

Dear

It is a lovely sunny day on campus. There are lots of flowers in bloom and because we have the doors open onto the lawn, the smell of freshly cut grass is coming into the Gateway building. I think Summer is finally here! Much as I am enjoying being back in my office, I am missing being able to pop out into my garden at lunchtime, to potter around and to join Arty sunbathing!

The SU, the Chaplaincy and the Community Engagement Team have an event marking the launch of Pride month outside the Gateway today. Please watch out for the programme of events that will be run throughout this month of celebration. If you have some ideas for events or you would simply like to get involved you should contact Jack Evans (19010151@hope.ac.uk) or Sally Wills (vpreswelfare@hope.ac.uk).

Just a few updates and reminders today:

Graduation.

The University has decided to wait until the Government makes their announcement about the next stage in the roadmap before making the final call about graduation in July. I know this is frustrating, but we feel it is better to be clear about what can go ahead before you start making arrangements. We are committed to running ceremonies but we do need to make sure that it will be safe and legal to do so. I want to reassure you that I will write to all graduating students directly as soon as I have the details of the decision.

Exam alternatives:

Many of you are in the middle of online exams of various types and others have these to come over the next few weeks. Please make sure that you understand the requirements in terms of time. The assessments are designed to take a certain amount of time and what you write should be done in this timeframe. If you have a longer window, where it is possible, it is simply to give you some flexibility in when you do the assessment.

Publication of results.

We are planning to publish results for students expecting to graduate as follows:
Students registered on all UG and PGT awards; publication 2 July at 2pm.
Students registered for the PGCE; publication 13 July at 4pm.

For continuing students (UG and PGT) we are planning to publish progression outcomes on 21 July at 2pm.

If you have assessment(s) to complete in August, we are planning to release your results/progression outcomes on 24 September at 2pm.

Tutor Availability.

Just a reminder that we are expecting those of you with August assessments or ongoing research projects, to **contact your tutor by 25 June** to get final guidance on assessments, obtain feedback, have supervisory sessions and to get answers to any subject specific queries. After that date your tutors will be on leave or undertaking research and will not be available. This applies to all students. If you have any queries

in the period after 25 June you should contact your School/Department Office or the Gateway team, all of whom will be happy to help.

Academic year 2021-2

Several of you have asked me this week about next year. Provided the Government guidance permits, we intend to start the formal teaching year in the Autumn term face to face, that means it is our intention to teach on campus wherever possible. If limited restrictions are implemented we are ready to move to a hybrid model of a mixture of online and face to face teaching. Equally, if a full lockdown is re-imposed we can easily switch to full online delivery if necessary according to Government Guidance. I hope that you are reassured that we are ready for all eventualities related to Covid, but I want to be clear that our preference is to return to onsite teaching.

SU Summer Festival

I mentioned the Student Union Summer Festival last week - it is happening tomorrow so there is still time to get involved.

'Jump into our virtual summer festival and celebrate making it through this year. Join your friends in a Pokemon-esque world for the biggest and best Students' Union event of the year.

Walking through the festival's fields of pixels, you will discover three stages of interactive content. From a wellbeing stage full of yoga, meditation workshops and captivating Q&As, to a prize-packed games stage and an explosive music stage with a lineup fit for all music tastes, the summer festival is just waiting for you to explore! **Get your tickets [here](#).**

Have a good weekend

Best wishes

Penny

Dear

As we near the end of the academic year I am sure that we are all ready to move on, in the hope that a new year will bring a semblance of normality back to both University experiences and future careers. It is however very likely that before any further release of restrictions, we face another wave of infections, particularly amongst those who have not yet been vaccinated. I am very aware that many of you are in age groups who have not been called for vaccination yet and I am very concerned about your safety until you have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. It is therefore doubly important that we keep to the Health and Safety measures that are currently in place. Please continue to wear your masks indoors in the public areas of the University, keep using the hand sanitiser and maintain social distancing. It is also really important that you continue to undertake Covid testing twice a week. You can use the University testing centre or [pick up testing kits](#) if you are onsite or can get to the campus. If you are not onsite or cannot get to the campus you can [order free home test kits](#) from the NHS. If you are living away from home and are returning to your family in the next couple of weeks please ensure that you get tested before you travel. Obviously we need to stop the infection travelling across the country but also we would not want you to inadvertently take the virus back to your families.

Many of you who are in Level H have finished your exams this week and so are ready to leave the University. I hope that you manage to celebrate with your friends and families (in a covid-safe manner). I think that last year's graduates would say to you that not being able to do this was the hardest part of last year, so take the opportunity and treasure it. It is always hard for us to say goodbye to a cohort, but in particular I will be sorry to see this year's Level H go - you have been great throughout this difficult time and you should be proud. I know that some of you have extensions and deferrals and so have a little longer to wait. If you still have assessments to submit please keep going, there will be times for you to celebrate too.

As I mentioned last week, we will be publishing degree results on 2 July. Good Luck! I am also expecting to be able to make an announcement next week about dates for Graduation. Thankyou for your patience whilst we have waited for the Government guidance - we need to make sure that we can run the ceremonies safely.

If you are in Level I or in some subjects in Level C, you will be getting ready for your alternatives to exams. Make sure that you have all the information that you need so that you are ready to start on whichever day yours have been scheduled. If you don't understand how they will be structured, or what the rules are, take the time to ask your tutors now. Please remember that because you have, for example, a 48 hour window it doesn't mean that the assessment should take this long to complete. It simply gives you flexibility to complete your assignment at a time to suit you within this window. If you don't know how long your assignment is expected to take then please contact your tutor to check.

If you have any assessments to complete, or are currently undertaking a research project on an UG, PGT or PGR registration, please remember that you should ensure that you have asked for all of the guidance you need from your tutor for the Summer period by 25 June. At this time your tutors will start to take well earned leave as well as turn their attention to their research.

PH student communication 11 June 21

As we come to the end of the year don't forget that the University support services are still open to you, so if you need some mental health support or simply someone to talk to, you can still contact [SDW](#) and they will be pleased to help. Please also think about contacting the [careers service](#) - it is never too early to have a conversation about your future. For those of you who have just completed Level H or a PG award, remember that the Careers Service and My Careers Centre remain available to you after you graduate.

Have a great weekend. I am thinking of you all.

Best wishes

Penny

Dear

I hope that you are all well. Given the rise in cases of covid in the city and in the UK more widely, it is increasingly important that we all continue to follow health and safety guidance. This means keeping your distance, wearing a mask and washing your hands frequently. The profile of increasing cases is particularly high in the 18-24 age group so many of you need to be particularly careful.

The good news is that today the NHS has opened up the opportunity for all adults to be vaccinated. This means that if you have not yet had a vaccination you can go ahead and make an appointment through the NHS website [here](#). If you are in the northwest, the NHS are also opening drop in centres over this weekend where you do not need an appointment for vaccinations. You can find the details [here](#).

We have been asked by Liverpool Public Health to reassure you that you can have your two vaccinations in different parts of the country, so if you get your first one in Liverpool and then have a distance to travel home you will be able to get your second dose there. Alternatively, if you are already at home and have your first dose there, you will be able to have your second dose in Liverpool if you have returned by the time it is due.

We have been contacted by one of the Merseyside MPs who has concerns about conflict between students living in private rented accommodation and local residents. If you live in a student house in a residential street please take a moment to think about your neighbours and how your behaviour might be affecting their lives. Liverpool is a city that welcomes students, please make sure that you respect this.

To all Level C and F students finishing term today. You've had an unexpectedly different start to your University journey, thank you for your positive approach to your studies. I look forward to seeing you in October. Have a good Summer.

To all Level I students with exams next week. Good luck!

To PGCE and PGDE students still on School placements, enjoy your last few days in School. We will be contacting you next week about celebrations for your cohorts.

To all PGT and PGR students working on dissertations and theses, make sure you get any advice you need from your supervisors to keep you going over the Summer.

To everyone with extended deadlines in August - keep going - it won't be long before you are finished for the year.

To all graduating students UG (Level H and Level M), PGT and PGR, good luck with your results, which we will be publishing on 2 July. You should have received an email earlier today about graduation dates. I want to say thank you for your patience whilst

PH Communication 18 June 21

we waited for the final pieces of advice from the Government and Public Health. I hope that we have found a solution that will let us all celebrate in the Cathedral - I am looking forward to seeing you there!

To every single Hope student I would like to say thank you - for your hard work, constructive feedback and understanding during this academic year.

Please remember that we are here to help and to support you. If you need some advice or you are struggling with anything, drop the [Gateway team](#) an email and they will contact you to see what we can do to help.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes
Penny

Dear

We are approaching the end of the academic year and most of you have completed your study for 2020/1. A few of you are still on PG courses and some of you have got assessments to complete or placement days to complete over the Summer. It won't be long until all of this is finished.

I hope that you have had a good year. It has certainly been a different year to the one all of us expected. I know that it has been hard at times and that some of you have faced considerable difficulties. I know it may not be easy, but I would encourage all of you to take a break. You need to find a way to do this that suits your circumstances, but I think we all need a moment to take a breath, to process the last 15 months, to continue to grieve for lost ones and lost opportunities and then to turn our minds to the future.

If you have not done so already I would urge you very strongly to make an appointment to have your covid vaccination. You can do this through the National Booking System webpage: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or alternatively, this weekend the NHS are running a 'Grab a Jab' campaign through a series of pop up centres. You can find out more at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/06/nhs-walk-in-vaccination-sites-open-up-in-grab-a-jab-weekend/> .

If you will be returning to campus in Autumn 2021 please try to arrange to get your second dose before you do so - we want to keep everyone as safe as possible when the new term begins.

As I mentioned last week, if you are remaining in private student accommodation over the Summer please think carefully about your neighbours. There have been recent reports in the media about students being noisy and disrespectful to local residents. Up to now these stories have not been about Hope students - please let's keep it that way.

I have been very concerned indeed about the recent homophobic attacks on young people in the City centre. You will have seen the student bulletin this week where we focussed on these incidents. This University condemns all forms of violence and these attacks which strike at the heart of our community are completely unacceptable. We are supporting the students that we are aware of, who have been affected by these events but if you haven't contacted us and need help and support please do so through gateway@hope.ac.uk The bulletin also included a range of sources of specialist support. Although it is sad to have to ask you to do this, please be particularly conscious of matters relating to your safety when out and about in the city over the Summer.

Graduation:

We are going ahead with Graduation in w/c 27 September for all those who would normally have gone to July ceremonies (as long as Government guidance permits it) . If this applies to you, you should have received an email from me about Graduation last week. During next week you will receive an invitation to a specific ceremony through your SRM. I will let you know when this happens so that you don't miss it. All

queries related to graduation should be sent to graduation@hope.ac.uk. If you have August assessments to complete you will be invited to the January ceremonies according to the normal timescale.

Results release:

2 July - Level H at 11am and completing PGT at 2pm. 21 July - Levels F & C at 11am and Level I and continuing PGT at 2pm.

PGCE Celebrations:

Traditionally we always have a ceremony of celebration for those finishing their PGCE. We are currently making arrangements for these events and you should receive details in the next couple of weeks.

So that's about all for the moment - I will keep writing to you over the Summer when there is news, so please keep an eye on your University email. I hope that you manage to get a break. Remember we are here to help you if you need us.

Look after yourselves.

Best wishes
Penny

Dr Penny Haughan

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life and Learning)

I can't let the year end without a final farewell from Arty and Trillion. [Here they are](#) - a rare picture of them together in my garden last weekend (they don't like each other very much and I think you can tell!). If it wasn't the end of term I would use this picture for a caption competition!