

14 August 2020

Dear All

Another beautiful Friday! I hope that you are all enjoying the sunshine.

I am really pleased to welcome those of you who have registered at the University for the first time over the last few days. You will receive these emails from me on at least a weekly basis - I am really keen to keep everyone updated on what is happening at the University.

For those of you who have been receiving these for some time now - I hope that you are all still OK, hopefully it won't be long until we can see each other again. I visited the campus yesterday, it looks great, but it is so empty and quiet. I can't wait to get back for real and for it to be filled with students. I'm sure my colleagues in the Network Colleges would also agree.

So, what is important at the moment?

Assessments due on 21 August:

For those of you who have extensions on assessments or reassessments due on 21 August, please keep going - not long now. If you can, please get them finished, you have spent long enough on them now and you need to move on. If you really can't get them done you can ask for a further extension but these will only be granted if you have a really good reason. You can find the application form on the website here:

<https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/studentadministration/understandingyourdegree/>

Registration/timetables for continuing students:

If you have already progressed to the next level of study congratulations! You will need to register to continue your studies. We will be releasing the registration tasks in mid September through your SRM as usual. You should be able to see your timetable at that time as well.

Term dates:

If you have missed these up to this point, they are listed on the academic calendars which are available on the website here:

<https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/academiccalendars/>

Arrangements on campus for 2020/21:

It won't be a surprise to know that things are going to be a little different on campus in the coming term. We have a full range of measures in place to address your safety in respect of covid-19. We are having these arrangements checked by an external firm next week to make sure that we have covered everything we need to. Once this is done I will be able to tell you a bit more about how we are going to operate next term, to give you the best experience without compromising on safety. A reminder that there are a range of FAQs about the new year and particularly Health and Safety related to covid -19. You can find these here. <https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/startingthenewacademicyear/> If you can think of a question not covered here please let me know and I will arrange for it to be included.

For new students:

If you are reading this email you must have registered and accessed the email system so you have made a good start! Please make sure that you have done everything you need to at this point - the instructions are all on the website at: <https://www.hope.ac.uk/informationfornewstudents/> Make sure that you click on the appropriate link for your cohort on the red panel on the left hand side. I am looking forward to welcoming you to Hope in person as the new term starts.

As always, if you have any concerns at all, the Gateway team are your best point of contact - they have a wealth of experience and information at their fingertips. They know most things, but if they don't know the answer, they will know someone who does! gateway@hope.ac.uk

Keep enjoying the Summer, try to have a rest and look after yourselves.

Best wishes
Penny

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PS

In response to those of you who are missing my feline friends, here is Arty taking up far too much space on my desk!

More news next week I promise - I think I'm going to need to find a way to explain this to all of our new students!



21 August 2020

Dear All

Once again, a Friday update

Hello to all of you who have been receiving my emails since March.

For those of you who have recently registered at Hope - welcome! I know there are now quite a lot of you, with many more joining each day. You will be receiving an email from me at least once a week. Sometimes I have lots to tell you about what is happening at the University and sometimes less (in which case I will tell you about my cats instead!). Either way, I am really keen to keep up the correspondence so you know what is going on in these difficult times.

This is a very disappointing Friday in terms of the weather. I am sitting looking out at the rain but at least it is watering my garden!

I have heard from many of you over the last few weeks, some tales of joy and some of great challenges. I am really proud of you all. Hopefully the start of the new term will be something to look forward to over the coming weeks.

What is important this week?

Students with health concerns about the new term:

You have received, or if you are recently registered you will receive, a questionnaire from the SDW (Student Development and Wellbeing) Team. This gives you the opportunity to flag up any health related concerns you have for the new term. Over the next few weeks a member of the team will contact you to discuss these concerns and to offer support.

Timetables:

Your personal timetables will be published in mid September (Unless you are a new PGCE student starting on 14 September in which case they will be released earlier). You will be able to locate them through MyHope.

Registration:

If you are a new student and have received this email you must have already registered - congratulations and welcome to Hope!

If you are a returning student your registration task will open in mid September after the final tranche of results has been released.

Students with Extensions:

If you were granted an extension as a result of factors related to the pandemic, your work was due to be submitted today. If you have not managed to submit your work, and have not already been in contact, you should email your School/Department office as a matter of urgency to discuss what needs to happen next. If you don't know how to do this contact the Gateway team gateway@hope.ac.uk and they will be able to help you.

If you have a further extension date granted over the last few days, your work will probably go to a Board in early October. If this is the case and you need to progress to the next level of study we will help you do this on a pending basis until your result is published.

Arrangements for the new academic year:

As we have discussed many times over the past few weeks, as the return to campus begins and the new term starts, we need to keep Health and Safety of all staff and students as the highest priority. This means that arrangements for the term will be very different to what you would expect normally. We will be following social distancing guidelines in all areas of the campus, we will be requiring the use of PPE as appropriate and we will be operating the timetable in a very different way. As you know, at the heart of Hope is the commitment to a personal education and this is best accommodated through face to face teaching. Wherever this is possible we will be giving you the opportunity to be taught face to face in the classrooms, but where we feel sessions would be more safely delivered by other means, then this is what will be arranged. In the first instance, all student timetables will

contain some face to face teaching. Obviously, should a lock down come into force then we will review all arrangements for teaching and other activities.

Help and advice:

If I haven't answered your question here or you need some other support please contact the Gateway team gateway@hope.ac.uk and they will be able to help you access what you need.

I am thinking of you all.

Best wishes
Penny

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28 August 2020

Dear All

Hello to all of you who have been receiving these emails for a while and welcome to those of you who have registered at Hope for the first time this week.

I have been writing to all students at least once a week to keep you in touch with what is happening at the University and particularly to highlight the things that you might need to know.

This has been a quiet week leading up to the bank holiday weekend, but things will start to get busy next week as we start to unroll the plans to reopen the campus.

New students:

If you are a new student, you should make sure that you have followed up on all the information on the information for new students webpages. If you are a new undergraduate student you will also receive an introductory booklet through the post in the next week. If you have any queries you should email the Gateway team gateway@hope.ac.uk and the staff there will be happy to help.

Returning students:

If you are a continuing student, just to remind you, your registration tasks and timetables will be ready for you to access in mid September. I am hopeful that this will be around the date of the release of the final results which is 17 September. Moodle should also be released at that time for you to get a look at before the start of the academic year. You will be able to see the new format for Moodle which looks great!

Disabled students allowance:

Many students at Hope with a disability, long-standing health/mental health condition, or specific learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, ADHD, etc.) already receive help and support via Government DSAs. However, there are still a significant number of students who haven't yet applied for this essential help and we want to make sure that those eligible to receive Government DSAs get access to this support. Further information is [available here](#)

Returning to campus:

I have mentioned before about a request for you to contact us if you have concerns about the return to campus in terms of health or other matters. The questionnaire you need to fill in is on your SRM. If you complete this, a member of the Learning Support Team will contact you to discuss your personal circumstances and will offer support as appropriate.

I will fill you in on more of the details about the arrangements that are in place for the coming year in my email next week, but to reassure you, we will be asking you to follow very careful social distancing in all areas of the campus. We will also be providing you with two washable face coverings which we will expect you to wear in public areas and in all buildings, unless you are exempt from doing so. We will also be expecting you to wear your

Hope ID card at all times on campus on a lanyard that we will provide, so those of you who are new to Hope need to send your photograph as quickly as possible and those of you who are returning to campus need to find your card and dust it off!

As always, the Gateway Team are there to answer all your queries so feel free to contact them gateway@hope.ac.uk

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the start of term

Best wishes

Penny