

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead
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This newsletter brings you the latest equality news and developments at Edinburgh College. Anyone at the College is welcome to contribute to this newsletter, please contact the [EDI Lead](#) for more information.

Edinburgh College Celebrates Refugee Week 2025

Edinburgh College Students' Association (ECSA) promoted the awareness of Refugee Week by creating educational resources for students and staff.



Zahra, Student Engagement Assistant, shared her reflection about modern migration in her [article](#). Other students also shared their [experiences](#) of setting up a new home in Scotland and studying at Edinburgh College. As Zahra highlighted, regardless of the reasons for leaving their homeland, sanctuary seeking students '*feel loneliness, social isolation, and emotional stress*'.



'College is a place for everyone. For decades, our College has welcomed those from across the world seeking sanctuary from violence, insecurity and persecution. Through the education we provide, our college and our staff offer vital opportunities to these students and, working with our partners, support them to integrate into life in their new communities in Edinburgh and across our region.' Audrey Cumberland, Principal of Edinburgh College reminds us why supporting sanctuary seeking students is important for us all. To access information and assistance for sanctuary seeking students, please visit our [website](#).

Edinburgh College was delighted to be awarded College of Sanctuary status in recognition of the support we provide to refugees and asylum seekers in accessing educational opportunities. To learn more about FE Colleges of Sanctuary, please visit their [website](#).



Supporting Student Transitions in Scotland

A group of us went to Dundee on 29 May to explore how we can understand and support student transitions better, as part of Scotland's Tertiary Enhancement Programme (STEP). Meaningful onboarding process for students was highlighted as key for success at both colleges or universities.



Edinburgh Pride



We joined thousands of marchers at the annual Pride in Edinburgh City Centre on 21 June. Proud to be wearing the Edinburgh College hoodie at the event. (Available for purchase on ECSA's website.) Best of luck to Charlie for starting their university life after the summer. Thankfully, Charlie will continue to co-deliver the 'Understanding Gender Identity' workshop. If you would like more information about the support available for LGBT students, please get in touch.

Supporting Local Partners

Equally as colourful as Pride, Multicultural Family Base (MCFB) held its first fashion show at the National Museum Scotland. Clothes were designed and modelled by their staff and volunteers. Some items are available for purchase at their pop-up shop at St James Quarter from 01 to 07 August 2025.



Welcome to Hoxton for opening a brand new hotel in Edinburgh. Edinburgh College was delighted to offer a range of in-person training prior to their opening; this included 'preventing sexual harassment'. The relaxing décor certainly helped staff to feel more engaged in discussions. For more information about our EDI courses, please contact us.

Cheers to Summer

Edinburgh College held a fun event for staff to catch up with fellow colleagues before the academic year 2024/25 came to a close. We look forward to welcoming new and existing students to a new academic year in August.

