children were able to talk to experienced hospital clinicians in interactive activities.

This inspirational activity is part of our commitment to support the pipeline for future medical applications from the residents of Kent and Medway. Our partnership with the University of Kent in developing the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) has progressed on time. The approved programme has received over 1500 application for 100 student places in September 2020, from diverse socio-economic and local backgrounds. Whilst the main teaching campus site for both Universities will be in Canterbury, the innovative patient centred curriculum introduces students to health and care provision in the community during their first two years, so the local community may meet some KMMS students within the delivery of health care services in selected Medway’s General Practice surgeries from November 2020. KMMS students will be located within the local hospitals from September 2022. KMMS students based locally will also benefit from access to our CCCU Simulation Suite at the Medway campus.
3.4 Drill Hall Library

Through the 2018/19 academic year the Drill Hall Library has played an integrated role in academic activity across the campus.

We are now embedded for teaching in more schools and departments than ever, and more and more students are having a library induction during the beginning of their time at the Medway Campus.

Partnerships

The Academic Services team have been working on their offering the local schools and colleges to invite students into the Drill Hall to have information literacy lessons, to support that transition from school or college to University. The team are also going out to partner colleges to work with students. We aim to grow the number of schools and colleges we work with over the upcoming year.

Technological Infrastructure

A survey was completed on the Wi-Fi in both the Drill Hall and Pilkington. This notified us of any black spots within these buildings. Following the survey we were able to improve the Wi-Fi access for students in both of these buildings.

A lot of work has been done this year to look at how we can turn the access gates on in the library to allow us to make the library a safer space for our users but also so that we will be able to know and count from which institution the users are from. We hope to be able to turn this on for the start of the next academic year.

Library Resources

A stock take took place in the summer of 2018. This allowed us to ensure that the library catalogue was up to date and that we could replace any missing books. We have pushed forward with our e-first acquisitions policy to allow our users to access the material they need whenever and wherever they are.
3.5 Medway Chaplaincy

Faith Space
For the most part the Faith Space appears to run ok.
Early May, ISOC requested that space be provided for students on campus late in the evening, largely as the exam period has coincided with Ramadan. This request did not come directly to Chaplaincy but went through DHL and UoG Facilities Management, both of whom raised the question with myself. Use of the Faith Space has been agreed, though it has been made clear that this is a one-off agreement. Most recent update I received from Joe Mahama was that the required risk assessment had been completed and therefore the space had not been opened. This has been highlighted at the Chaplaincy Board and Campus Ops Committee.

Pastoral Care
Sept 2018 – April 2019 I have seen 82 students pastorally. Some just once, others for on-going matters. These times have concerned academic & personal stress, on-going physical & mental health issues, pregnancy, addiction, bereavement, gender identity, faith, financial challenges, language, supervisory issues, etc.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INSTUTION</th>
<th>CCCU x 17</th>
<th>Greenwich x 49</th>
<th>Kent x 16</th>
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<td>Buddhist x 2</td>
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Chaplaincy works in close liaison with all three well-being teams here at Medway, as well as G/KU Advisors, and is involved in a lot of sign-posting.

Since training to provide Foodbank vouchers, 11 vouchers have been issued to seven students, all CCCU students. One voucher was refused by Foodbank due to conflicting information given by the student.

Chaplaincy Trips
Five Chaplaincy run trips have happened this academic year. One further trip to Hever Castle is planned for July 13th.
In total 118 students have attended trips: CCCU x 2 UoG x 92 UoK x 24

In addition, I have partnered with UoK on trips to Leeds Castle (Sept 18) and Dover Castle (May 19). We have also taken students to: Fireworks Night, Dickens Christmas, Passion Play (Trafalgar Sq) and Sweeps Festival.

Chaplaincy pop-ups, etc
One day a month is spent in the Drill Hall Library; being available for any students who wish to come and chat. We give out de-stress tips, inspirational bookmarks (very popular) and lollies. During the exams period (April-June) this presence is increased to once a week.
These times are often very fruitful and allow for contact with students from all three universities.

During the autumn term (2018) we held weekly student drop-ins for Kent students but, unfortunately, these proved unsuccessful.

The above figures for student contact through trips / pastoral care do not include contact through our regular events: World Café, TABLEtalk, Bring & Share Lunches and our Bargain Corner.

Further student contact figures that are not reflected in the above, include: Freshers Fair, World Mental Health Day, GKU Societies Networking, Green Week, Disability History Month, Carols on Campus, CCCU Adult Nursing Medfest, University Mental Health Day, Paper Hearts Project, Student Volunteering Week, Diversity Fair

**Facebook 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/)

**Training received**

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<td>Sept/Oct 2018</td>
<td>Walking towards Conflict</td>
<td>Rochester Diocese</td>
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<td>Oct 2018</td>
<td>Foodbank voucher administration</td>
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**Staff De-Stress Coffee Breaks**

Throughout ‘Stress Awareness Month’ (April) I ran a weekly two-hour de-stress coffee break purely for our staff. Thirty staff attended during the month and feedback was extremely positive. I am investigating the possibility of this becoming a monthly event.

“I just wanted to email to say thank you for this morning. The time and effort it takes to run these sessions for staff is greatly appreciated. It was really great to meet other staff and learn about what they do, but also to just switch off for a moment. When I got back to the office I definitely felt happier, more relaxed and more focused. These sessions are not only a great way to give staff a moment away from their desks and offices to help support their wellbeing but are also a great way to increase the community across the campus. I do hope they will become a regular occurrence.” (UoG)

“Lynne – the idea and the coffee breaks were much appreciated by my team. It was amazing how therapeutic it was, just to spend 15 minutes away from your desk, chatting to other staff who you might not usually see, and just unwinding. (UoG)

“I wanted to write and thank you for organising these events during April. I am one of the worst for not leaving my desk, even for lunch, so it has been really nice to have a reason to get away from work for half an hour, and also have the opportunity to meet some of the staff from the other universities (and of course, eat cake!). I hope this is something you will be able to do again.” (UoK)
3.6 GK Unions

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 and Team Medway Social programme
- Representation – enhancing the visibility and impact of student voice in Medway through a rep programme and student networks
- Advice Centre – confidential, impartial advice on issues such as housing, finance and academic
- The Deep End – the SU bar, offering our very own branded ‘Campus Coffee’, food, drink, a range of live events and the biggest screen on Campus for live sport.

Student-led Societies

This year there have been 842 society memberships, of which 566 are unique students across 40 student led societies. Since September, 11 new societies have been ratified by Societies Council Committee (SOCCOCOM) which is over double last year. They have been instrumental in mentoring society committees of the new societies, offering practical advice and support and allocating the Big Events Fund and Societies Development Funds to societies.

At the beginning of Term 2, we ran a Societies Spotlight campaign in which many societies engaged with both GK Unions and their own social media channels to promote their groups’ activities and events in a bid to get a broader reach of students. Both this and the Welcome Back Fair was also popular and led to a boost in society numbers.

There have been a diverse and inclusive range of society activities this term ranging from Pool Society tournaments, Islamic Society Discussions and a collaborative trip to the Natural History Museum organised by Forensic Science and Natural Science Societies. There have been many events, trips and activities and numerous highlights this year, the Music Society organised successful weekly live music nights leading up to a ‘Battle of the Bands’ competition in which the winners earned the opportunity to perform on stage at Medfest, an annual festival hosted at the Hub. The Sports Studies Society put on an exhibition to display over 50,000 Origami Paper Hearts in a Guinness World Record Attempt and have recently had confirmation from Guinness that the Medway Campus has broken its’ first Guinness World Record by creating and displaying 53,704 paper hearts. The Student Hub hosted the Medway Amateur Dramatic Society musical, with a record number of 87 tickets sold across the two performances and has received incredible feedback by spectators.
GK Unions engaged with Worldfest again this year running a series of different events and activities to celebrate and showcase different cultures. Some of the favourites included henna tattooing from the Islamic Society, Chinese calligraphy from the Chinese Christian Society, Music Society performances and an Indian Society led Holi Festival on campus. The Deep End ran a different special each day of the week, provided traditional sangria and nachos at a mini Mexican Fiesta which included piñata smashing which was a huge success.

The Big Events Fund so far has allocated £2500 to events organised by and for Medway students, including a successful Take Me Out Event for Medway Afro-Caribbean Society, Medway Amateur Dramatic Society “The Adams Family” Musical, Forensic Science with a trip to BodyWorld, and to fund a free event for Medway students with influential guest speaker Dr Gabriel on Decolonising the Curriculum.

The annual GK Unions Awards was a tremendous success, with Sports Studies Paper Hearts Project winning ‘Fundraiser of the Year’ for raising £753 towards the Molly McLaren Foundation and Cardiac Risk for the Young and MPSA winning ‘Society of the Year’ after another impactful year, including organising a Boat Party Trip, a social night out with 4 London based Universities and the annual Pharmacy Ball with over 100 attendees for its members.

A number of new societies have set up recently and 2019-2020 promises to be another year of growth in student engagement.

**Student-led Sport - Team Medway:**

It has been another great year for sport at Medway, with 254 memberships (242 being unique students) within 20 sports club. This is lower compared to the last academic year, but this is attributed to the emergence of our new free social sport programme, Team Medway Social (See below). Team Medway sport continues to promote inclusivity and new opportunities which is evidenced by three new non-traditional sports, trampolining, water polo and swimming, being created. The clubs were established via Team Medway Social, by hosting taster sessions to stimulate a ‘try before you buy’ model, something that will be developed further to create new clubs for years to come. Key achievements from 2018/19:

- Team Medway have had a very successful Varsity, with an overall win of 8-3 against Team Greenwich. There were 180 Medway students that travelled to Greenwich for the event, the highest amount since Varsity started.
- Football 3rd and Rugby 1st team won their respective BUCS leagues.
- Volleyball won the Kent Volleyball League.
- The annual Sports Awards took place on April 4th which celebrated the sports clubs and their members. It was a fantastic evening with a 2 course meal, photo booth and the awards ceremony. Rugby won the prestigious ‘Club of the Year’, and the newly establish Trampolining won ‘Most Improved Club’.
- The Rugby club raised over £300 for Movember.
- 12 Volleyball members completed an umpire course to increase their knowledge of the sport, and give back to the club by saving costs to pay for umpires externally.

Developments for 2019/20:
- Secured free hockey sessions from a local club, Old Williamson, to develop a competitive BUCS side.
- Developing a ‘Sports Managers’ programme with University of Kent Sports Science Department, in which there will be students that will dedicate a minimum of 100 hours to help build the club members and student experience as part of their degree. They will also develop BUCS admin, mass participation events and social sport.
- Working with the University of Greenwich, develop a competitive swimming scholarship scheme.
- Continued campaigning to develop a multi-use games area 3G on-campus.

Social Sport - Team Medway Social:
Team Medway Social is a free social sport programme available to every student and staff member on campus. Vice Chancellors for Kent and Greenwich and their respective Unions commissioned research to better understand the preferences of by both students and staff around sport and recreational activity and facilities on the Medway campus and local area. An extensive report was created from the Fit For Purpose survey, which was completed by over 1300 students and staff at the Medway campus, and key recommendations were implemented, including the development of a shared recreation programme - Team Medway Social (TMS). TMS has had a fantastic first year, with 3297 attendees throughout the year (834 are unique which splits down to 318 Greenwich, 271 Kent, 84 CCCU and 245 staff). This is particularly impressive considering the Kent-only equivalent programme, Let’s Play, last year had 600 overall attendees. This highlights that all three Universities working together significantly increases student engagement and experience. Key achievements from 2018/19:

- TMS has exceeded its target of 2000 participants, reaching 3297 by the end of term two. With the unique participation growing from 480 to 834 students.
- Due to its popularity Pilates has been increased to twice a week, with the number of participants increasing from 87 to 193 in term two.
- The instructor led classes and sessions have been very well attended so the number of classes has been increased. This will need to be reviewed for next academic year to see if it is sustainable due to the increased costs.
- Created three new competitive clubs, trampolining, water polo and swimming.
- This Girl Can week (12th-16th November) showed an increase of 50% in female participation comparable to the week before and after.
- Collaboration with GIAG helps us to reach new participants and promote physical activity for social benefit, more broadly than just sport/fitness.
- A very popular outdoor table tennis table was donated to The Student Hub by CCC.
- TMS is involved with an NHS research project, which involves interviewing students on mental health services provision.
- Secured a partnership with TruGym which entitles students and staff a cheaper membership offer all year round launching in September 2019.

End of Year Survey Results:

- 93.8% have said TMS has encouraged them to be more active.
- 90.5% have said TMS has had a positive impact on their mental health.
- 83.7% has said TMS helped them to meet new people.
- 67.7% would prefer better on campus facilities over subsidised gym membership.
- The three main motivators for taking part in TMS came back as; it does not cost much to do, it is a good workout and helps with their fitness, it is fun to do.

Give It A Go:

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 is now in its 2nd year and 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 owing to the “drop-in” nature of activity. The programme has engaged 1 in 6 Medway students. The total attendees for 2018/19 are 2179 (unique student numbers are 1169 which splits into 363 Kent students, 538 Greenwich students and 268 non-students/CCCU/unknown), comparable to 1565 last academic year. Key achievements from 2018/19:

- Secured £1500 from Chatham Maritime Trust to deliver term 3 activity.
- Doubled the attendees in term 3 comparable to the previous year, focusing on mental health and exam de-stress activities.
- Had a big impact on 'Freshers Fortnight' which 389 attendees for sessions delivered by Give it a Go.
- Strengthened and developed a working partnership with Drill Hall Library where there is a regular programme of events throughout the year.
- Collaborated with societies for the annual ‘WorldFest’
- Supported and enhanced the taster sessions of two new societies; E-sports (28 attendees) and Pool (40 attendees).
- A big increase in unique students taking part in the programme, meaning the programme has a bigger reach across campus.
- Team Medway Social and Give it a Go collaborated on sessions such as self-defence, Nerf Wars and Yoga.
End of Year Survey Results:

1. 92.7% of the students said that the programme scored 7/10 and higher for commitment to promoting positive well-being.
2. 89.1% of students scored the programme a 7/10 and higher for improving their exams term experience.
3. 81.1% students scored the variety of well-being focussed events and activities 7/10 and higher.
4. 91% students said they would attend a GIAG event again next year with all the remaining stating that the reason they would not attend is because they are in their final year.
5. 92.7% of students agreed that the programme had a positive impact on their mental health.

The annual Festival Medfest event was a huge success in May at the end of exams, doubling our bar-take compared to the same event last year, and working in collaboration with the Greenwich Faculty of Engineering and Science in the absence of the Summer Ball.

Advice Centre
The GK Unions Student Advice Centre has continued to provide 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. It is anticipated that in academic year 2018-19 we will have opened just over 1,000 new cases for students.

Student Advisers have had a number of key successes and achievements during this academic year including helping a range of students challenge university decisions whether it be about academic progress, a discipline matter, or a funding decision; helping students understand their housing rights and responsibilities; attending Fresher’s and Welcome Back Fairs to promote the services available and interact with the students; helping students understand their funding entitlement and to challenge any unfair decisions; and helping students apply for hardship funds to help alleviate financial difficulty and give them the best chance of remaining at university to achieve their full academic potential.

Some specific notable successes were helping a student successfully challenge and remain on their course after being accused of academic discipline; helping achieve Kent Opportunity
Bursary awards of £5437.50 for our students; helping a postgraduate student successfully challenge a funding decision enabling them to be awarded £10,609 in funding; and helping a student overturn a Student Finance England decision to refuse funding as a Migrant Worker helping them achieve full funding totalling approximately £54,000 over the duration of their course (including Tuition Fee Loan to pay their fees).

The Student Advice Centre is also in the process of conducting a full review of its services and a modernisation of its electronic case work system with the aim of continuing to help us achieve our strategic aims and provide an outstanding service to our students.

**Student Voice**

We have made progress with student voice in Medway with the introduction of the new Leadership Coordinator post, but there continue to be challenges around engaging Medway students in representation and democracy. Over the 18/19 year Kent Union had 57/102 (56%) student rep positions filled and Greenwich Student Union had 117/423 (28%) positions filled.

In line with the 2017 Representation Review, Medway schools are now on board with moving from an election model to nominations. Nominations will open at the beginning of Term 1 and reps would be selected by the schools with support from GK Unions, and then trained by GK. GK’s new marketing department will develop a shared brand for Student Voice work in Medway to aid with cohesion and recognition.

The ‘ChangeIt’ feedback platform only received 5 suggestions from students this year mainly relating to the menu in the Deep End which is being relaunched in September.

The students at Medway committee relaunched with a new brand last year. The two Presidents were active and engaged, but some of the challenges SAM has faced are:

- High expectations for a voluntary role
- Limited/unclear accountability
- Visibility and impact of student voice is so low, engagement suffered
- Broad remit (representation, meetings, campaigns) for a small volunteer committee
- Difficulty in bringing the committee members together, too formal a structure
- Slow progress

A review of the structure is underway to address these challenges, with input from Home Union Presidents.