

Dear

It is great to see so many of you at the University already. Returning to face to face teaching has brought life back to our beautiful campuses and we are particularly lucky to see them bathed in sunshine this afternoon. I am looking forward to seeing those of you who are still to arrive. By Monday we should have everyone on campus who is able to be here. This is a long email because I have a lot to share with you. Please bear with me and read it through to the end. I promise subsequent ones will be much shorter!

Campus Safety

Much as it is wonderful to be on campus I need to remind all of you of the need to continue to be mindful of the risks associated with Covid-19. The virus is still amongst us and daily cases in the city are still significant. We need to act to protect our whole community so that we can all continue to enjoy the term without further restrictions being put in place. I am sure that none of us wish to return to the experiences of last academic year when we had to have very strict restrictions in place. We are asking you to do a number of things to continue to support the fight against covid when you are on campus:

Please (unless you are exempt) wear a face covering whilst inside the University buildings. This includes during teaching sessions. If you are not prepared to wear a face covering in a teaching room you may be asked to leave the session by your tutor. This will be implemented as wearing a face covering has been proved to reduce the spread of the virus.

You should expect to be challenged if you are not wearing a face covering inside. If you do not have a face covering with you they are available from all reception desks. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering you can obtain a blue lanyard for your ID badge which will help you avoid being challenged on campus.

2. Wear your Hope ID badge on a lanyard. This helps us to know who is on campus and identifies you as a member of the Hope community.
3. Follow the one-way systems on campus. This speeds up flow of people through the buildings and helps to avoid congestion. I know that sometimes it means that you have to walk the long way round but it is important in terms of everyone's safety.
4. Keep washing your hands or using the hand sanitisers on a regular basis - this will help us keep surfaces as clean as possible.
5. Take a Covid test twice a week. Test kits are available from the Gateway and Creative Campus receptions.
6. If you have not yet had 2 Covid vaccinations please do this as soon as possible. This is a really important part of the fight against Covid.

Safety in the City

I know that it is exciting to go into the city centre at night but if you do this you need to take every precaution to be safe. Over the last week we have had several reports of students, and particularly young women, being targeted in terms of drinks being spiked and foreign substances being injected, particularly in queues outside nightclubs. I am very concerned indeed about these incidents and the University has raised these issues with Merseyside Police and with the venues concerned. If you go out into the city at night please ensure you stay with fellow students and be vigilant. If you experience any problems at all, alert one of your fellow students, get to a place of safety and call the police.

You can find further information and contact details for support services [here](#)

You may also visit the SU webpages and social media channels for further support services.

Student Union News

On a completely different matter, the SU have asked me to draw your attention to the following two items.

If you would like to be elected as a Student Representative of the cohort you belong to, you can apply on the SU website for one of our many exciting roles by submitting a nomination: www.hopesu.com - there really is something for everyone, so get involved! I would strongly advise you to be part of this - the University values feedback from all its students.

The Student Union invites all students and staff to attend Black History Month events, which are attached in the calendar below. You can register for these free events by sending an email to Stephanie Trujillo (VP Welfare) at vpreswelfare@hope.ac.uk. This year the SU has worked closely with the Afro Caribbean Society and the Black & Global Majority Student Network to focus on the theme of Black Celebration, recognizing joy as an act of resistance towards hate in all of its manifestations. Join the talks, tours and events to find out more!

Please don't forget the University support services are open to you as you start the new academic year. If you need some mental health support or simply someone to talk to, you can contact our services by visiting <https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/>. Both the Gateway and Student Development & Wellbeing teams will be happy to help you.

Please also think about contacting the Careers team. It is never too early to have a conversation about your future. For more information please visit www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/careersandemployability/

If you have any questions you should email the Gateway team gateway@hope.ac.uk . The staff there will make sure that all your queries are answered.

Have a great weekend. I am thinking of you all as we start the new academic year.

Best wishes
Penny