

15 April 2021

Dear

I hope that you all managed to take a break over the Easter period. As I promised, I am writing to update you all on our approach to the new term.

The news related to the Covid-19 pandemic is much improved. The Number of positive cases in the city is now very low, the R number is reduced and the incidence of positive cases on campus is at present zero. All of the tests we set have therefore been met. You will also have seen the Government roadmap and the announcement from the Universities Minister, which was made in the last 24 hours. In the light of these documents, we have discussed next steps with the Heads of Academic Schools and Departments. As a result of these discussions we have come to the following agreement which reflects activity for the remainder of the academic year.

From the start of Term Three (19 April 2021):

Teaching of all practical sessions in subjects in the Schools of Creating and Performing Arts, Health Sciences, Maths, Computer Sciences and Engineering will go ahead as planned. Your subject will clarify the details of these sessions but you should expect to need to attend.

Teaching of fieldwork in Geography and Environmental Science will begin in a modified format. Colleagues in the Department will contact students to clarify arrangements.

Placements for students in Teacher Education and those in Social Work-related disciplines will go ahead as planned.

The rent holiday for students not using their room in the halls of residence will continue until 16 May 2021. You will receive a questionnaire which you will need to complete to tell us where you will be and your payment for the term will be adjusted accordingly.

From 17 May 2021

All subjects at all UG levels (i.e. Levels F, C, I and H) will reintroduce some limited face to face opportunities from 17 May. Each subject will identify the most appropriate format for these to take. These face to face sessions will happen alongside teaching materials being made available online. This is on the basis that we would encourage you to attend but would recognise that this remains problematic for some of you who are unwell, are shielding or who have substantive distances to travel to the campus.

15 April 2021

Once subjects have agreed which opportunities will be made available on a face to face basis they will be in contact to let you know. This will happen over the coming two weeks. When the arrangements are clear, your online timetable will be adjusted so that you can see the specific locations in which these will take place.

All examinations and alternatives to examinations will remain online.

All postgraduate teaching will remain online.

As we begin this gradual return to campus, I want to reiterate that the University will continue to prioritise the health and safety of students and staff. This means that it is essential that everyone should continue to follow the Government guidelines in terms of social distancing, the wearing of masks, the use of hand washing and the commitment to twice weekly testing.

I am aware that many of you have not been on campus at all throughout this year, or have had a very limited experience. These arrangements intend to get you on to campus and to give you the opportunity to meet with your fellow students and with your tutors. It will also be an opportunity to access the University's learning resources and to become more fully engaged with the Hope community.

I realise that many of you will have queries about this information. It will take a few days for us to have clarity on some matters, but in the first instance you should approach either your School/Departmental Administrators or the Gateway Team who will be able to help.

Best wishes
Penny Haughan

21 April 21

Dear Student

I understand it has been a very difficult time for you all. The pandemic has presented many challenges and we have had to do many things in a different way over this time. At the moment we are considering how we can celebrate your Graduations whilst ensuring that everyone is kept as safe as possible.

At Hope our Graduations are a very special time when as a community we come together to celebrate the achievement of all of our students. We are committed to holding Graduations for the classes of 2020 and 2021, but we need to be sure that we do this within the Government Guidance at that time. This is particularly important given that Graduation ceremonies where you are able to celebrate with your friends and families means bringing large groups of people together at one time.

I know this is a very important time for you and that you really want to know what is going to take place and when, but I ask that you be patient with us whilst we seek clarification of what is possible and when. I will send you an update in w/c 17 May 2021 and then once we are clear as to when and where the celebrations are able to go ahead, I will let you know our plans. It is important that we remain cautious and that the Health and Safety of all our staff and students remains the highest priority in all the decisions that we make.

Whenever it is possible, I look forward to seeing you all at Graduation which will be an important milestone in rebuilding our university community.

If there are any queries from students I would suggest they are referred to the gateway desk and we will deal with them from here.

Best wishes
Penny

23 April 21

Dear

I hope that you had a good Easter break . As we get back into term time it is important that you take time to look after yourselves and others around you. It is also important that you make sure that you know what is required of you for the remainder of the term, so quite a long email today.

As we come out of lockdown and start to embrace some of the freedoms we have missed over the last few months, we need to remember that this has been a very difficult time for our whole community. Many people have been unwell or shielding, many people have had caring responsibilities, have worked on the front line or have been apart from families and friends. We have lost members of our community, including one of our students this week. As our minds turn to thoughts of freedom and of hope, we also need to give ourselves time to grieve and to recover and to support those most directly affected.

If any of you feel that you need additional support at this time you can contact [Student Development and Wellbeing](#), the [Chaplaincy](#) team or the [Senior Resident Tutor](#) team, all of who will be glad to talk to you. If you would rather talk to someone outside of the University you can contact [Student Space](#) or Nightline, who will also be able to provide support.

The following is a range of information which has been sent to me over the first week of term to include in my email and which I think you will find useful:

Library Opening Hours update

We are pleased to let you know that from Monday 26th April the opening hours of the Sheppard-Worlock Library are being extended as follows:

Monday - Thursday 9am - 7pm

Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday - 10am - 3pm

The main entrance to The Sheppard-Worlock Library is swipe entry only so please bring your Hope ID card for access to the Library.

Library staff continue to be available to support you. Please email your Subject Librarian for subject specific support and check library social media channels or email askaLibrarian@hope.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information.

Please see the Library website [Liverpool Hope University](#) for more information on Library Services during the Trinity Term.

Assessment Matters:

We continue to be as flexible as possible with requests for extensions. If you cannot get your assignments finished by the published date because you are unwell, have caring responsibilities or have other mitigating factors please do not hesitate to ask for an extension. We want you to have the best chance of success. As you know, we have replaced the traditional examinations with alternatives so that you can complete them remotely. We are also more generally committed to ensuring that your outcomes for the year or for your degree result are not negatively affected by the Covid situation. Your progression or award will be calculated using the standard

23 April 21

calculations which you can find on the website, and the Assessment Boards for your School or Department will consider every student's outcome individually to ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account.

Nightline are looking for volunteers

Liverpool Hope SU Nightline are recruiting Listening Volunteers for third term and the next academic year (21/22) If you're a Level C, I or F student and you want to help make a difference to fellow students at Hope, register your interest at nightline@hope.ac.uk or get in touch with Sally at vpreswelfare@hope.ac.uk Our listening IM service will be reopening on Friday 23rd April, normal hours 10PM-2AM

Liverpool Hope App

I have commissioned a placement student Max Walker to undertake a review of the Hope App with a view to redesigning it and making it more useful to students. Max is holding a number of focus groups for students to get your thoughts on what we might do with it. It would be really great if any of you could contribute - I want it to be useful to all of you. You can attend any one of the focus groups which are being held at the following times. You should email Max at 17007433@hope.ac.uk for the link.

Wednesday, 28th April, 12 - 1 PM

Thursday, 29th April, 1 - 2 PM Wednesday, 5th May, 12 - 1 PM

Thursday, 6th May, 1 - 2 PM

The Hope Star Awards

The Hope Star Awards represent the best that staff and students at Liverpool Hope have to offer and showcase the amazing achievements from within our institution. This illustrious event recognises and celebrates all achievements, standards of excellence from colleagues, and service quality by everyone throughout the organisation. A quick reminder that this takes place tonight starting at 6.30pm on Zoom, with our first act, so please attend if you can and join in with the celebrations. [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 863 4611 0950 Passcode: 528441. I hope to see you there!

Finally, it is good to be back and its great to see some of you already on campus. Look after yourselves and stay safe.

Best wishes
Penny

30 Apr 21

Dear

I am sitting in my office looking out over the gardens at Hope Park. It is good to see the campus in the sunshine and great to see many of you back. Quite a few of you have waved to me as you've passed my window this morning which is something I have really missed!

Are you ok?

The easing of lockdown, the decrease in cases in the city and the success of the vaccination programme are all really great news and I'm sure that we are all really pleased to hear about them. We need to remember however, that this has been a very difficult time and that it has been challenging for everyone. I also think we should acknowledge that the situation is still difficult, maybe in different ways, but still challenging. We still have some constraints on how we live and we also find ourselves having to constantly adjust as the rules change. If you are struggling with your mental health or would simply benefit from someone to talk to there are a lot of options available to you. You can access the weekday drop ins or make an appointment with a Counsellor or Mental Health Advisor through SDW (sdw@hope.ac.uk). You can talk to one of the University chaplains (chaplaincy@hope.ac.uk) or the Senior Residential Tutors (residentiallife@hope.ac.uk). If you don't want to talk to someone from the University there are a range of external resources signposted on the [SDW webpages](#). In particular I would draw your attention to the Liverpool Hope Nightline and Student Space - I have included the information below so that you can access it easily.

Liverpool Hope Nightline

Liverpool Hope Nightline is a listening and information service, run by students for students. They provide a confidential, anonymous; non-judgemental, non-directional, and non-advisory service. Until local restrictions are relaxed, they will be operating as an IM service with the intention of our phone lines returning once safe to do so.

Every Friday-Sunday, from 10pm to 2am, during term time.

IM service available through the website: <https://liverpoolhopenightline.carrd.co/>

Student Space

Student Minds have developed a new platform, Student Space, collaboratively with services, higher education professionals, researchers and students to make it easier for you to find the support that you need during the coronavirus pandemic.

Phone: 0808 189 5260 (3pm-midnight)

Text: Text 'STUDENT' to 85258 (24hr)

Email: students@themix.org.uk (24hr, response within 24hrs)

Webchat: <https://studentspace.org.uk/support-services/webchat-support> (4-11pm)

Website: <https://studentspace.org.uk/>

Arrangements for 17 May onwards:

As I have mentioned before, the Government has given us permission to reintroduce some face to face teaching for non-practical courses from w/c 17 May. We have decided to do this in a cautious way but to give all of you the opportunity to be taught face to face during this period. Your tutors are currently working on which parts of your course will revert to face to face and I am hopeful that your timetables will be updated to reflect this by the end of next week. It would be great to see you back,

30 Apr 21

however, if you are unwell or you are pregnant you should not return to campus. Also if you can not travel from your current location or you are very anxious and feel you would rather not return you are free to make that decision. We will make sure that all the resources related to any session held on campus will also be available online.

Assessments:

The offer of extensions on coursework (including dissertations) to those of you need them is still in place. To request an extension you need to fill in the form which you will find in the 'Understanding your Degree' section of the website [here](#).

I hope that you can take some time to relax over the long weekend. Look after yourselves.

Best wishes
Penny