

March 2026

KSU Insight & Policy Update



**Kingston
Students'
Union**

www.kingstonstudents.net

KSU activities in March

KSU Elections 2026

3,113 students voted for their student leaders in 2026/27, a record total turnout of 18%!

3 Student Officers, 3 Student Trustees, 2 Campus Reps, and 3 Faculty Reps were elected. Some roles had no nominations and will be filled through a by elections.



Student Officers

President: Hamza Haroon
Vice President: Christianna-Maria Patsi
Vice President: Canon Kingstan Manuel

Student Trustees

Lata Allani
Ian Pozen
Sana Siddique

Campus Reps

Penrhyn Road: Devon Driver
Kingston Hill: Raghav Somani

Faculty Reps

ECE (PG): Yanzhen Dai
HSSCE (UG): Ana Maria Medeiros Assed
FBSS (UG): Mahi Misra



From left to right: Canon K Manuel, Hamza Haroon, Christianna-Maria Patsi



From left to right: Sana Siddique, Lata Allani



KSU activities in March

Varsity 2026

Kingston Sport was the winner of Varsity 2026 against London South Bank University, winning 7-5! This took place on 23-25 March, and it was great to see hundreds of students come out and support Kingston Sport!



KSU insight this month



KSU Elections 2026 in numbers

21

Candidates

8,445

Votes casted

3,113

Voters

18%

**Turnout -
highest since 2018**

15%

**Top faculty
turnout: FBSS**

25%

**Top school turnout:
School of Life
Sciences, Pharmacy
& Chemistry**

69%

**Top small student
group turnout:
Entrepreneurs
Society**

63%

**Top large student
group turnout:
Tamil Society**



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What's going on across the HE sector?



Student experience of AI

Wonkhe published its 'Trained to stop learning?' which investigates student experience with assessment and learning in the age of AI. The research produced 15 key findings, and we find the following especially impactful and intriguing:

- AI use is not one thing. We're prone to think that students use AI uniformly, but they've been using it to various degrees and for different purposes:
 - To understand concepts or materials (47%)
 - To plan, structure, or brainstorm (31%)
 - To draft or improve writing (13%)
 - Only 3% use AI to generate content

Students also describe AI as an always-on supportive tutor - accessible 24/7, non-judgemental, and patient.

- Time poverty - and not intellectual laziness - is a structural driver of AI adoption. Students must balance competing responsibilities: between studies, part-time work, caring responsibilities, personal care, etc., AI has proven to be a helpful tool. What must also be noted is the inequal access to AI - students who can afford paid tools may get better outputs.



What's going on across the HE sector?



Inquiry on Student Loans

The Treasury Select Committee has opened a new inquiry into student loans and the broader taxation of graduates.

Many students and graduates are increasingly dissatisfied with the student loans terms, and we know that this is also impacting many Kingston students and graduates.

The KSU Sabbatical Officer team is currently drafting an evidence submission for the inquiry, particularly around the question of what proportion of a student's university education should be funded by the student versus being subsidised by the state. We want a fairer balance between state and student payments, lifting the burden of repayment from the poorest graduates meanwhile providing greater financial stability to the sector. Alleviating the severity of financial pressures currently placed on all parties within the sector would enable students, students' unions, and universities to sustainably ensure the public good we provide continues to grow.



What's happening in April?

Kingston, Have Your Say! Survey 2026

We will launch our 2026 Kingston, Have Your Say! Survey on 20th April.

This is the annual survey to gather student views, experiences and satisfaction with KSU and the services we offer, including events, advice, societies, and sports clubs. There will be a prize draw for students who participate in the survey.

We will communicate this with students throughout the duration of the survey opens.

KSU Awards 2026

Nominations are open until 15th April for our second annual KSU Awards.

If you know exceptional students who you think should be recognised by the Awards, you can nominate them using this [form](#).

Information about the awards and criteria can be found [here](#).

The Awards ceremony will take place on 22nd May at the Town House.

