



NOTTINGHAM TRENT STUDENTS' UNION

Impact Report 2026

Version. June 2026

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Welcome

Message from your CEO and President

As a Union representing over 35,000 students, our mission is to empower students to make NTU the best academic and personal experience for themselves and others.

We are proud to present our 2025-26 Impact Report, celebrating the collective efforts of our members, student leaders, volunteers, and staff in creating meaningful change across Nottingham Trent University. This year has demonstrated the power of a truly student-led organisation, where student voice, experience and ambition continue to shape everything we do.

At NTSU, our work is rooted in listening to students and responding with action.

Across the year, students have used our democratic structures, campaigns, and representation systems to influence decisions that directly impact their academic experience, well-being, and sense of belonging. From shaping teaching and assessment through academic representation, to driving institutional change through elections and student-led initiatives, students have not only been heard, but they have also led change.

Supporting students through complex and challenging

situations has remained at the heart of our work. Our Information & Advice Service provided 4,644 pieces of advice across 581 cases, supporting 738 students to navigate academic appeals, misconduct processes, housing challenges, and personal circumstances.

Behind these figures are real outcomes: students are able to continue their studies, achieve fair outcomes, and move forward with confidence during some of the most critical moments of their university journey.

Beyond individual support, we have continued to build communities where students feel connected, included, and able to succeed. Through societies and events, thousands of students have found spaces to belong, develop skills and build lasting relationships.

Participation in societies continues to have a transformative impact, with students reporting stronger well-being, greater satisfaction, and a deeper sense of connection to their university experience.

Our events and venues have played a vital role in bringing students together at scale, delivering over 300 events, and welcoming hundreds of thousands of attendees across the year. These shared experiences, from Freshers to live music, are central to student life.

This year has also been one of reflection and future planning. Through extensive engagement, we have listened to students' experiences and priorities in anticipation of the development of our next strategy.


Alongside this, we developed and approved a new **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy**, strengthening our commitment to ensuring every student feels seen, valued and able to thrive.

The impact outlined in this report is only possible through partnership. We are grateful to our student leaders, staff, volunteers and partners, and Nottingham Trent University for their continued commitment to improving the student experience.

Together, we are building a union that not only supports students when they need it most but empowers them to shape their own futures.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our impact, amplifying student voice, and ensuring every student can thrive at NTU.


Phil Kynaston
NTSU CEO


Libby Sinclair
NTSU President



Our Mission

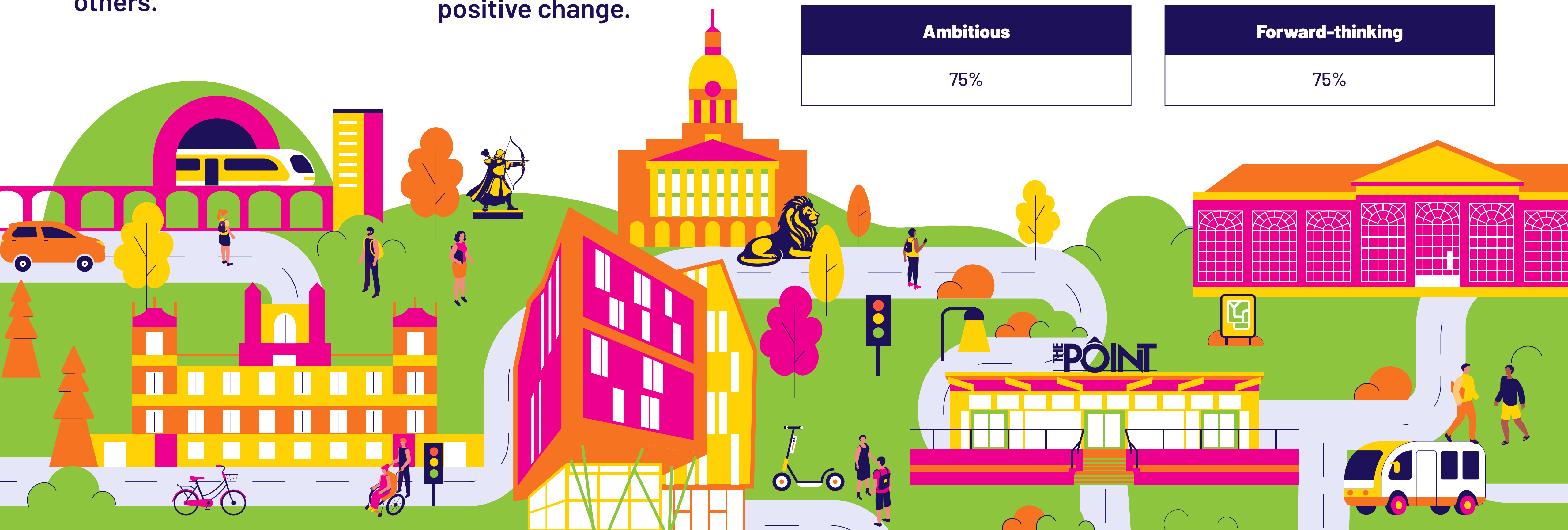
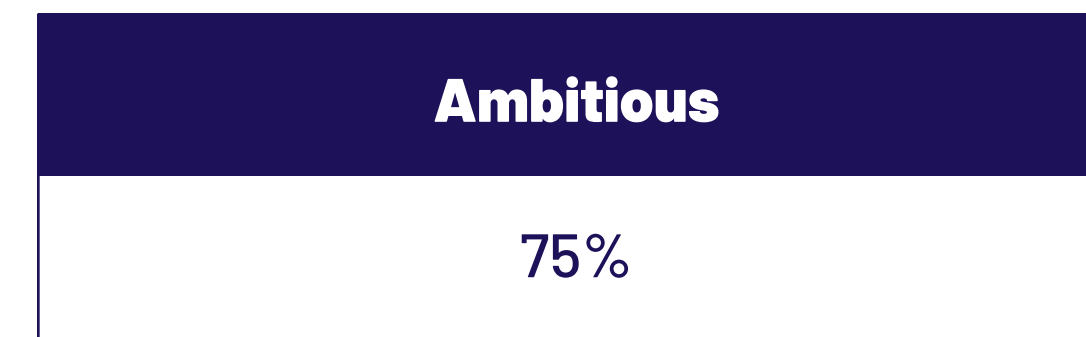
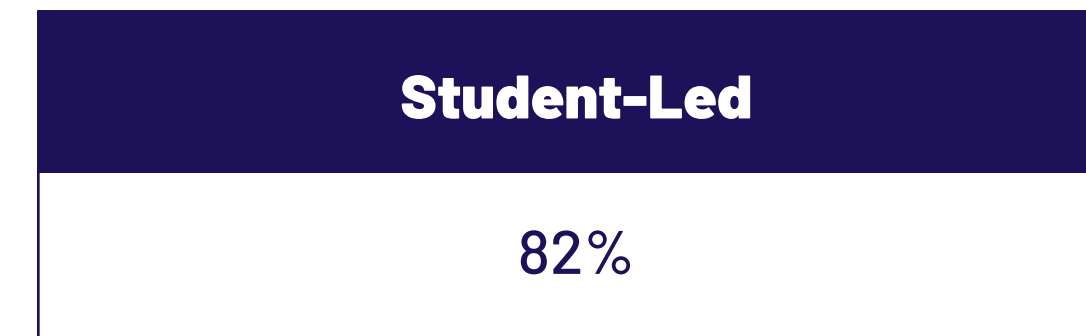
We empower students to make NTU the best academic and personal experience for themselves and others.

Our Vision

Diverse communities of fulfilled students motivated to create positive change.

Our Values

Percentage of students who agree that the student union is...



Building Our New Strategy

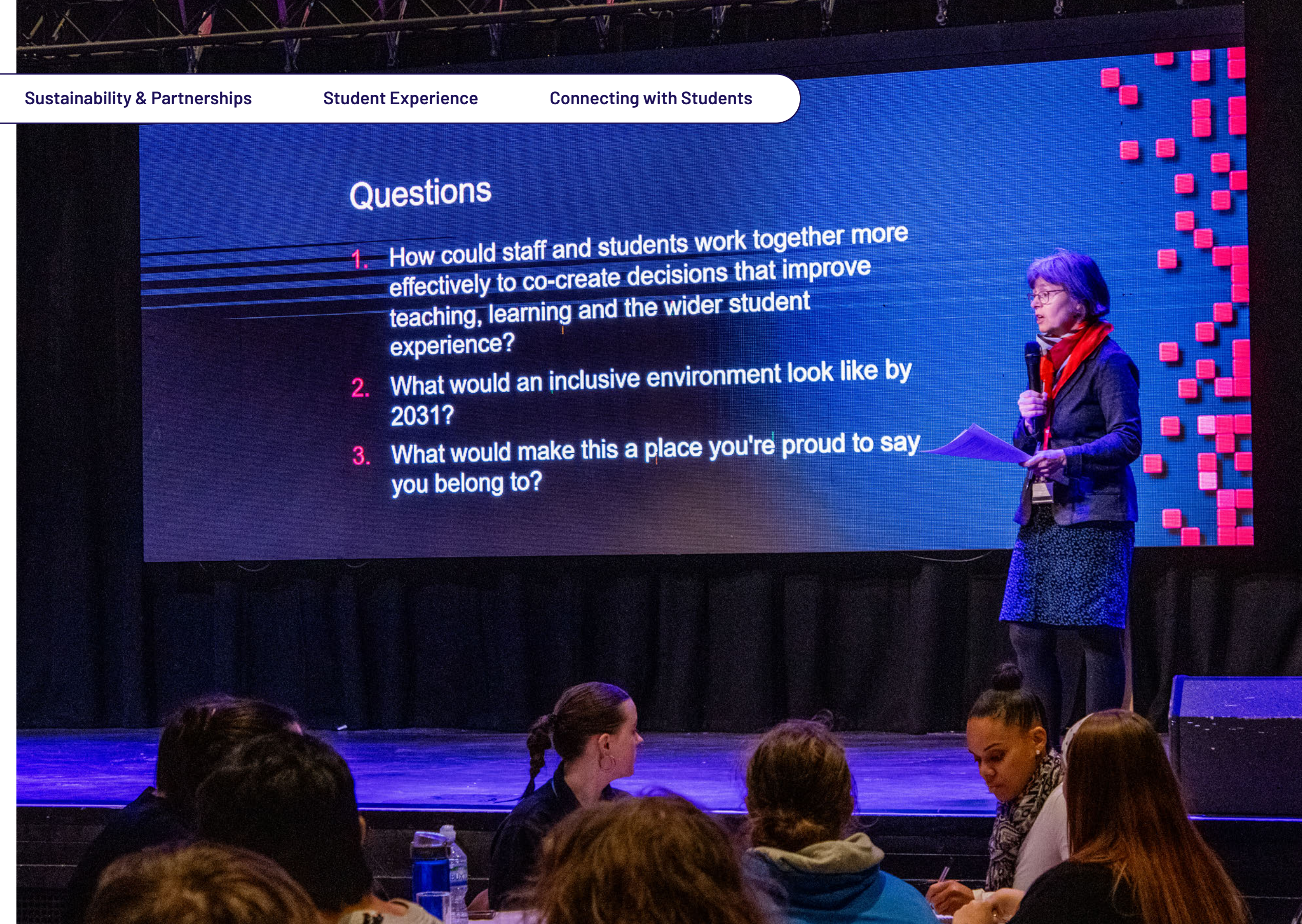
This year, NTSU has been focused on building the foundations for its next five-year strategy (2026–2031), ensuring it is shaped by student experience and aligned with the future direction of Nottingham Trent University.

We have taken a clear and open approach to developing the strategy, with Trustees involved throughout to guide progress. By aligning our timeline with the University’s strategy cycle, we have made the most of student engagement, and ensured student priorities are influencing both NTSU’s plans, and wider institutional thinking.

Over the past six months, work has centred on

listening to students. We are currently in the discovery and insight gathering phase, with engagement including an all-student survey, focus groups across all campuses, direct review of feedback by Executive Officers, and playback sessions with equality, diversity, and inclusion student groups. This has been supported by staff, trustee and sector insight, through workshops and governance discussions.

Clear themes are already emerging. Students consistently highlight belonging, community and care as central to their experience. Representation and advocacy matter deeply, and students are seeking fairness, consistency, and realistic access to opportunities.



Questions

1. How could staff and students work together more effectively to co-create decisions that improve teaching, learning and the wider student experience?
2. What would an inclusive environment look like by 2031?
3. What would make this a place you're proud to say you belong to?

NTSU is seen as a voice, a connector, and a place to build confidence, skills, and community.

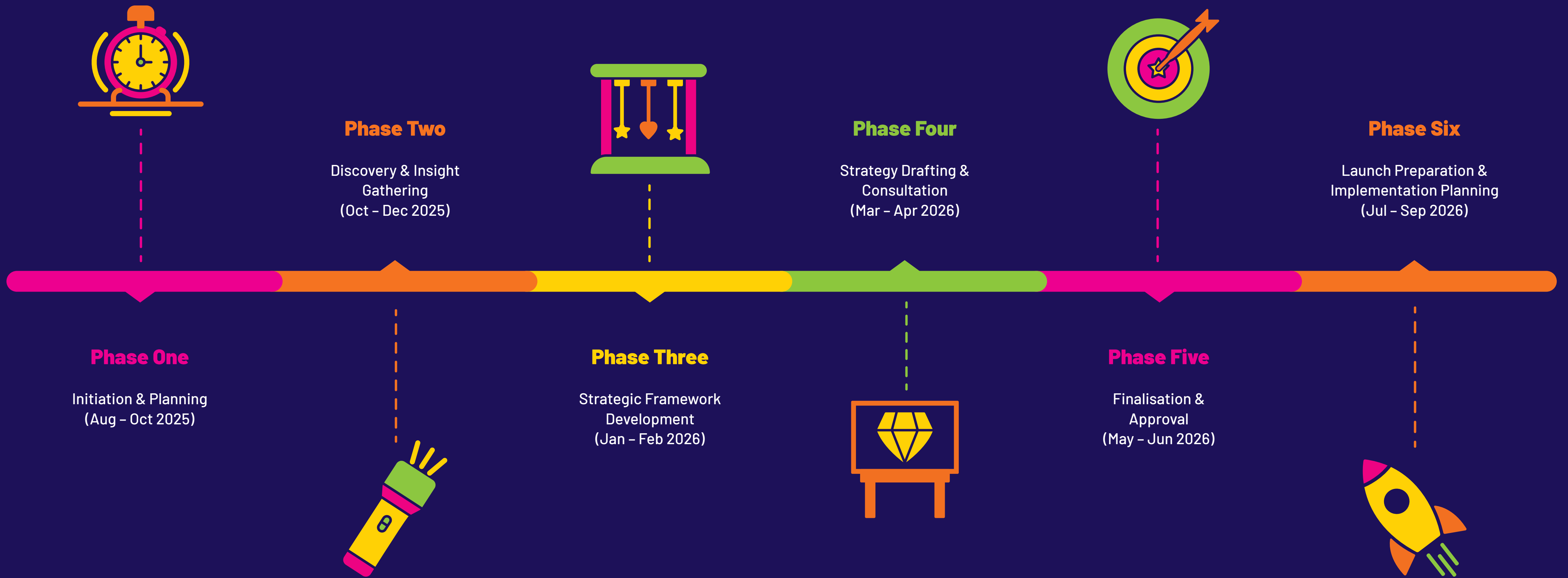
The next stage will focus on drafting and consultation, with the aim of creating a clear, practical strategy that guides decisions and reflects students’ day-to-day experience of NTSU.

How we gathered feedback . . .

600 Strategy Survey Respondents

57 Students Engaged in In-person Strategy Engagement Events

Our Timeline



2025 - 2026 Executive Team

Libby Sinclair | President

Campaigning for more affordable student housing, improved safety, and stronger support services, with a focus on tackling sexual violence and improving night-time safety. Also working to raise awareness of key services, while strengthening representation and ensuring officer accountability.

Mischa Dooley | VP Education

Improving the accessibility and confidentiality of CPCs (formerly NECs) and streamlining the Access Statement process to make support easier to navigate. Also working to raise awareness of student employment opportunities, alongside providing CV and interview support for students approaching graduation.

Ben Parker | VP Opportunities

Working to grow and support societies through incentives, free socials, networking, and skills development opportunities. Also focused on promoting societies, strengthening links with courses, and enabling more collaboration and activity across campuses.



Ryan Turner | VP Postgraduate

Advocating for a stronger postgraduate experience, including improved teaching quality, better housing conditions, and dedicated time for sport. Also focused on increasing awareness of renters' rights, strengthening representation, and enhancing support for postgraduate students.

Joe Cormack | VP Community & Welfare

Championing mental health support, peer-led training, and campaigns that address safety, drug awareness, and stigma across campus. Also working with venues to strengthen safety measures, while continuing key initiatives such as the Emergency Taxi Scheme and Ask for Angela, alongside improving academic support and overall well-being.

Jasmyn Smith | VP Sport

Continuing support for the Sports Activities Fund, while improving promotion of fixtures and participation sessions. Also enhancing committee training and engagement, and encouraging stronger collaboration between sports clubs and societies through networking and shared activities.

Student Voice

Student Voice Is At The Heart Of Everything Here At NTSU

At a glance ...



5,893
Total Voter Turnout
in Our Elections



16
School Officers
Recruited

683
Undergraduate
Course Reps Recruited

188
Postgraduate
Course Reps Recruited

23
Submissions To
'Make a Change'

396
Students
Attended Our
Union Meetings
Throughout This
Year

96%
Felt Confident
Responding To A
Disclosure After The
Consent Workshop

79%
Students Felt The
Students' Union
Represents Their
Academic Interests
Well



518
Nominations at our
Student-Led
Teaching Awards

6,281
First-year Students
Attended Consent Workshops

Trent Elections

For many students, standing in an election can feel daunting, especially if they do not see themselves reflected in traditional leadership spaces. This year, students told us they wanted more support and confidence building opportunities, and a process that felt accessible from the outset.

In response, NTSU re-imagined its elections through a new brand: Trent Elections. Designed to align closely

with the wider NTSU identity, the rebrand aimed to clarify the process and build familiarity year on year. Alongside this, we introduced Candidate Development Week, offering eight tailored sessions to support students before campaigning even began.

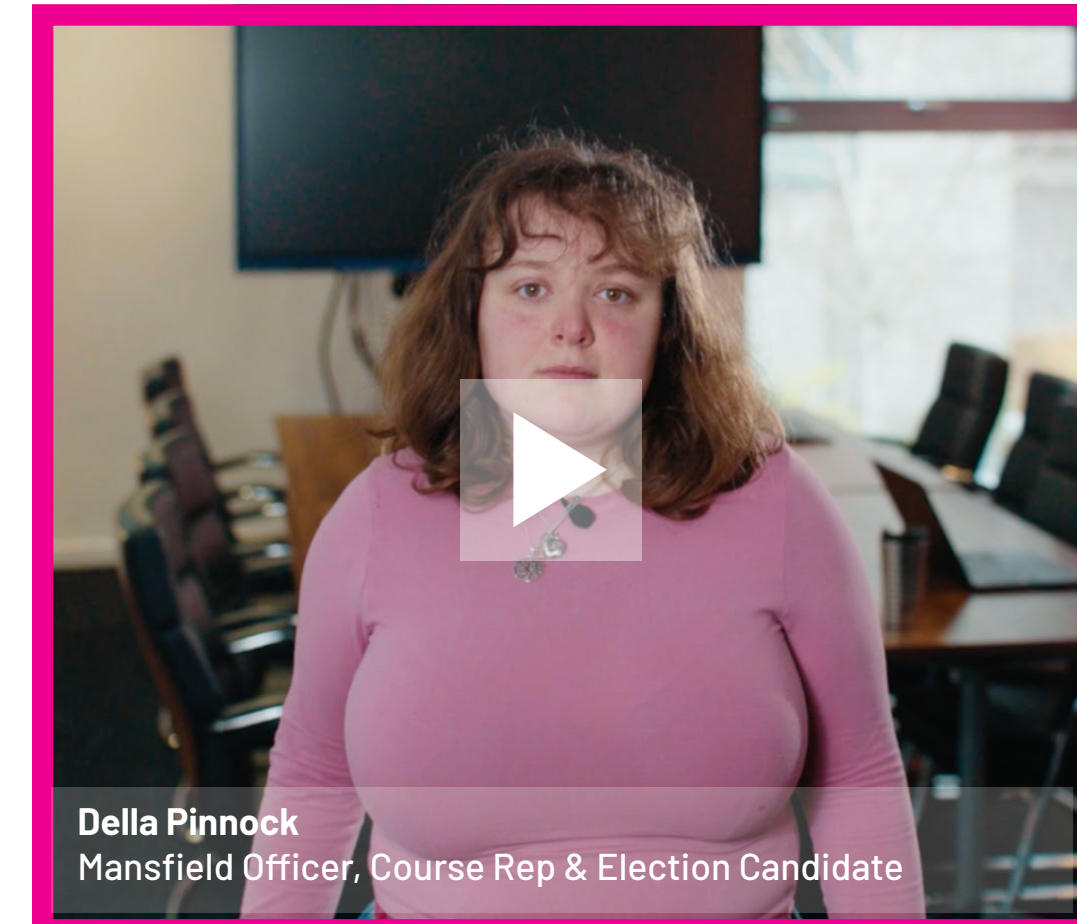
Election rallies were also introduced, intentionally reaching students beyond traditional engagement spaces, and encouraging a wider range of voices to get involved. Together, these changes helped increase turnout.

How Did Our Elections Go . . .

31 Approved Nominations

20 Final Candidates

5,893 Total Voter Turnout



Della Pinnock
Mansfield Officer, Course Rep & Election Candidate

“NTSU has had an impact on me personally because it’s made me about 10 times more confident than I was before I started.”



Democracy in Action

Student led democratic change continued throughout the year, with students playing a key role in reshaping how NTSU makes decisions.

Following extensive consultation, surveys and focus groups, students voted in favour of new byelaws

in April 2025, streamlining democratic processes and improving accessibility. This was followed by a second historic vote in November 2025, where 223 students attended Union Meeting to approve a new Officer structure, introducing paid School Officers and Campus Officer representative roles from 2026.

These changes reflect a shared ambition:

to ensure that student voice is representative, supported, and able to influence decision making more effectively.

Make A Change

Make a Change gives students a direct route to turn ideas into action.

By submitting proposals and gaining support from their peers, students can trigger quick wins, longer term campaigns, or collaborative work with the University.

The updated system also gives students a platform to share their ideas with decision makers, either through action or select committees, on any issues affecting their student experience.

This year, students used the platform to push for improvements that reflect lived experiences.

These included the creation of a dedicated Liberation, Equality, Diversity, & Inclusion (LEDI) Group for international students, progress towards disability representation on course committees, and environmental projects such as a proposed wildflower meadow at Brackenhurst.

23 Submissions

5 Ideas Passed

403 Online Votes



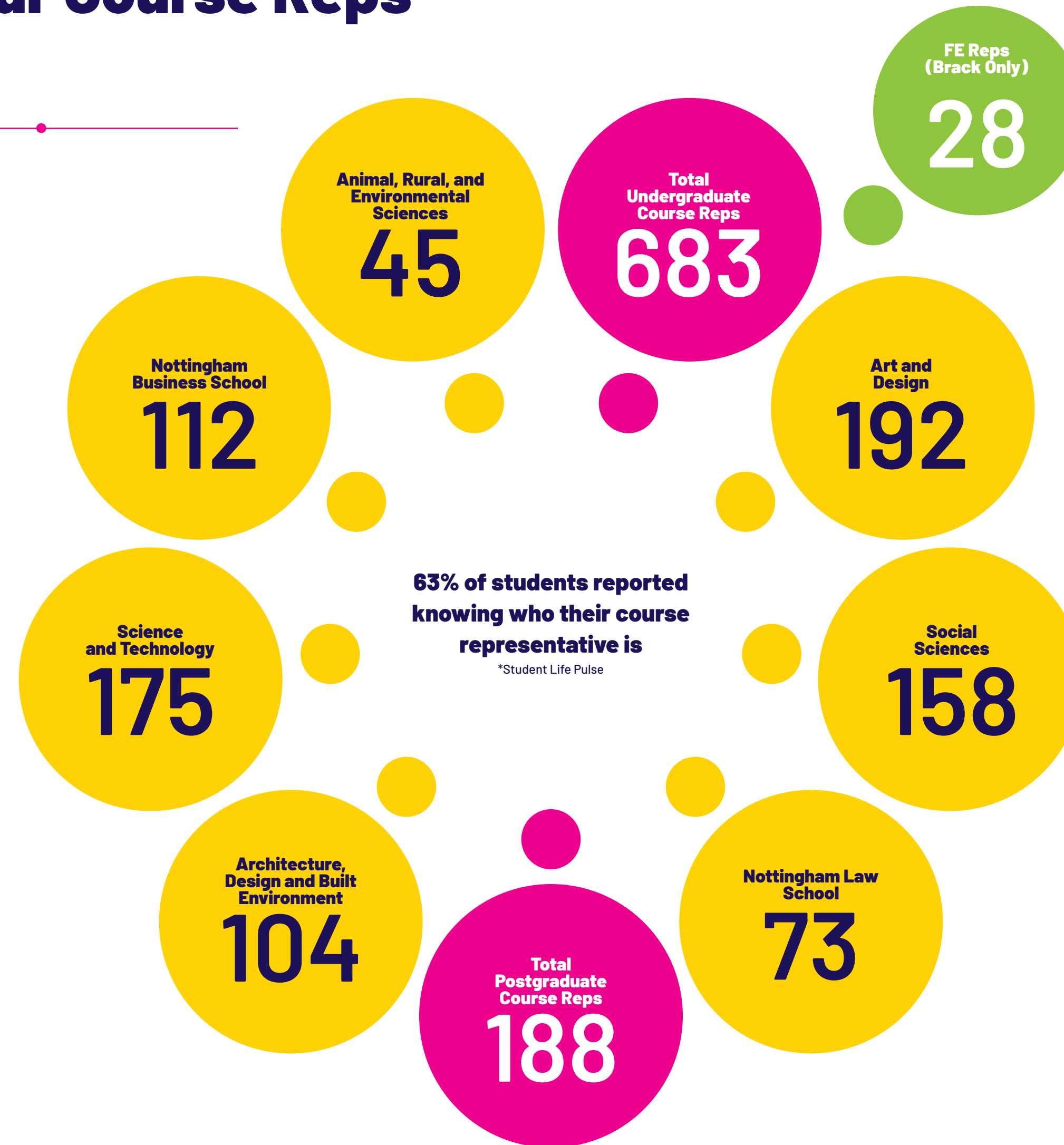
Academic Representation

Across NTU, student Academic Representatives continued to play a vital role in shaping the academic experience.

From assessment formats and feedback, to the use of artificial intelligence in teaching, Course Reps ensured that student perspectives were consistently raised at Course and School level.

Reps were supported by School Officers, who contributed strategically beyond their courses: hosting events, feeding into policy development, and short-listing staff for the Student Led Teaching Awards. Together, this structure ensures student feedback does not just get heard, but is actioned.

Our Course Reps



School Officers

16 Total School Officers

9 Undergraduate Officers

7 Postgraduate Officers



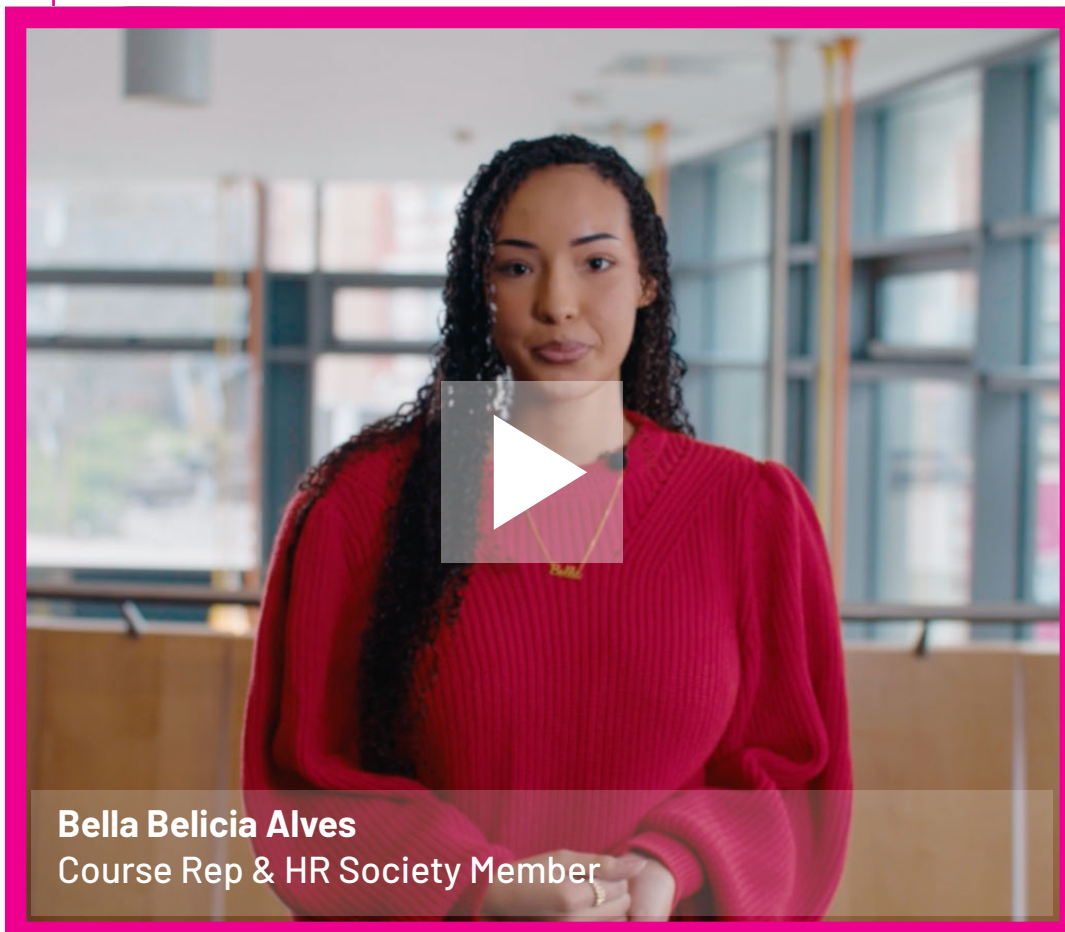
“Being a Course Rep has been a huge stepping stone in my professional career. I’ve been the president of the HR Society for the past three years, and I initially took on the role to develop my leadership skills.”



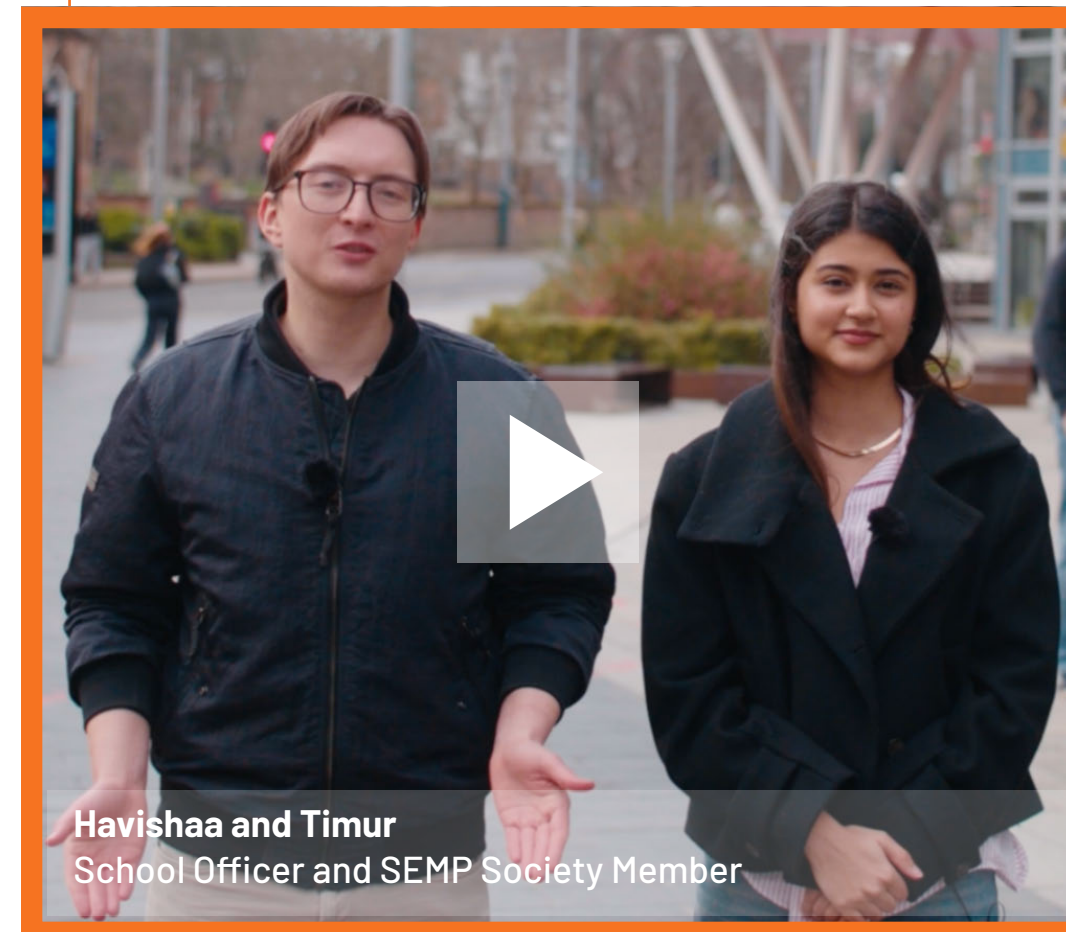
George Rawson-Sensecall
School Officer, Course Rep, Agricultural Society Member

“Being able to speak to all these different people about their concerns, about the concerns of their peers, and the people they’re also responsible for, has allowed me to see Brack from a holistic point of view.”

“I love how NTSU is always doing different initiatives to make students come together and create that sense of a well-being community. I’ve really learned a lot of things from being an NTSU School Officer.”



Bella Belicia Alves
Course Rep & HR Society Member



Havishaa and Timur
School Officer and SEMP Society Member





Student-Led Teaching Awards

Students continued to champion excellence in teaching through the Student Led Teaching Awards, recognising staff who had made a meaningful difference to their learning experience.

Students nominated staff across all seven academic schools for pastoral support, support staff, commitment to inclusion, commitment to sustainability, teaching staff, research supervisor for

doctoral candidates, PhD student who teaches, and dissertation supervisors.

Nominations offered students a powerful way to reflect on the impact of supportive teaching, inclusive practice, and inspirational learning environments.

518 Nominations

42 Shortlisted Staff

Black History Month

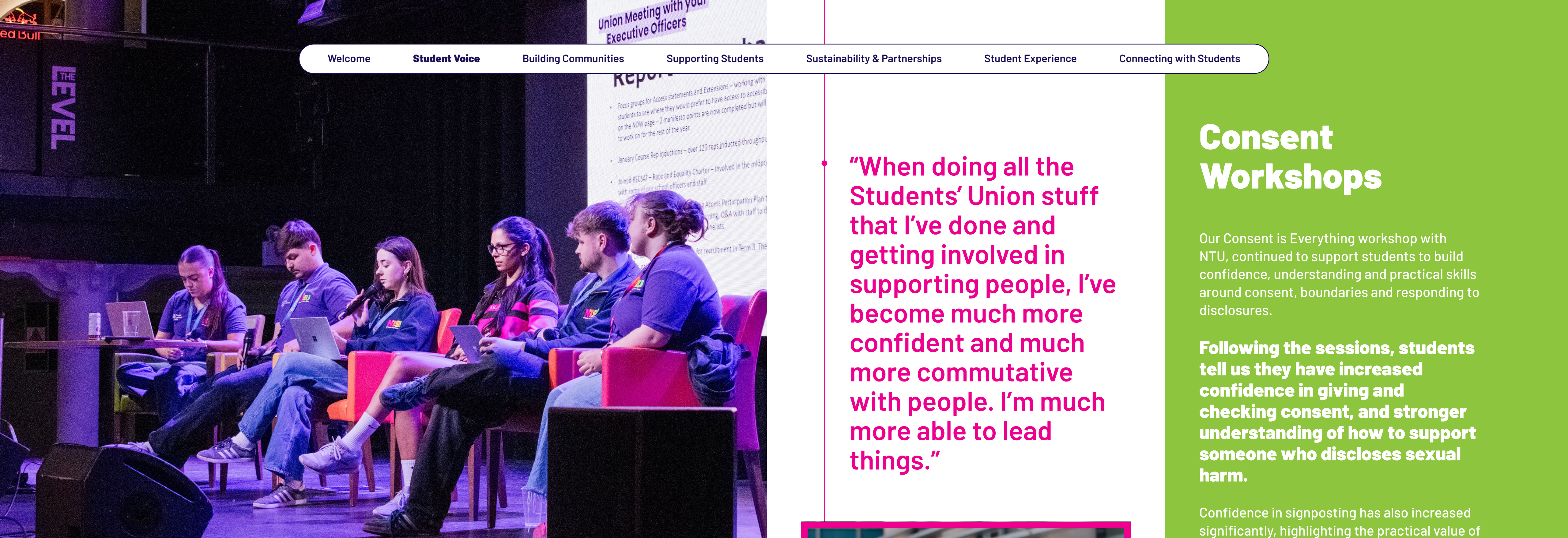
In October 2025, students experienced a Black History Month programme rooted in celebration, reflection, and community.

Across NTSU venues, students were able to learn about prolific Black figures

through interactive displays, while online content highlighted events taking place across Nottinghamshire. Bring Back Your Curls celebrated the legacy and resilience of Black hair, while collaborations with the Global Lounge and a local Black owned business brought 70 students together for food, film, and conversation.

These moments created visible, shared spaces for connection and learning, shaped with, and for, students.





Union Meetings

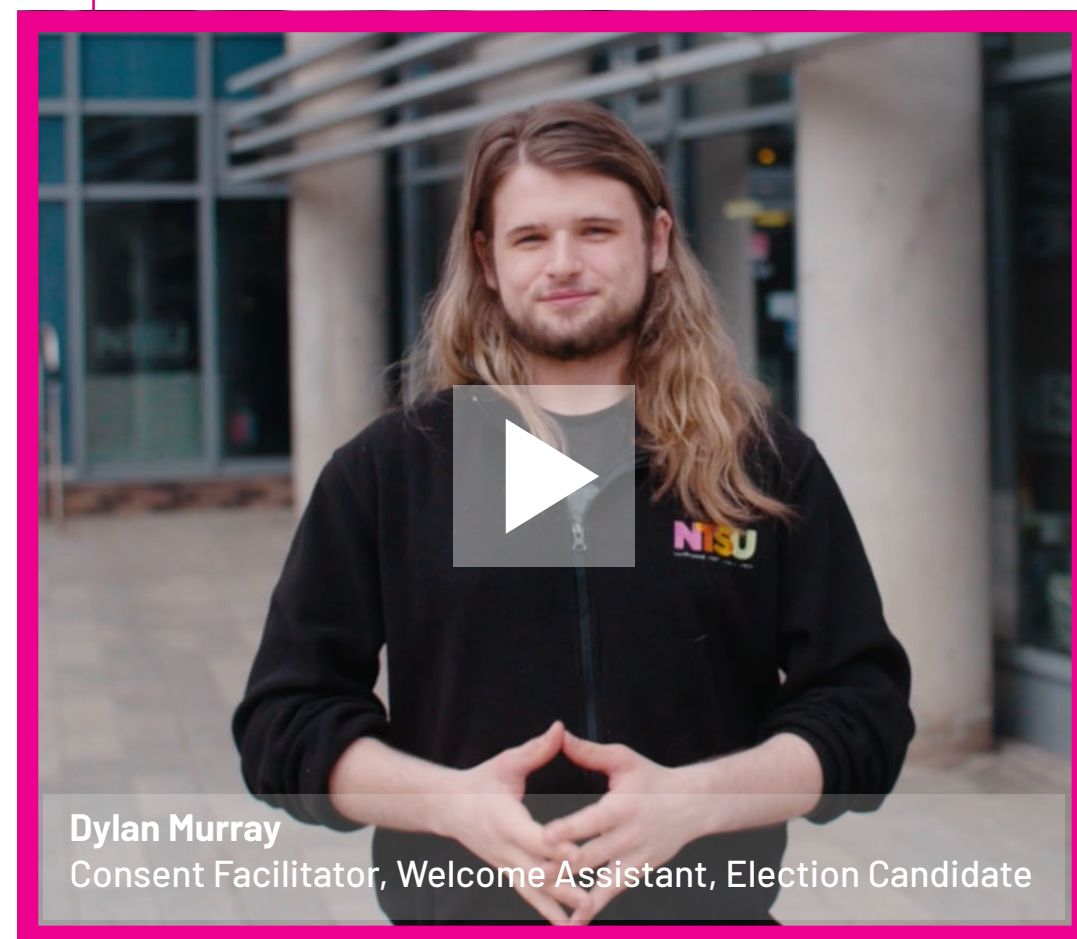
To strengthen meaningful dialogue, NTSU refreshed the format of Union Meetings this year.

Moving away from a purely Q&A model, to one focused on conversation, collective problem-solving and follow-up, gave students and officers space to engage more constructively on issues raised.

This shift helped ensure that student contributions led to clearer action and ongoing engagement, rather than one-off exchanges.

396 Students Attended Union Meetings

“When doing all the Students’ Union stuff that I’ve done and getting involved in supporting people, I’ve become much more confident and much more commutative with people. I’m much more able to lead things.”



Dylan Murray
Consent Facilitator, Welcome Assistant, Election Candidate

Consent Workshops

Our Consent is Everything workshop with NTU, continued to support students to build confidence, understanding and practical skills around consent, boundaries and responding to disclosures.

Following the sessions, students tell us they have increased confidence in giving and checking consent, and stronger understanding of how to support someone who discloses sexual harm.

Confidence in signposting has also increased significantly, highlighting the practical value of the workshops beyond the session itself.

Together, this demonstrates the continued importance of Consent is Everything as a student-centred programme, that contributes to safer campus communities.

6,281 First-Year Students Attended

71 Trained Volunteers

Nottingham Pride

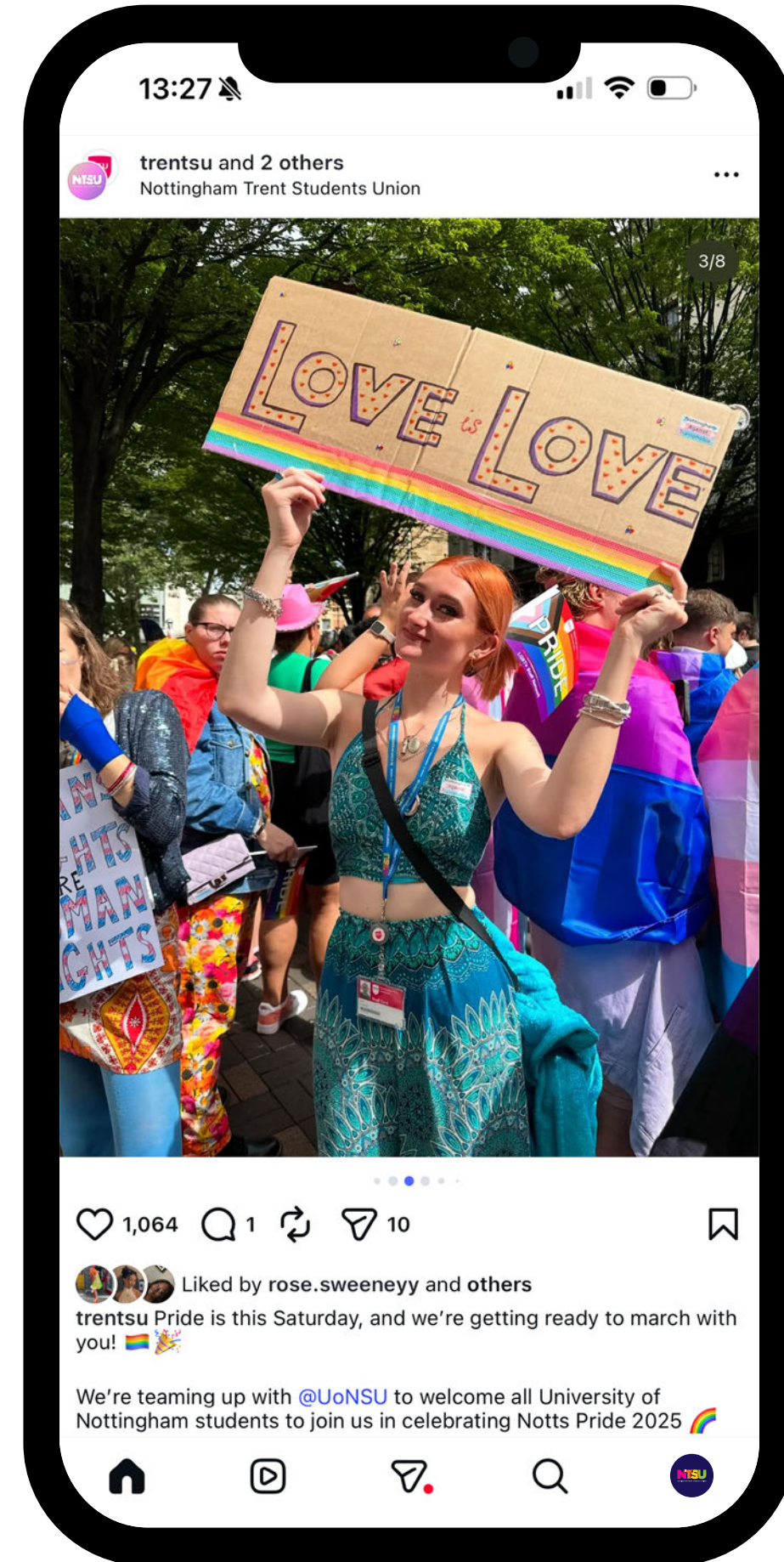
In 2025, we strengthened our commitment to building a visible and inclusive LGBTQIA+ community through an expanded Pride programme delivered in partnership with Nottingham Trent University and the University of Nottingham Students' Union.

Student-focused content encouraged students, staff and allies to take part in both the Nottingham Pride Walk and the Trans Pride Walk.

Participation increased across both events, supported by safe and welcoming meet-up points where students could come together before marching.

We also highlighted LGBTQIA+ friendly businesses across Nottingham, helping students identify inclusive spaces beyond campus.

This work was extended through an LGBTQIA+ History Month campaign, celebrating historic LGBTQIA+ figures, and promoting cultural events across Nottingham that brought students together.



Pride 2025 Instagram Post
93.5K views (most viewed post)



Celebrating Women

Students helped highlight the contributions of women across NTSU this year, creating space for voices and experiences to be recognised.

During Women's History Month, a content-led campaign featured a series of 9 profile-style articles spotlighting female identifying students and staff. These stories shared lived experience, leadership and contribution, offering visible recognition to individuals whose voices are not always heard.

By amplifying authentic stories, the campaign supported representation in a way students could relate to, with strong engagement and widespread sharing across societies, and the University community.

Alongside this, the NTSU Women's Network continued to create opportunities for staff to connect and develop. This included the introduction of a book club, encouraging new conversations beyond regular meetings, and going to events such as a talk by writer and comedian Rachel Parris, reflecting on a modern retelling of Pride and Prejudice. Members also engaged in wider professional development through an online conference, including sessions such as Fearn Cotton's discussion on confidence and overcoming people-pleasing.

The network has also been developing a staff survey to assess awareness of policies relating to menstruation and menopause. The findings will help identify where further clarity and support may be needed across the organisation.

Postgraduate Students and Interdisciplinary Conference

NTSU creates spaces for PhD students to connect, share, and learn from one another through an interdisciplinary postgraduate research conference.

The conference gave PhD students the opportunity to present their research in a supportive environment, whether they were sharing early ideas or more developed findings. Five of NTU's eight doctoral schools were represented, creating a diverse and genuinely cross disciplinary audience.

For many students, the conference offered more than presentation practice. It created space for meaningful discussion, peer feedback, and networking, helping to strengthen the wider NTU doctoral community. By sharing work, exchanging perspectives, and building connections beyond their own schools, postgraduate researchers were able to develop confidence, communication skills, and a stronger sense of belonging within the research community.



Neurodivergent Society Reel

8,912 views

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

As part of our commitment to inclusive communities, NTSU marked Neurodiversity Celebration Week by celebrating and supporting its neurodivergent members.

In collaboration with NTU Arts, the week included a tile-painting session, offering students a creative and accessible way to engage.

Alongside this, an Instagram reel was produced to highlight the Neurodivergent Society, filmed during an event where members shared short presentations on their individual interests.

Committee members described the society as a safe and inclusive space, emphasising its importance in fostering belonging.

The society also delivered a range of activities throughout the week, including a body-doubling study session to support focus, and a sensory-friendly cinema trip, providing opportunities for students to connect in ways that suit their needs.

Building an Inclusive Future

Students have been central to shaping NTSU's work on equality, diversity and inclusion this year.

Between April and December 2025, students, alongside staff and university partners, helped inform the development and approval of a new EDI strategy designed to reflect the lived experiences of our diverse student community.

Through consultation, workshops and targeted engagement with students from underrepresented groups, this work focused on listening to real experiences and understanding where barriers exist.

This approach ensured the strategy is grounded in genuine student need, rather than assumptions, and shaped directly by the voices of those it aims to support.

Our Three Commitments

1

To cultivate an inclusive environment that reflects and celebrates the diversity of our community

2

To actively listen to and work alongside people with lived experience, using their insight and data to shape what we do

3

To embed EDI across all areas of NTSU's work, going beyond the basics and encouraging bold, forward-thinking approaches that drive positive change

This strategy provides a strong foundation for the future, with its principles directly informing NTSU's wider strategy development. By embedding equality, diversity and inclusion as a core organisational priority, NTSU is ensuring inclusion is not treated as a standalone initiative, but as a consistent thread running through all areas of work.

Together, this approach supports the continued development of a Students' Union that reflects its members, removes barriers to participation, and creates equitable opportunities for all students to thrive.



Building Communities

How Our Students Found Connection, Belonging And Community

At a glance ...



Trent Freshers

Each year, NTSU welcomes thousands of new students starting their journey at Nottingham Trent University. For many, this is their first time living away from home, meeting new people, and finding their place in a new city. Trent Freshers is designed to support students through this transition, helping them settle in, meet others, and begin building friendships from the moment they arrive.

Trent Freshers is now one of the largest Freshers programmes in the UK, offering more than 30 events in venues across campus and throughout Nottingham.

Alongside large-scale social events, the programme includes smaller and more relaxed activities, giving students different ways to get involved based on their interests and confidence.

Our Fresher passes give students access to a range of Freshers events at a reduced cost, helping make the programme more accessible while giving students flexibility over how they take part.

Consistent year-on-year growth in Freshers Pass sales reflects strong student demand and engagement with the programme.



Activity Nights and Games

- Bingo Bedlam
- Crazy Golf
- Trentival
- Quids In
- The Clifton Social
- Drag Bingo



Chilled Socials

- Speed Mates
- Retro Games Night
- TGIF
- Big Freshers Quiz
- Comedy Nights
- Outdoor Cinema



Club Nights

- District
- Trent Army
- 360
- Ocean
- Silent Disco
- Zoo Party



Freshers Team

The Trent Freshers Team continued to play an important role in supporting new students as they settled into university life.

This year, we received 403 applications for 185 roles across City, Clifton and Brackenhurst, allowing us to take a more selective approach and introduce a waiting list.

The Freshers Team supported students throughout the week, from helping them move in and find their way around, to creating opportunities to meet others and feel safe during events and nights out. This ensured strong coverage across the programme and consistent support for students throughout Freshers.

Creating Student Communities Early

Through dedicated halls WhatsApp groups, students can connect with future flatmates, ask questions, and begin forming friendships ahead of moving to Nottingham.

2.5k+ New students joined Freshers Whatsapp community

92% Of students would recommend NTSU Freshers Week events

*Student Life Pulse



“It’s a great experience and one of the best weeks I’ve had. You’ll meet so many people, make so many friends and it’s definitely an experience worth being a part of.”

Lucy Lealan
Trent Freshers 2025



Popular Events

Speed Mates

An interactive event designed to help students meet new people

Trent Army

A returning favourite within the Freshers programme

Freshers Ball

The finale of Trent Freshers featuring headline artists

These activities help new students feel welcome, supported, and part of the NTU community.





Freshers Fairs

Freshers' Fairs have continued to grow year on year, playing a key role in welcoming students to NTSU.

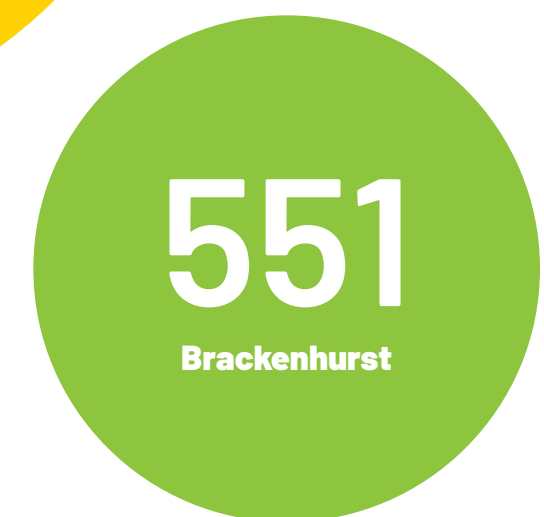
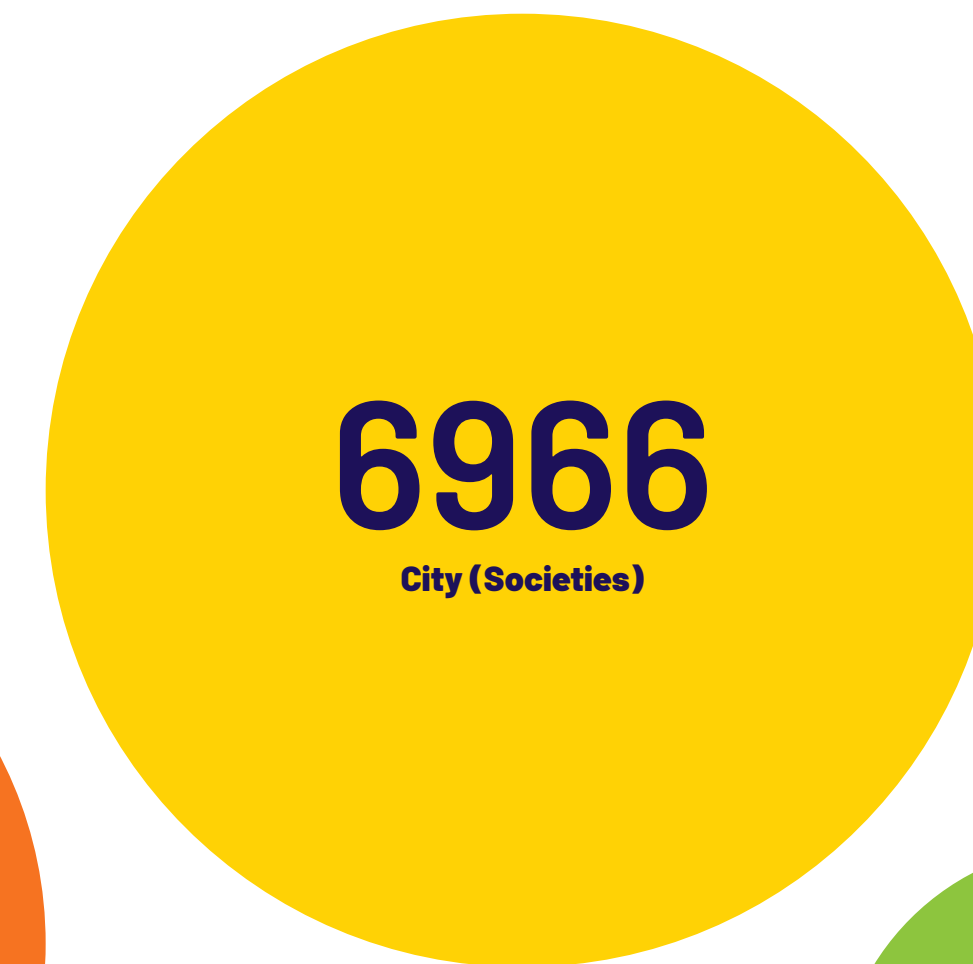
This year we saw over 16,000 students attend the Fairs across City, Clifton and Brackenhurst, a record number over the past 5 years.

The City Societies Fair was rated the most satisfying part of Freshers' Week, highlighting the importance of early opportunities to get involved and meet others.

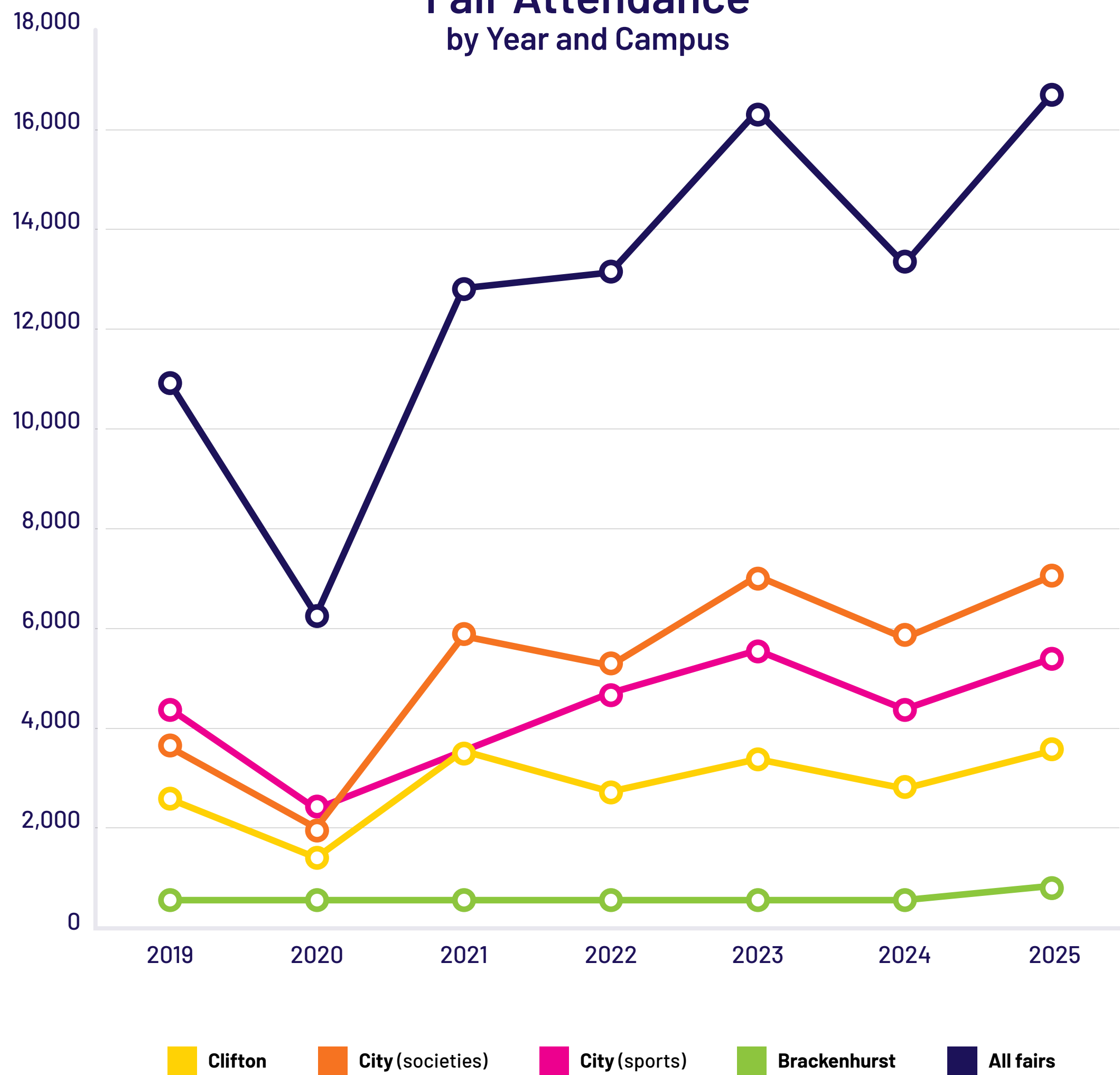
Alongside this, several student-led, community focused events supported students from under-represented groups to find welcoming and inclusive spaces in their first few days at university.

£83,005

Freshers Fair Revenue



Fair Attendance by Year and Campus



Year-on-Year Attendance at Fairs

This strong start to the year sets the tone for our wider events programme, which continues to provide opportunities for students to connect, get involved, and build their community throughout the year.

“Freshers’ Fair is the best place to explore NTSU’s diverse societies. New students can meet like-minded people or discover new hobbies, while society leaders have the opportunity to network with peers.”

Benedict Parker
VP Opportunities 2025 - 26



Societies

Societies continue to be a key part of student life at NTSU, bringing students together around shared interests and creating opportunities to connect, get involved, and build community beyond the classroom.

This year saw continued growth across our societies, with increasing participation, strong engagement from committee members, and a wide range of student led activity taking place throughout the year.

179 Societies
(incl. 57 new societies)

8,306 Society
Members

12.9k Memberships
Sold

£28k+ Funding
Allocated

Students involved in societies consistently tell us they have a more positive university experience.

Many report improved social lives, stronger well-being, and greater connection to others.

Students in societies are also more likely to feel a sense of belonging, to be satisfied with their experience at NTSU, and to feel they are getting the social experience they want from university.

70%

More likely to say we have a positive impact on their social lives

19%

More likely to say we have a positive impact on building communities

33%

More likely to say the SU has a positive impact on wellbeing

*Student Life Pulse





Supporting Societies

NTSU continues to support societies through funding, guidance, and development opportunities, helping groups to grow, deliver activity, and create inclusive spaces for students.

Societies remain central to helping students connect, develop, and make the most of their time at university.

38%

More likely to feel a sense of belonging

44%

More likely to be satisfied with the SU

31%

More likely to say I am getting the social experience I want from university life

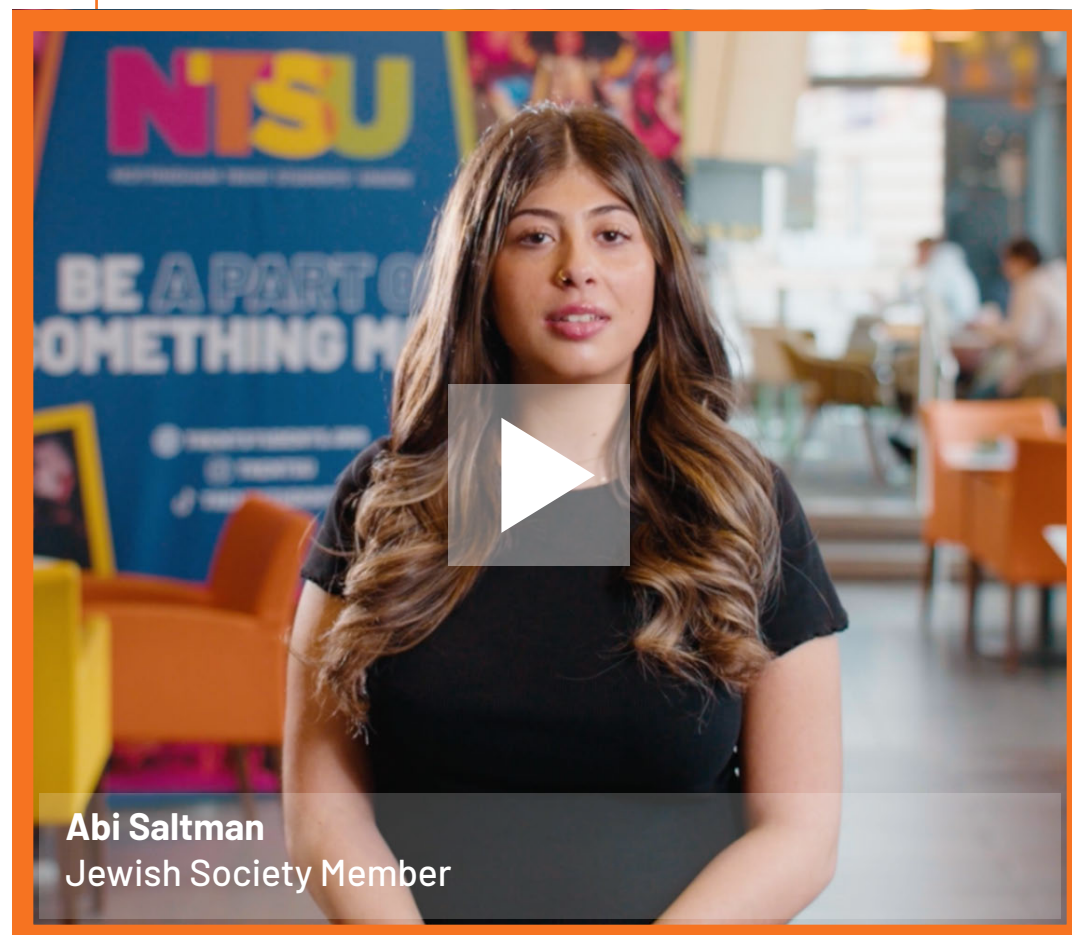
*Student Life Pulse



Society Highlights

Alongside the wider growth in society engagement this year, our 179 societies (and counting) delivered activities that strengthen community connections, enhance the student experience, and showcase the value of student-led initiatives across our campuses.

“Being part of this society has really opened my eyes to all the new experiences.”



Abi Saltman
Jewish Society Member

Creating Inclusive Spaces

The Neurodivergent Society continued to provide supportive, low-pressure environments through regular socials, creative sessions and body doubling study events. This work helped students build confidence, connection and a sense of safety in spaces designed around their needs.

The Knit and Crochet Society offered calm and welcoming sessions where students could learn new skills, support one another, and take part in charity projects. Activities such as creating items for local services gave students accessible opportunities to build friendships while giving back to the community.

Enhancing Academic Communities & Skills

The AI and Robotics Society demonstrated how academic societies can provide hands-on learning opportunities through workshops, collaborative projects, and a well received Welcome Week taster session, supporting both skill development and peer connection.

The Psychology Society combined academic engagement with inclusive, low-cost social activities. Feedback sessions, staff student mixers, charity fundraising, and well-being focused events supported both academic belonging and wider student connection.

Supporting Faith & Culture Communities

Faith and culture societies continued to provide important spaces for connection and identity. The Islamic Society delivered a university wide Ramadan programme, supporting students to break fasts together and celebrate Eid. A large Iftar event welcomed students from across NTU, and created opportunities for cultural exchange.

The Tamil Society hosted a well attended Pongal Celebration, welcoming 120+ students into a shared space of tradition, food, and community. The City Christian Union delivered its best attended Christmas Carol Service, bringing students and staff together for music, readings, and reflection during a busy time of year.

Connecting Students Beyond Campus

The Trent Hiking Society offered accessible outdoor experiences that supported wellbeing and community. A residential hike up Mount Snowdon brought together students from different backgrounds and year groups in a shared and supportive environment.

The Help in the Community Society continued its outreach work through regular soup runs and volunteering, supporting people experiencing homelessness in Nottingham, and enabling students to contribute meaningfully to the local community.



Samuel Brownlow
Christian Union Member

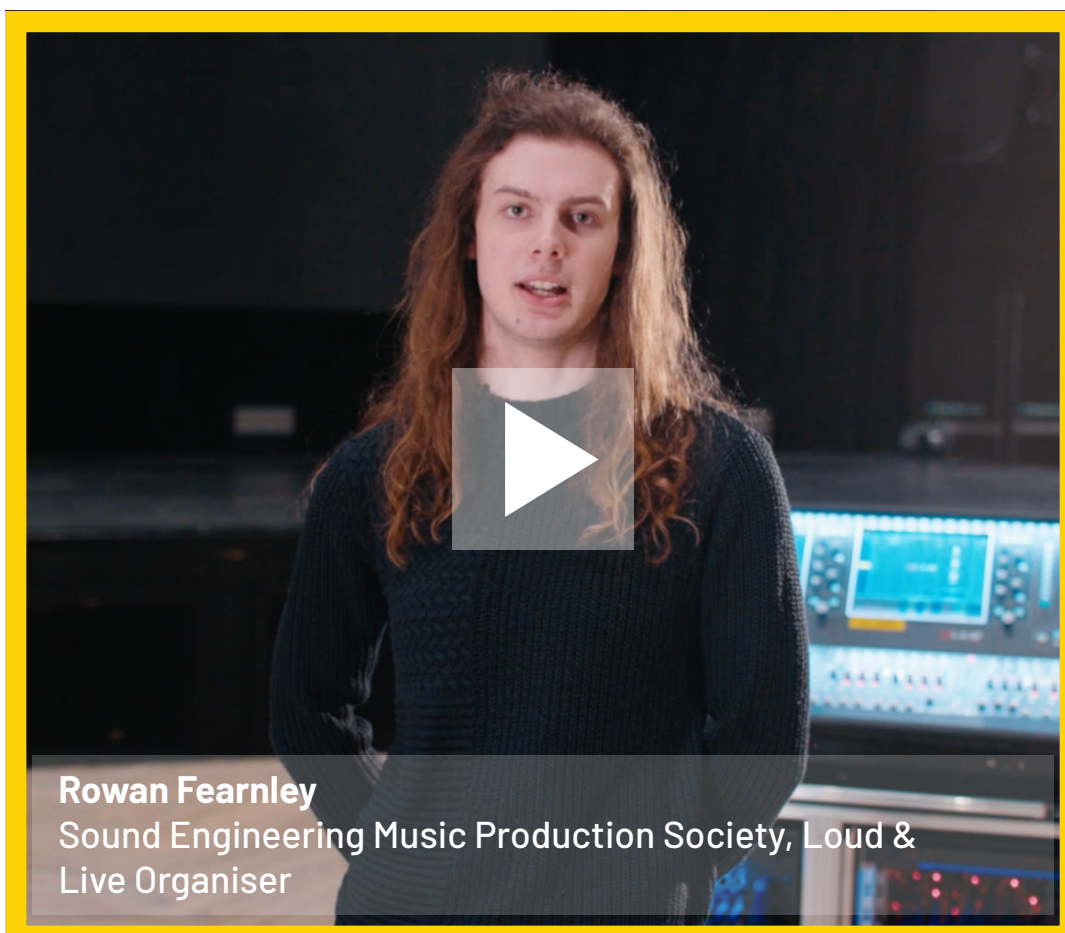
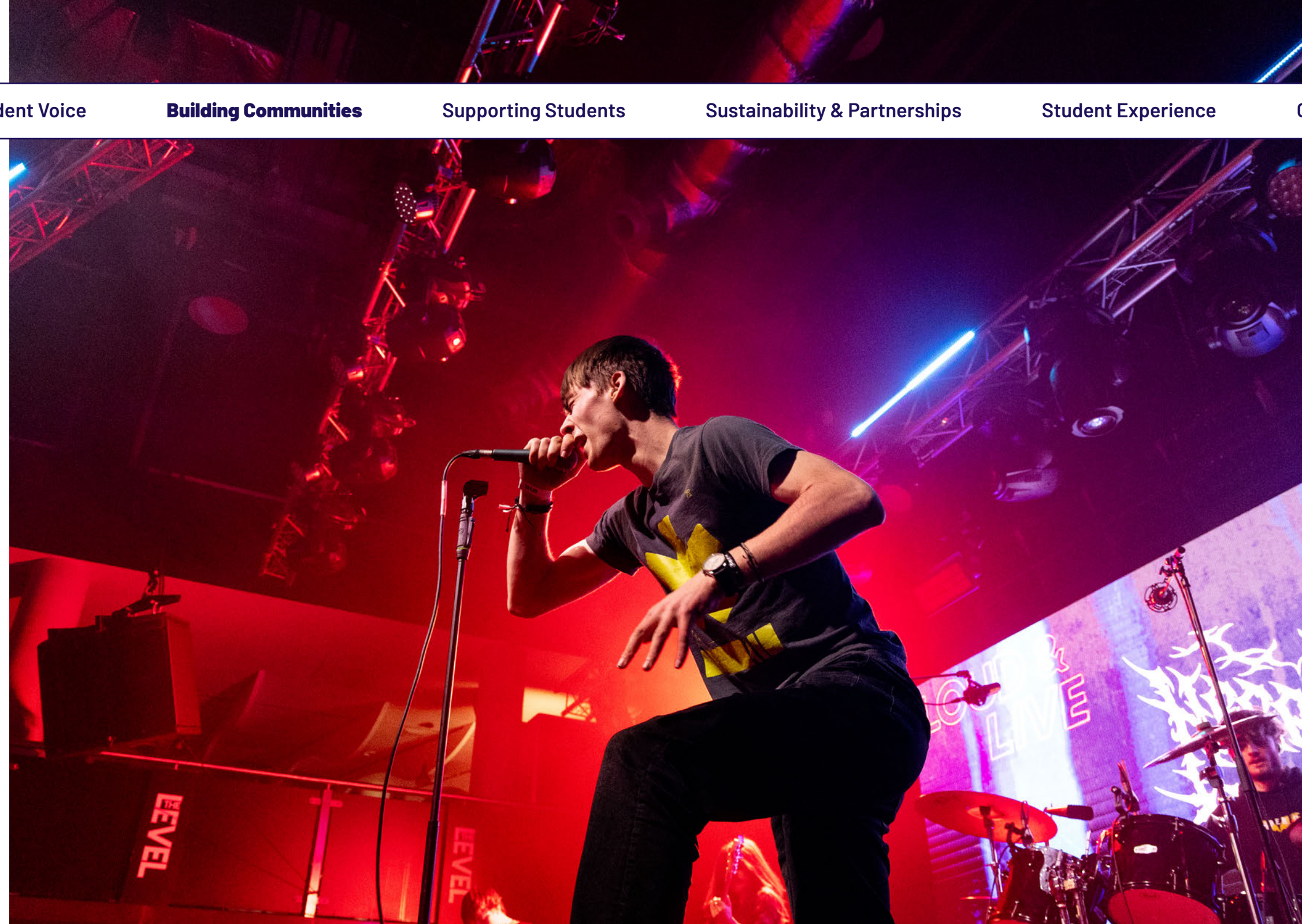
“It’s given me great opportunities to expand my own skill set, meet with other working professionals and be supported by our Students Union.”

Loud and Live: Battle of the Bands

Loud & Live, a student led Battle of the Bands delivered by the Sound Engineering and Music Production Society, brought together over 100 students from NTU and the University of Nottingham.

Students led the event from concept through to a finale at The Level, creating a platform for emerging musicians to perform and share their work.

With support from NTSU across planning, promotion and delivery, students were able to deliver a high-quality event in a professional venue environment.



Rowan Fearnley
Sound Engineering Music Production Society, Loud & Live Organiser



Give it a Go

Our Give It A Go (GIAG) programme has continued to support strong student engagement this year, offering a wide range of accessible and affordable activities for students to try.

From trips to York and Alton Towers, to more relaxed sessions such as bracelet making, sip and paint, and movie nights, GIAG provides opportunities for students to get involved in new experiences at a low cost and minimal commitment.

The programme is designed to help students meet others, try something new, and explore new interests in a welcoming environment.

GIAG continues to play an important role in supporting students to build connections, develop new skills, and discover new hobbies during their time at university.

4.8 ★ Average Rating

52 Activities Held

8 Trips

831 Attendees at Give it a Go Events

Membership Events

Alongside societies and GIAG, students delivered a wide range of one-off and large-scale events that supported creativity, identity, and skills development.

Performance events such as Funky Fresh and K-Pop Dance Showcases gave student groups the opportunity to perform to live audiences, and showcase skills developed through regular practice and competition. Identity focused activity, including the Queer Creators Fair, supported students to share creative work, run small businesses, and connect with local communities.

Large scale productions, including drama performances and Battle of the Bands, allowed students to work on professional stages using industry standard equipment and technical support.

Students involved gained practical experience in areas such as project planning, budgeting, leadership and technical production, supporting confidence building and employability.



Rhys Thomas
Psychology Society Member, NTSU Welcome Assistant

Global Week

Through Global Week, students and societies celebrated cultural diversity across NTU.

Stalls, activities, and performances created opportunities for students to share traditions and experiences, while a student panel moderated by the Vice President Postgraduate amplified international student voices.



Brackfest and Brack Markets

At Brackenhurst, student voice was brought to life through shared campus experiences.

Brackfest, now in its seventh year, returned in May 2025 with live music, outdoor activities, and local stalls, bringing students together in a relaxed, community led setting.

This was later followed by the popular Brack Christmas Market, alongside smaller monthly markets throughout the year, creating regular opportunities for students to connect and engage beyond the classroom.





Trent's Got Talent

Trent's Got Talent returned in November, welcoming over 300 attendees to celebrate student creativity.

Performances ranged from singing and dancing to beat-boxing, with students engaging both on stage and as active audience members through voting and judging roles.

The event created a shared moment of celebration, with Princess Ugwo awarded first place for a contemporary solo dance performance.



NTSU Awards

This year's NTSU Student Awards received over 200 nominations submitted across nine categories.

The range and volume of nominations reflect the breadth of contribution students make across the Union, from leadership and representation, to volunteering and paid employment opportunities.

This year also saw increased crossover between categories, highlighting students whose impact spans multiple areas of NTSU life.

One student was nominated across 3 categories:

- Student Staff of the Year
- Society of the Year as a committee member
- Extra Mile Award

This recognised their contribution through student leadership, academic engagement, and volunteering roles, such as supporting consent education.

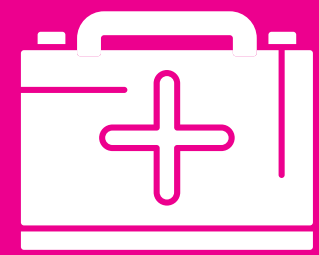
These nominations demonstrate the range of ways students contribute to NTSU, and the positive impact they have on their peers, and the wider student community.



Supporting Students

Being There When Students Need It Most

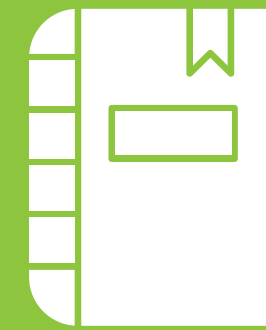
At a glance . . .



738
Students Supported

78
Housing Issues

458
Academic Cases



581
Cases Handled

220
Case Appeals

65%
Of Students Agree That The Students' Union Provides Useful Advice

113
Progress Issues

106
Misconduct Cases

4,644
Pieces of Advice Delivered

75%
Of Students Who Have Used IAS Reported Satisfaction



Case studies: Independent Advice in Action

Academic Advice and Support

At the centre of this work is NTSU's Information and Advice Service (IAS), which provides free, confidential, and independent support to students facing complex academic and personal challenges.

Through tailored advice, advocacy and representation, IAS supported students through issues including academic appeals, misconduct investigations, fitness to practise panels, and formal complaints.

For many students, this support made the difference between leaving their course, and continuing their studies with clarity and reassurance.

The following case studies reflect the range and depth of support provided this year, and the real-life impact this work has had on individual students.

Student A - Support to Study decision overturned

After procedural errors during a Support to Study process left Student A considering withdrawing or moving fully remote, IAS provided guidance and attended a Level 2 meeting alongside them. Working with the student, IAS helped secure an outcome focused on support rather than sanction. As a result, Student A has continued their studies and is on track to graduate this summer with a First-Class degree.

Student B - Academic misconduct investigation withdrawn

Student B sought support after being invited to an academic misconduct interview based on poorly investigated allegations. IAS supported the student to challenge the process and submit a detailed statement. As a result, the case was withdrawn due to insufficient evidence, the work was marked as normal, and a formal apology was issued to the student.

Student C - £17,500 in course fees refunded following complaint

A postgraduate student was unable to complete their PGCE after the university failed to secure a required placement, putting both their studies and visa status at risk. IAS supported the student through the complaints process, resulting in the complaint being upheld and full course fees (£17,500) reimbursed. This enabled the student to continue their postgraduate education elsewhere.

Student D- Exceptional fourth attempt granted following appeal

Following mental health challenges and limited school support, Student D failed their third and final assessment attempt. Their initial request was rejected, IAS supported them through an academic appeal, which was upheld. An exceptional fourth attempt was granted, an outcome rarely permitted under existing regulations, enabling Student D to complete their studies.

Student E - Successful outcome at Fitness to Practise panel

Facing suspension from a nursing placement due to allegations relating to their personal life, Student E contacted IAS in significant distress. IAS supported the student to understand the process, prepare a statement, and attended the panel meeting alongside them. The allegations were not upheld, enabling the student to return to placement and continue their studies without sanction.

Student F - International student reinstated after successful appeal

After missing multiple engagement points, Student F faced withdrawal from their course and visa curtailment, putting their right to remain in the UK at risk. IAS supported the student to submit an appeal, providing guidance on the evidence required. The appeal was upheld, enabling the student to be reinstated on their course and remain in the UK.

Housing Fair

NTSU's annual Housing Fair continued to grow this year, with over 650 students attending, a 44% increase on the previous year. The fair provided students with access to trusted accommodation providers, advice, and support, helping them make informed decisions about housing.

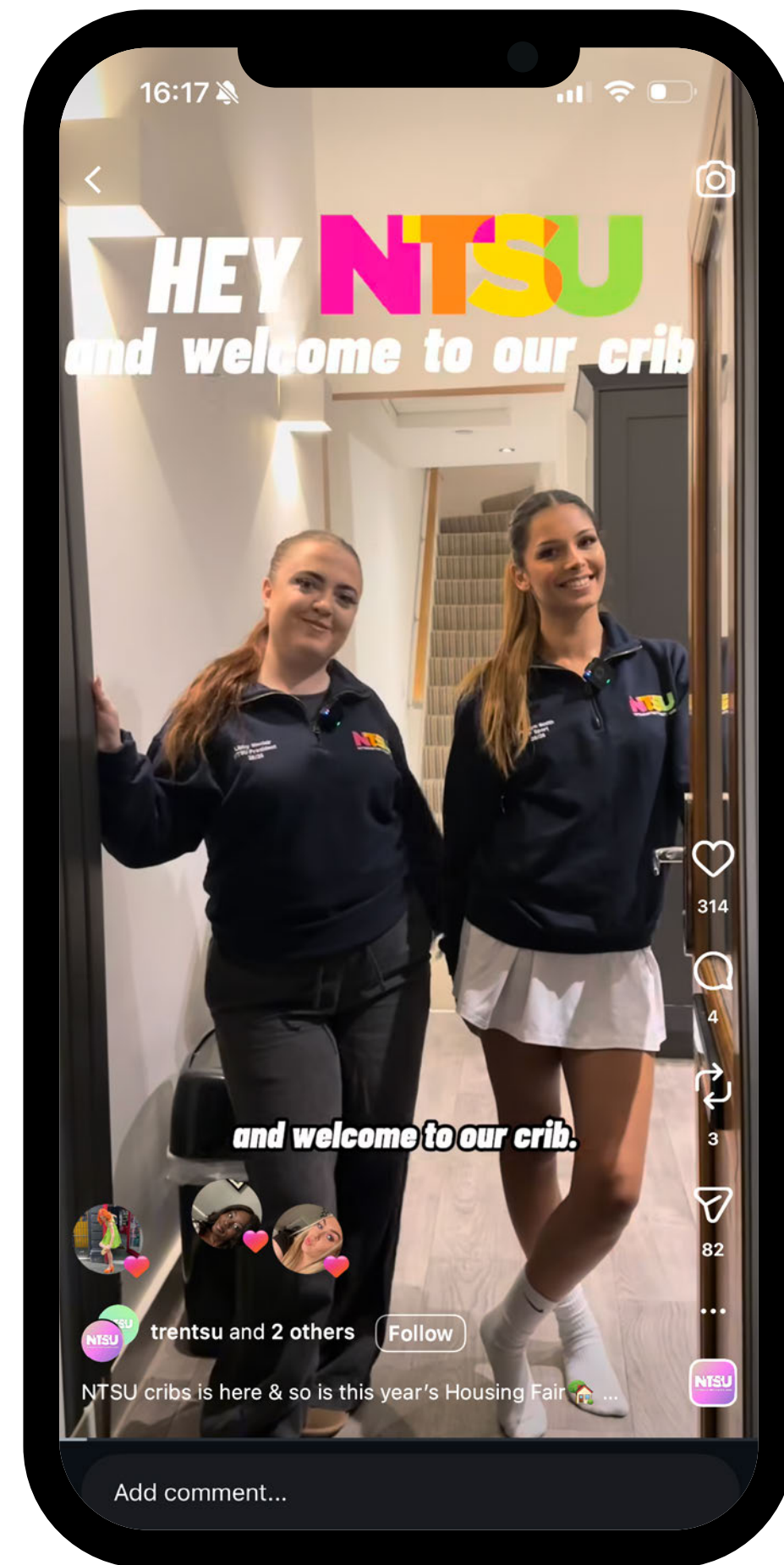
To promote the event, we created trend inspired content reflecting relatable student housing experiences. By tapping into familiar social media formats, the campaign increased engagement across Instagram and TikTok, and encouraged students to attend.

Emergency Taxi Scheme

With over 106+ Trips, Emergency Taxi Scheme continued to provide a vital safety net for students who needed support to get home safely. This service ensures that cost or circumstance is never a barrier to student safety when it matters most.

£1234.70

Spent on Emergency Taxi Scheme



'Welcome to Our Crib' Reel
23,198 views



Let's Talk About Sex

'Let's Talk About Sex' is NTSU's reimagined campaign designed to ignite honest, inclusive conversations around sexual health, consent, and wellbeing.

Launched during Sexual Violence Awareness Week in partnership with HealthyNTU, the campaign moved away from large scale fairs in favour of smaller, more meaningful engagement.

This included bystander intervention workshops, consent focused activities such as the FRIES model, and a film night, all designed to create approachable and supportive spaces for discussion.

Alongside in person activity, a digital campaign extended the conversation further, reaching thousands of students online.

Together, this approach empowered students to better understand consent, relationships, and respectful behaviour.

Sustainability & Partnerships

Working With Students And Partners For Long-Term Change

This year marked important progress in how sustainability is embedded across NTSU.

Rather than focusing on one-off initiatives, the emphasis has been on strengthening the systems and ways of working that support long term, meaningful impact.

Behind the scenes, this has included developing a more structured environmental management system, refining how we measure and report our environmental impact, and reestablishing governance structures to ensure sustainability work reflects both staff and student priorities.

As we approach the final year of our current Sustainability Strategy, this groundwork is helping shape a clearer and more joined up approach for the future.

Environmental Management and ISO14001

As part of this work, NTSU became the first students' union in the UK to achieve ISO14001 accreditation independently, following a three-year programme of development.

ISO14001 is an internationally recognised standard for environmental management.

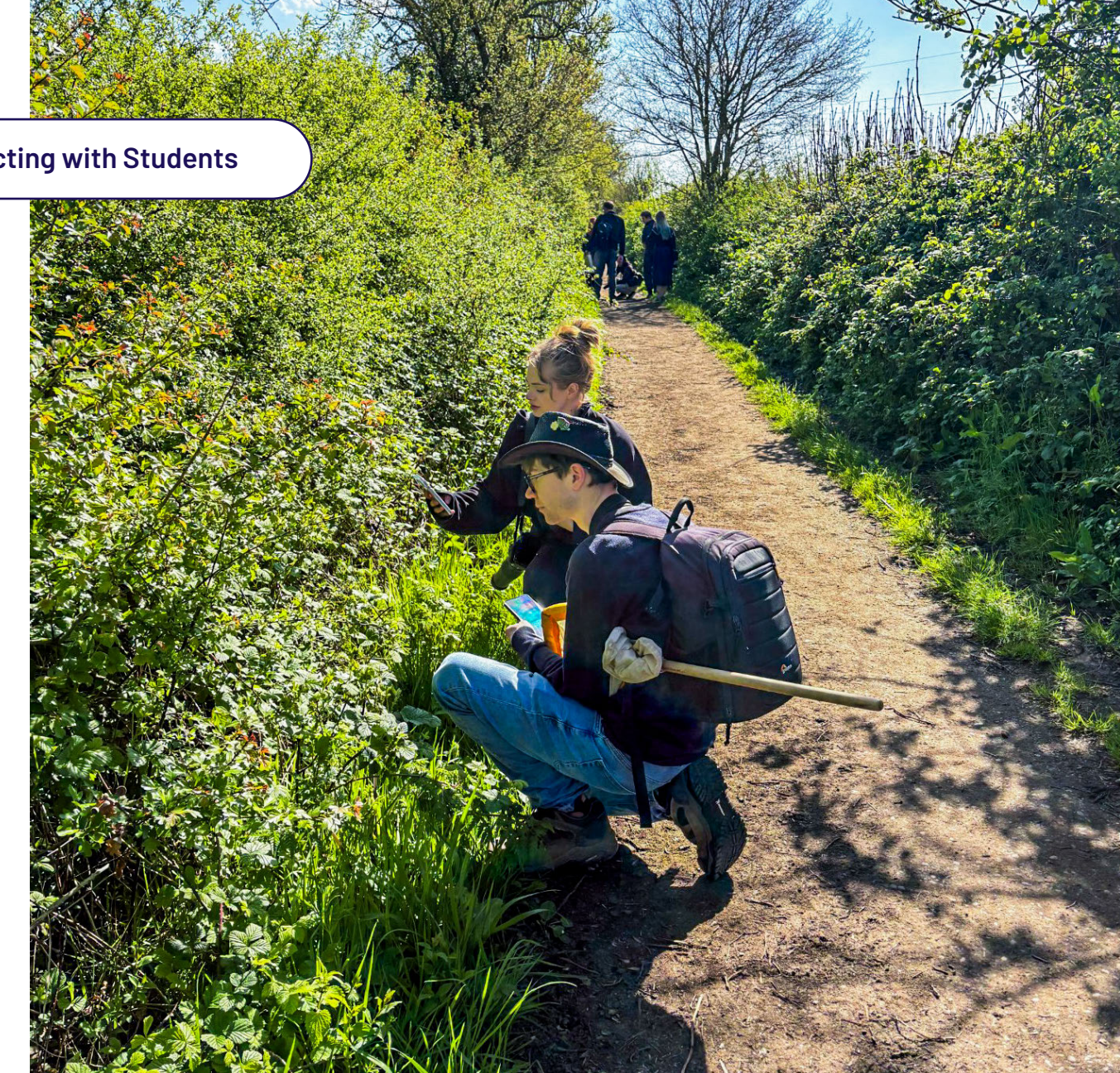
For NTSU, achieving this milestone is less about the accreditation itself, and more about what it represents.

We represent sustainability being built into everyday decision making across operations, projects, and services, with clear responsibilities, consistent processes, and regular review.

This provides a solid foundation for continuous improvement and ensures environmental responsibility is considered as part of how the organisation runs, not as an add on.

First SU in the UK to achieve ISO14001 independently

3-year journey to accreditation



Carbon Footprint

To support our commitment to reaching net zero by 2040, we have continued to strengthen how we measure and report our carbon footprint. By refining our methodology, we are improving the accuracy and transparency of our data, allowing us to better understand where our impact sits and where change is most needed.

This work creates a more reliable evidence base for future de-carbonisation planning, and helps ensure progress can be tracked meaningfully over time.

Net Zero Target

2040



Impact and Looking Ahead

Together, these developments are changing how sustainability is considered across NTSU, from day-to-day operational decisions, to longer term planning.

Staff have been supported through training to better understand their role in contributing to sustainability, while the systems now in place provide a stronger foundation for future progress.

As sustainability continues to grow in importance for students and staff, this will remain a key organisational priority, with future strategy building on the structures established this year.

“Our sustainability work continues to develop and grow, empowering our students to build a stronger culture of responsibility, collaboration, and environmental awareness. This year has seen a focus on our operational sustainability, helping us build the foundations to continue on a positive trajectory for a sustainability future.”

Abby King
Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Advisory Group (SAG)

The Sustainability Advisory Group was refreshed this year to play a more active role in shaping sustainable development across NTSU.

With representation from every department and each

campus, the group brings together staff and students to share insight, highlight priorities, and support practical improvements.

Embedding student voices within this space helps ensure sustainability work remains connected to lived experience and reflects the values of the wider student community.

62%

of students believe NTSU is an environmentally sustainable organisation



Partnerships

Strong partnerships continue to play a vital role in improving the student experience beyond campus.

This year, NTSU strengthened its work with local and regional partners to support student safety, improve housing conditions, and ensure student perspectives are reflected in decision-making across the city.

Building on previous priorities, communication around safety initiatives has been strengthened, while NTSU has continued to act as a representative and evidence-based voice on issues affecting students' day-to-day lives.

Relationships with key partners, including Nottingham City Council, have been developed further to improve understanding of how housing policy impacts students. This has included joint work exploring the effects of licensing schemes, and the return of the letting boards ban, which can affect student safety, perceptions of housing availability, and how student neighbourhoods are experienced.

Student staff have contributed more than 50 hours gathering first-hand student insight, informing a detailed report on letting agent conduct, maintenance issues, challenges securing accommodation and concerns around crime and safety. This evidence will continue to support advocacy and ensure student experiences shape future discussions.



Renters' Rights And Student Housing

Throughout the development of the Renters' Rights Act, NTSU has worked with local MPs and key partners, including the University of Nottingham Students' Union through the Nottingham Students' Partnership, to ensure student needs are reflected in national policy discussions.

We responded to consultations, contributed insight on student housing standards, and consistently highlighted the importance of accommodation that is fair, accessible, and safe for students.

This work ensured that student experiences formed part of the conversation as the legislation progressed.

As the Act comes into force, NTSU has increased its focus on supporting students through the transition.

This has included providing clear, accessible information about the changes to the private rented sector, and helping students understand how to use their new rights in practice.

Support and guidance will continue throughout 2026–27, alongside ongoing monitoring of how the legislation impacts student living. Where needed, NTSU will continue to advocate for further improvements to ensure the student renting experience is fair and secure.

“We’ve been working really well with UoNSU and taking really valuable contributions from other informed stakeholders to make sure students are receiving all the information they need about the new Renters Rights Act.”

Edward Towers
Nottingham Students' Partnership Coordinator

Varsity

Notts Varsity continued to be an important shared experience for students this year, bringing together teams, supporters, and communities across both universities.

Strong interest across fixtures reflected the value students place on Varsity as part of their wider university experience.

Varsity Ice Hockey remained a key moment in the series, delivered in partnership with Nottingham Trent University Sport, the University of Nottingham Students' Union, and University of Nottingham Sport.

The event demonstrated the coordination and collaboration required to deliver large-scale student experiences safely and accessibly.

Momentum continued across the wider Varsity programme, supporting participation across a range of sports and formats.

Throughout the series, the focus remained on creating opportunities for students to compete, support one another and feel part of a shared student experience that extends beyond individual courses or campuses.

6,405
Notts Varsity Ice Hockey
Tickets Sold

40mins
Sell Out of
NTU Student Allocation

“Varsity 2026 has had a huge impact on student experience at NTU. From joining UoN to collaborating with our very own sports clubs to make each event special, the series has been unforgettable.”

Jasmyn Smith
VP Sport 2025 / 26





Student Experience

Creating Shared Moments And Spaces Students Value

At a glance ...



221,599
Individual Event
Tickets Sold

324

Total Events at
NTSU Campuses

20

Live Music
Bookings



36,341
Attendees to
Freshers Events



£699K+
Paid In
Student Wages

237K

Bottled Soft Drinks Sold

77K

Hot Food To Go Items Sold

109K

Crisps and Snacks Sold

37

External Business
Bookings

10,000+

Attendees to Last
Day of Term Events

62K

Sandwiches Sold



Events Across Campuses

Across City, Clifton, and Brackenhurst, NTSU delivered a wide range of activity designed to bring students together and create shared moments throughout the year.

These events ranged from large scale club nights and live music, to campus specific and non-drinking activities, ensuring students across all sites had opportunities to connect, relax, and socialise.



Event Tickets

Student demand for events remained strong throughout the year, with high attendance across flagship events and regular programming.

221,599

Individual event tickets sold

£1million+

In total revenue generated from tickets sold

36,341

Attendees to Freshers Events

10,000+

Attendees to Last Day of Term events

This sustained engagement reflects both the scale of our programme, and the value students place on social experiences as part of their wider university life.



Highlighted Events

Moments that defined the year:

Trent Me Out became our fastest selling event, selling out in just two hours

The Invasion: Halloween was our best-selling event, with 3,123+ tickets sold

These highlights demonstrate how NTSU events support not just social life, but student led activity and funding across the wider Union.

Attendance at District, NTSU's weekly Saturday club night, increased by 29%

Through Ocean Tickets, £67,273.90 was reinvested to students' Clubs and Societies, helping support activities and development

Live Music

Live music continued to be a defining part of the NTSU experience.

Since June 2025, The Level has welcomed a diverse range of high-profile artists, offering students access to live performances in a familiar and affordable setting.

Artists performing this year included:

- Little Simz
- Wet Leg
- The Last Dinner Party
- Lola Young (BRIT Award Winner for Breakthrough Artist 2026)

These shows sat alongside standout moments such as Window Kid closing their sold-out Some Tour with a hometown show, a special DJ set from Pendulum, and an exclusive album launch performance from Holly Humberstone.

By hosting artists at various stages of their careers, The Level continues to balance industry leading programming with accessible experiences for students.





New Events

Alongside established formats, this year saw the introduction and growth of new events designed to widen participation and reflect different student interests.

Open Decks

Created opportunities for student DJs to perform in NTSU venues

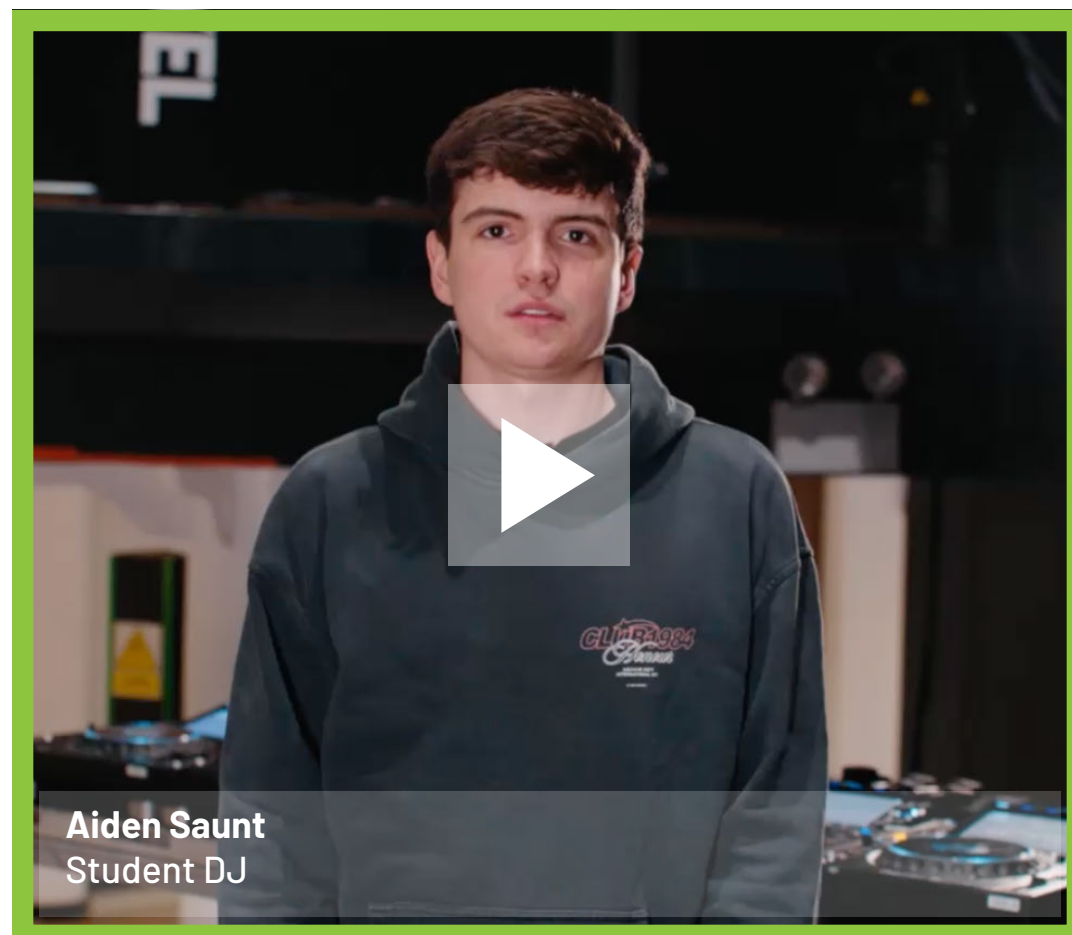
Brack Bingo

Provided non-drinking, early evening social option for Brackenhurst students

Live Comedy

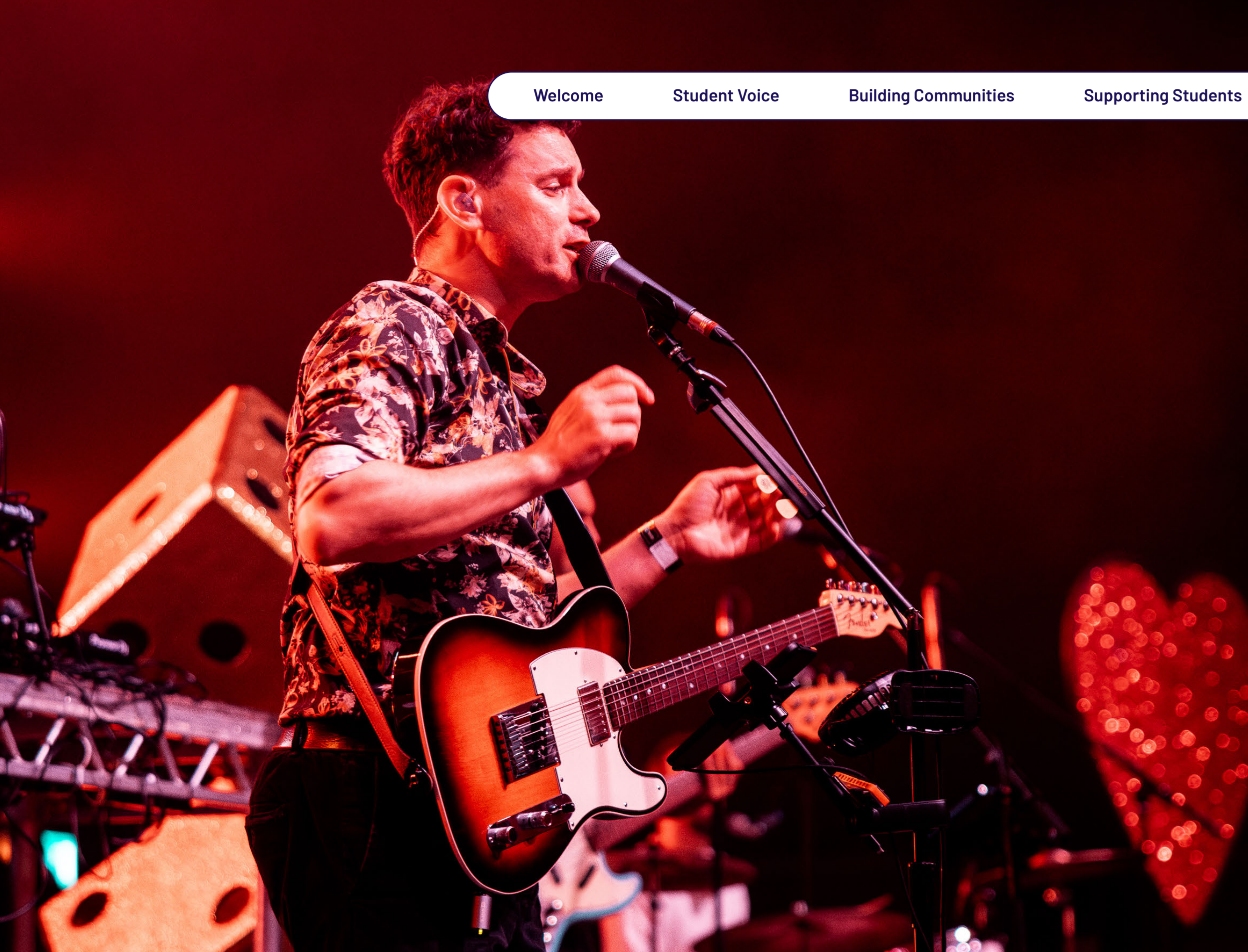
Brought performers such as Isaac HP to NTSU stages

These additions complemented the wider programme by offering alternative ways for students to get involved, perform, or simply enjoy time together.



Aiden Saunt
Student DJ

“It’s helped me get an understanding of how the industry works, how working in bigger scale events can benefit me as a DJ. It’s nice to see one of the bigger clubs nights, District, offering these opportunities to students.”



Our Events Committee

This year, we re-introduced the Entertainments Committee, a small group of students who meet regularly with the NTSU team to share honest feedback on events, venues and marketing.

Representing a range of student experiences, the group plays a key role in shaping how our events develop over time.

Feedback from the Committee has directly influenced decisions across the programme, from refining event formats to helping select the Grad Ball headliner, ensuring NTSU events continue to reflect what students want from their social experience.



Safer Venues and City Partnerships

As event attendance continued to grow, NTSU strengthened its approach to safety and wellbeing within venues.



Working with partners including It's in Nottingham, NTSU contributed to city wide initiatives, such as Purple Flag accreditation, recognising Nottingham as a safe and well managed night-time economy.

Across City and Clifton venues, the Safe Space Pledge was implemented to ensure staff are trained and equipped to support students who may need help during a night out.

Together, these measures help create welcoming, inclusive spaces where students can feel confident and supported.



Venue Welfare and Student Support

In February 2026, NTSU introduced a dedicated Welfare Team to support students during busy nights and large-scale events. Made up of trained student staff, the team works alongside external medics to respond to incidents, support wellbeing, and help students get home safely.

This addition strengthens NTSU's approach to safer spaces, ensuring welfare remains central as attendance continues to grow.

Venue Sales

This year has seen significant growth in venue performance, including a 60% increase in bar sales during November compared to the previous year.

We also recorded our highest-ever live music event bar sales, with The Kopykat Killers generating £22.9k in a single night.

These results reflect both increased demand and ongoing improvements to service delivery.

+60%

Bar Sales (Nov Year-on-Year)

£22.9k

Live Music Event Recorded

Venue Hires

External Businesses

37 in total
Generated £17,545

Revenue generated for other departments through hires

Generated £23,469.15

Live Music Bookings

20 in total
Generated £30,100

Best Bar None

NTSU's commitment to safety and quality was recognised through the Best Bar None scheme, where The Level received awards for:

Best Live Music Venue

Outstanding Contribution



These awards reflect ongoing investment in staff training, venue management, and partnership working across Nottingham's night-time economy.



The Shed

At Brackenhurst, the transformation of Brack Bar into The Shed was led by student feedback, ensuring the space reflected how students wanted to use it.

A full refurbishment including a redesigned bar, improved layout and refreshed branding, created a more welcoming and efficient environment, completed in time for Freshers.



Before



The Orangery

Building on this feedback, The Orangery was also re-imagined as a café space that reflects the historic rural setting of the Brackenhurst campus.



Before



THE MENU

V VEGETARIAN VG VEGAN

BREAKFAST BAPS

- BACON BAP: Two rashers of bacon in a brioche bun £3.09
- SAUSAGE BAP: Two sausages in a brioche bun £3.09
- THE VEGGIE SAUSAGE BAP V: Two veggie sausages in a vegan bun £3.09
- THE VEGAN BACON BAP V VG: Vegan bacon served in a vegan bun £3.09

GO LARGE!

- MIGHTY BAP: Two rashers of bacon, two sausages in a brioche bun £4.09
- THE WORKS BAP: Bacon, sausage, egg & hash brown in a brioche bun £4.49
- THE VEGAN WORKS V VG: Vegan bacon, vegan sausage & hash brown in a brioche bun £4.49

BURGERS

- ALL SERVED WITH FRIES
- BEEF BURGER: Beef burger topped with relish £5.59
- CHICKEN BURGER: Battered chicken burger topped with mayo in a garnished bun £4.99
- COATED SPICY BEAN BURGER V VG: Coated spicy bean burger topped with sour cream in a garnished bun £5.19

PANINIS

- FRESHLY MADE
- PESTO, SUNDRIED TOMATO & MOZZARELLA £3.50
- PEPPERONI, SUNDRIED TOMATO & MOZZARELLA £3.50
- CHICKEN, CHEESE & BACON £3.50
- TUNA MELT £3.50

SALADS

- HOT CHICKEN & BACON: Hot chicken & bacon served on a crisp, fresh salad and French dressing £4.99
- MOZZARELLA & SUNDRIED TOMATO V VG: Taste of the Med with our delicious salad served with French dressing £4.99

NUGGETS

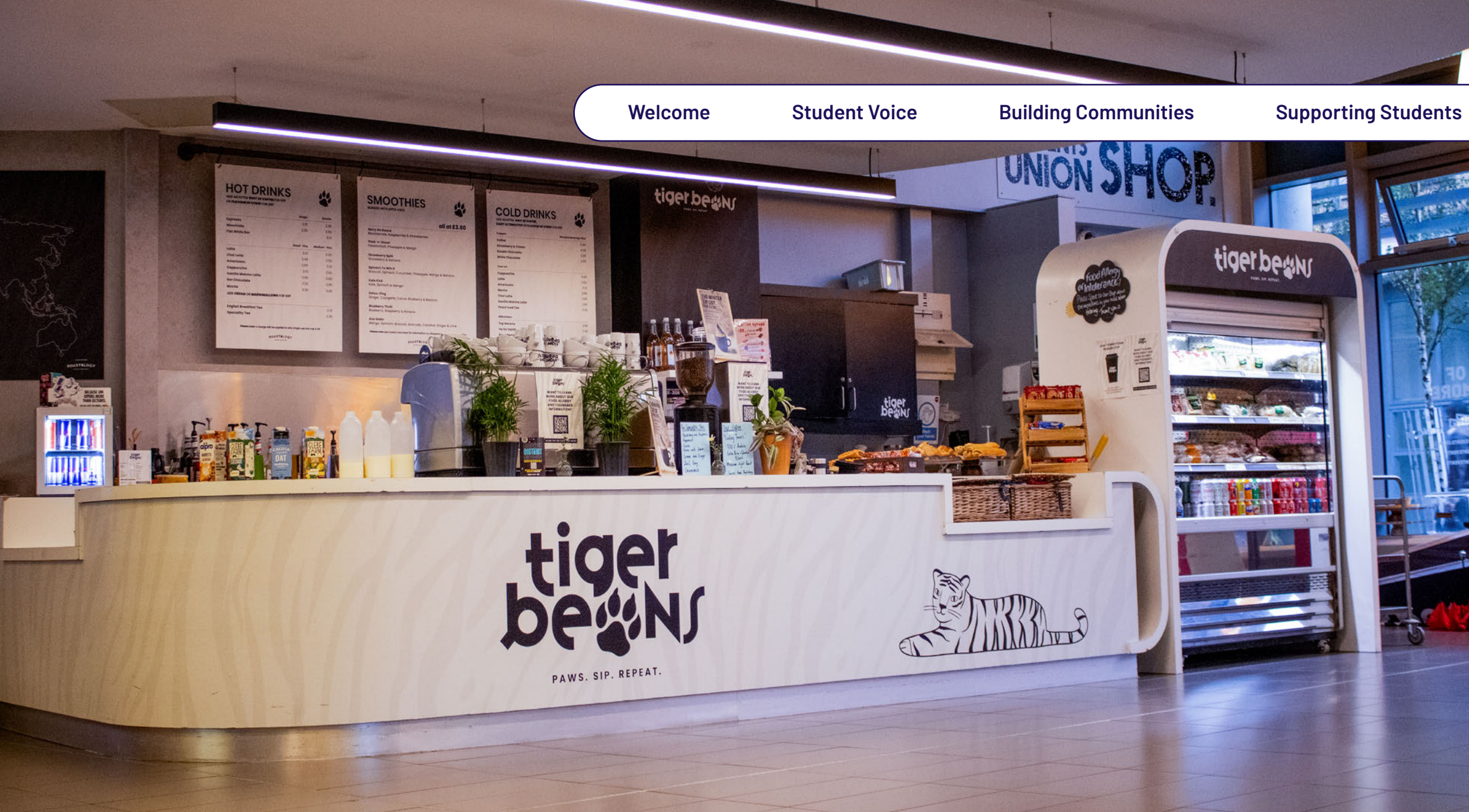
- ALL SERVED WITH FRIES
- CHICKEN NUGGETS XS £2.99
- CHICKEN NUGGETS X10 £4.99
- QUORN NUGGETS XS V VG £2.99
- QUORN NUGGETS X10 V VG £4.99

HOT / COLD DRINK WITH A PANINI OR TOASTIE FOR £5

HOT / COLD DRINK WITH A BREAKFAST BAP FOR £4

PIZZAS

- VEGAN CHEESE AVAILABLE
- GARLIC BREAD V: Flatstone base with garlic butter £4.99
- GARLIC BREAD WITH CHEESE V: Flatstone base with garlic butter and mozzarella-cheddar cheese £5.99
- MARGHERITA PIZZA V: Tomato sauce base and mozzarella-cheddar cheese £6.99
- BBQ CHICKEN PIZZA: Mozzarella-cheddar cheese, chicken strips, and BBQ sauce £6.99
- PESTO & SUNDRIED TOMATO PIZZA V: Mozzarella-cheddar cheese, pesto, and sundried tomatoes £6.99
- PEPPERONI PIZZA: Mozzarella-cheddar cheese, and pepperoni slices £6.99



Tiger Beans

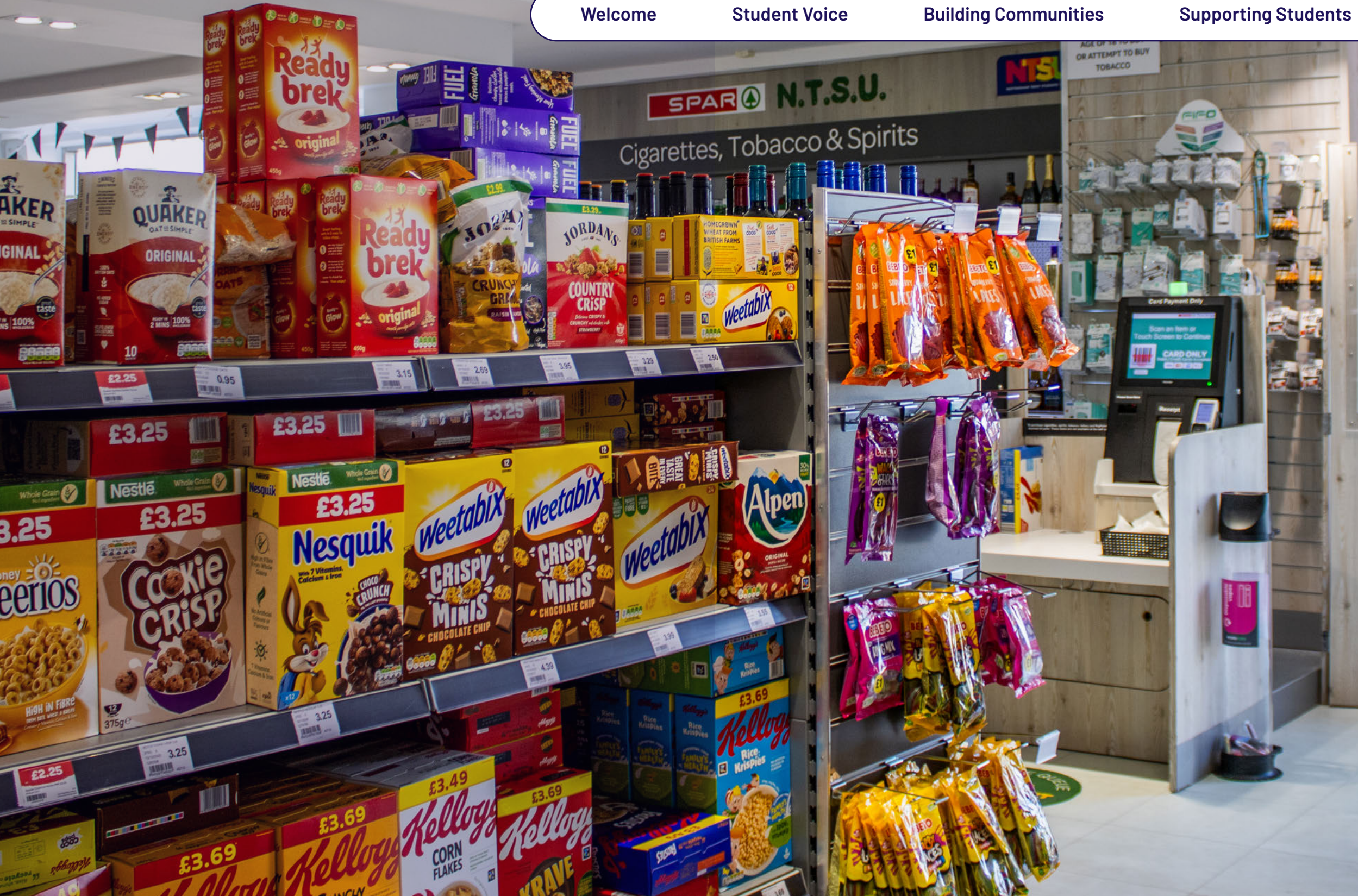
On City campus, Tiger Beans launched as a re-imagined café brand shaped through consultation with student officers and student surveys.

Inspired by the Trent Tiger and coffee culture, the space provides a relaxed environment at the heart of NTSU venues, giving students a place to meet, take a break and feel at home on campus.



Before





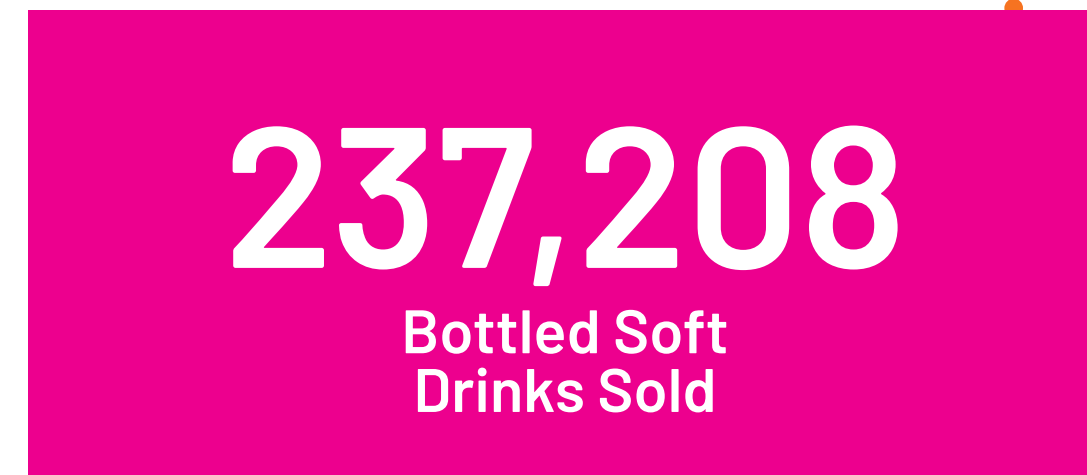
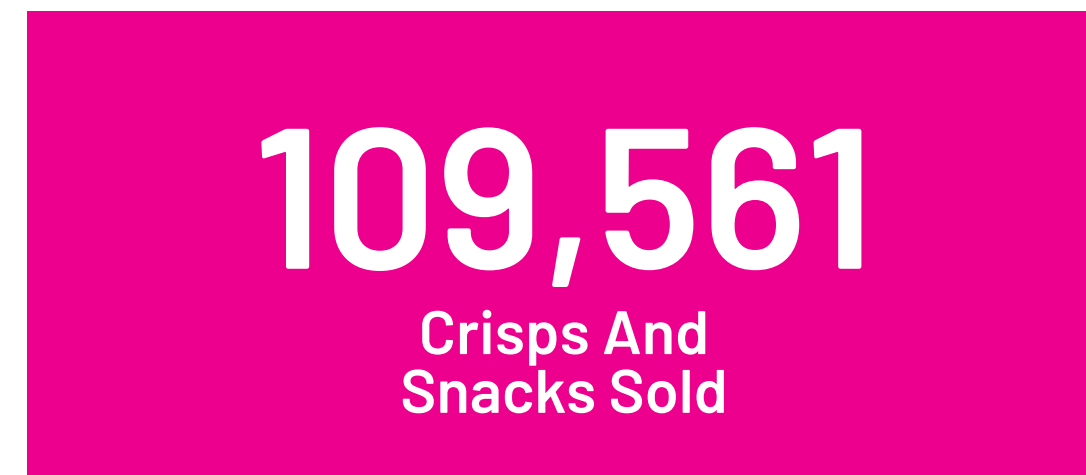
Retail

NTSU retail spaces continue to support students day-to-day, providing accessible food and drink options across City, Clifton, and Brackenhurst.

This year, retail provision focused on convenience, value, and meeting the needs of busy students.

Alongside our physical shops, we introduced an online shop, making NTSU merchandise easier to access for all students, particularly commuters and those who may not regularly visit campus.

The online shop allows students to browse and buy personalised NTU merchandise at a time and place that suits them, helping ensure our products are accessible to the wider student community.



Student Employment, Training and Development

Alongside academic support, NTSU continues to create meaningful employment and development opportunities that allow students to gain experience, build confidence, and earn alongside their studies.

These opportunities are supported by ongoing investment in staff training and development, ensuring students receive safe, high-quality support across NTSU services and venues.



Rebecca Yik
NTSU Finance Staff, Former Student and Oriental Society Member

Student Employment and Opportunities

This year, NTSU employed over 250 student staff, all paid the National Living Wage regardless of age. These roles offer students flexible, paid work alongside their studies, while helping them develop transferable skills and real-world experience.

To ensure student employees have a voice in shaping their working experience, we introduced a Student Staff Forum.

This forum creates space for feedback, discussion and collaboration, allowing student staff to contribute ideas and improvements across services.

250+ Student Staff Employed

100% Paid National Living Wage

£698,829 Paid in Student Wages

Training and development across NTSU

Supporting students relies on skilled, confident and well-supported staff. This year, NTSU continued to prioritise training and development to ensure services remain safe, supportive and professional.

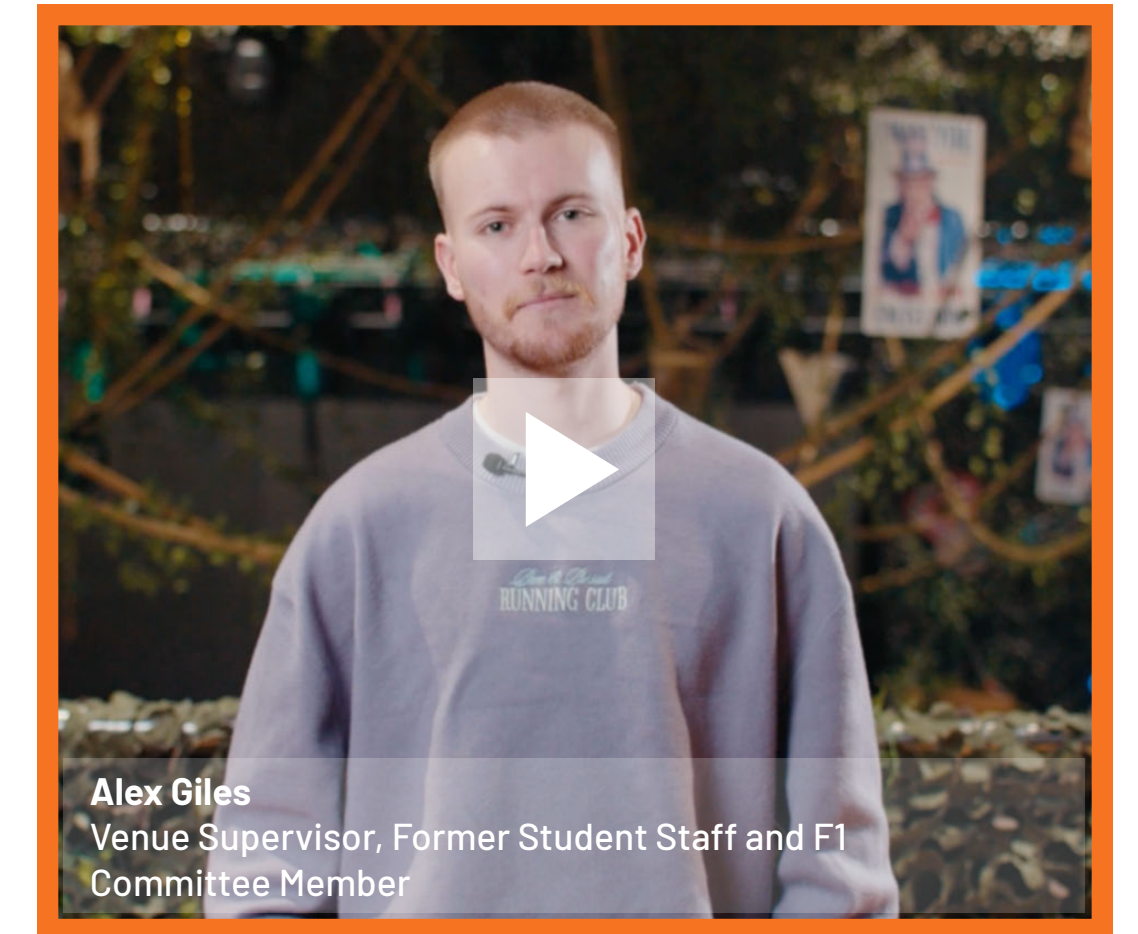
Across the organisation, 69 training courses were delivered, covering areas such as first aid, mental health awareness, and professional qualifications. As a result, more than a third of staff are now First Aid trained, with 14% trained as Mental Health First Aiders, strengthening our ability to respond effectively to student needs.

We also expanded training for student staff, introducing basic first aid awareness to support their role as Auxiliary First Aiders. This ensures students working across venues and services are better equipped to support their peers in emergency situations.

69 Training Courses Delivered

1/3 Staff First Aid Trained

14% Mental Health First Aiders



Alex Giles
Venue Supervisor, Former Student Staff and F1 Committee Member

Investing in Our Venues Team

Delivering high-quality student experiences also depends on strong venue teams.

This year they completed training in areas including drug awareness, first aid (FREC 3), SIA licensing, CCTV operation and crowd management.

This investment ensures NTSU spaces remain safe, well-managed and enjoyable for students attending events and using venues throughout the year.

Connecting with Students

Reaching Our Students Right Where They Are

Our social media channels have continued to play an important role in how students engage with NTSU this year.

The TrentSU Instagram achieved over 3 million views, while our wider Instagram network, including Trent Events, Brackenhurst and Clifton, reached a combined 42,276 followers, a 16.4% increase on the previous year.

From Freshers through to Trent Elections, our content supported key moments in the student journey, sharing information in a way that was clear, accessible and relevant.

Varsity was a key moment online, with sports content helping build interest across fixtures and contributing to the high demand for Ice Hockey.

Alongside major events, our channels continued to highlight student priorities and communities, celebrating cultural moments and supporting officer campaigns. This helped ensure students stayed informed, connected and engaged with their Students' Union throughout the year.

Instagram

3 Million Views
4.4K New Followers

Follow Us

@trentsu

TikTok

472K Views
1K New Followers

Follow Us

@trentstudents

Website

1.3 Million Views
200K Active users

Visit Us

trentstudents.org





**Be A Part Of
Something More**