

# Success Story: Increasing Participation in Learner voice

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## About Tresham College

Tresham College offers full and part-time, higher education and apprenticeship courses in Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough in Northamptonshire.

## Their Story: What has happened and how

Rather than follow a traditional model of electing one or two learner reps within every class, all students are viewed as part of a pool of volunteers who can choose to engage with various opportunities throughout the year to get their voice, and the voice of their peers, heard in the college.

Students are introduced to representation through an introductory tutorial delivered at the beginning of the year by returning students, the learner involvement coordinator and apprentice.

Throughout the year, students volunteer to represent their class via a range of activities from drop-in sessions and conferences, to subject specific focus groups and union activities. This happens across all college sites, at different times of the year to enable as many students as possible to access the numerous opportunities for sharing their opinions and experience.

## Impact, Success and Ideas for Action

Tresham College have seen a dramatic increase in participation at key meetings, activities and conferences as learners have been able to selectively engage with the issues that matter to them the most. Whoever takes on the responsibility to represent their peers at a particular learner voice activity is informed and supported to ensure their contribution is valid and effective.

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The students' union regularly update the student body on what changes are taking place as a result of learners engaging in these opportunities. The use of wristbands to visibly promote an individual's participation at learner voice events has been particularly successful tool and has prompted more students to get involved.