

# **Livingston MP applauds performing arts institution**

**The Livingston MP has praised a West Lothian higher education institution for its commitment to supporting the next generation of performers.**

Gregor Poynton MP has commended The Scottish Institute (SI) for its top-tier facilities and steadfast commitment to further education in the local community.

During a recent visit, Mr Poynton met with students and staff, touring the recently refurbished campus, which stands as a beacon for Scotland's only accredited theatre school by the Council of Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT).

Mr Poynton expressed his admiration for The SI's dedication to providing world-class learning opportunities in theatre, dance, film, and television production.

He said: "The Scottish Institute is more than an educational institution; it's a vital resource for Livingston, and the surrounding communities.

"The quality of its facilities, high calibre of teaching staff, along with its commitment to fostering local talent and broadening opportunities, speaks volumes about its dedication to excellence and inclusivity."

The SI's facilities offer students real-world training environments, including on-site studios and performance opportunities at Howden Park Theatre.

Mark Langley, Principal at The Scottish Institute, welcomed the visit as an opportunity to share the institute's journey and values with the local MP.

He said: "We are proud to showcase our facilities and highlight our mission of empowering students from all backgrounds to reach their full potential in the performing arts.

"We believe in the transformative power of education and remain committed to making a lasting impact in Livingston and beyond."

With its collaborative partnerships, including degree accreditation through Bath Spa University, The Scottish Institute is uniquely positioned to offer top-tier qualifications while maintaining a strong local presence.

The MP's visit also spotlighted The SI's mission to foster inclusivity, providing a creative space where students can thrive regardless of background or discipline.

Since its establishment nearly 20 years ago, The Scottish Institute has supported hundreds of aspiring performers, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in major productions across the globe.

Mr Poynton's visit underscores the significance of The Scottish Institute's commitment to Livingston and the broader educational landscape in Scotland.

<https://www.instagram.com/thescottishinstitute/>



L-R Mark Langley with Gregor Poynton MP