

3rd July 2020

Dear All

I promised to email every week to keep you in touch with what is going on at the University.

Level H/ degree results

I just wanted to reassure everyone who is waiting for these results that they are on schedule to go to the University Board on 20 July. Your tutors are doing the last pieces of marking ready for consideration by the Departments prior to the Board. Results will be released on 23 July as planned. Remember that if you need a certificate of completion for your new employer/University you will be able to request one after these results are released.

Level I results

Most of the remaining Level I results were published earlier this week. There are still some to come for Music and Nutrition. There are some special scenarios associated with these subjects and we are working with your tutors to get these released quickly where this is possible.

Students with Extensions/further work:

If you still have assignments to finish then please don't worry - you still have plenty of time. As always, the Gateway team gateway@hope.ac.uk will ensure any queries get to the right staff members. If you think you would benefit from writing mentor support, we have created some additional opportunities for you. You can contact askalibrarian@hope.ac.uk and the team will put you in contact with a mentor.

Plans for next year.

The situation in the country continues to be ever-changing. We are advanced with our planning for next year. We have planned for several different scenarios ranging from fully onsite to fully online with hybrid models in between. Our preference is to be onsite because building relationships and offering a personal experience is so fundamental to Hope. We will of course follow the most up to date guidance from the Government on an ongoing basis, to make sure everyone is safe. You need to be aware that should the situation in the country change during term time, we may need to move between models of delivery to keep everyone safe. In September before you arrive, you will receive a safety briefing from me that will explain how the campus will be run under the arrangements that are necessary at that time. We will also be undertaking an exercise to ensure that we identify any student who is vulnerable and for whom we need to make special arrangements. You will receive some separate correspondence about this later in the month.

I hope that you are all well and that you have been able to enjoy the easing of the lockdown a little. It is good to be able to spend some time with families and friends.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes

Penny

PS. I had intended to retire Arty from public life over the Summer but you keep emailing me to ask about him. [Here he is now](#) - sleeping peacefully on the floor by my desk. Don't be fooled, he has upset a cup of tea, stolen some of my lunch and brought in a frog already today!

Penny Haughan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life and Learning)

10th July 2020

Dear all,

I am writing as promised with a weekly update.

I am pleased I have left it to this afternoon to write as I can share my joy of the sunshine finally steaming through my windows.

I hope that you are all well and that the easing of the lockdown has had a positive impact on you.

There are just a few updates.

As I said last week the Level H and Level M Boards are set and ready to go. Your tutors are holding the School and Department meetings to make recommendations for your outcomes. Not long now!

For those of you with extensions please make sure that you have the resources and support that you need to complete your work. Many staff will be taking leave sometime during late July and August so they may not be contactable for a period of time.

You will have received the term dates for next year through the central mailing system. You will notice that we have moved from a model of two very long terms and one very short one, to a model of three 8 week terms. I hope that this will be better for you as it spreads your learning more evenly. It also allows us to stagger the start dates for each level, so we can reduce the numbers of students on campus at any one time, which will help with keeping you all safe next term. We have also introduced the concept of reflective weeks. These are included in the calendar to give you the opportunity to undertake tasks set by your tutors which will complement your learning and form part of your assessment for the year. You should assume that you will need to be on campus to access the resources of the University or to work with your fellow students to complete these tasks. Your tutors will provide further details about what they will require of you during these weeks at the start of the academic year.

We are working on the plans for next year on a daily basis. The timetable is currently being constructed to meet social distancing requirements. We would like to be teaching on campus but we will only do this where and when we are sure that you and your tutors will be as safe as possible. Your safety and that of the staff is our prime concern, closely followed by the quality of your student experience. You will receive details of your timetable and arrangements for safety on campus well before your start date, but we want to make sure that this information is as up to date as possible so it will be sent closer to that time.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with your new SU Sabbatical Officers this week. I'm sure that you are aware that Harry Pearce is your new President and Ollie Smith and Sally Wills are your new Vice Presidents. I know that they are really keen to

work with all of you on a range of really great issues and campaigns. Please give them your support.

The Student Support and Wellbeing services remain available to you throughout the Summer. You can access support for careers, mental health issues, finance and study skills through the normal email addresses or via the Gateway gateway@hope.ac.uk.

I am looking forward to seeing you all, either at the start of the new term or at Graduation.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes

Penny

PS. One of my daughters has come home for a few weeks. [Arty](#) is pleased. He has attached himself to her and won't leave her alone. At least I can use my computer in peace!

Penny Haughan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life and Learning)

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear all,

It is a very strange phenomenon that whenever I start to write to you on a Friday, the sun comes out. You all obviously brighten my day!

I hope that you are all well. I'm sure that the easing of the lockdown has been a relief to many of you but I am also aware that others still have very difficult circumstances to deal with. Please let me know if we can help in any way.

There are a number of important updates today:

Release of UG degree results to Level H students: Final degree results will be released on Thursday 23 July by email by 2pm at the latest. If you have an outstanding extension or resubmission you will receive a message to that effect. You will be able to access all of the individual assignment marks through the SRM.

PGT Board: The PGT board which will consider Masters, PGCertificates and PGCE awards will meet next week on Thursday. Results will be released early the following week.

Graduation: We are still hopeful that Graduation ceremonies will take place 1 - 3 December in the Metropolitan Cathedral. You will receive further correspondence about this in the Autumn, but remember that your Graduation day will not change, so if you were initially expecting your ceremony to be on Tuesday 21 July it will now be on Tuesday 1 December and so on. PGCE celebrations are still scheduled on campus for Friday 30 October.

Certificates of entitlement: If you need an interim proof of your entitlement to your award before you receive your certificate at Graduation you can use a 'notice of entitlement to award'. These will be available to download from your SRM from Monday 27th July. This document can be given to employers/other Universities who need evidence of your achievement prior to graduation.

Summer Research meetings: The Subject Librarians run Summer Research Meetups for students. This year these are going virtual! Watch out for a series of drop-in virtual meetups via Zoom over the next few weeks, starting with the first on Wednesday 22nd July 11-12. Further dates and times will be advertised on the library web pages and social media or just email AskALibrarian@hope.ac.uk for details. Please be sure to use your University email address to contact them. The library team members are looking forward to seeing you there.

Student Finance for next year: The University recently announced the term dates for 2020/21 which can be found at the following link <https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/academiccalendars/> Hope is currently in the process of communicating this new information to the Student Loans Company. If you have had your finance entitlement confirmed for 2020/21 you will now receive a further letter from the SLC saying your finance entitlement is being reassessed. Please do not worry about this, it always happens when any change is notified. You will then receive a further communication

with your entitlement and payment dates. In most cases your entitlement will not change but your payment dates may be different. These will correspond with the first day of teaching.

The start of next academic year: As we work towards the start of the new year, your Health and Safety and that of the staff is our top priority. We are hoping that we can be on campus teaching face to face. We will however need to make sure what we deliver face to face is in a context which is compliant with the Government advice at that time. More generally, the University is currently engaged in all the standard health and safety-related precautions that one would expect from a large organisation. With 33 separate buildings across multiple sites, this is a large-scale exercise looking at all aspects of the campuses from the use of toilets to the potential availability of sports facilities. Some examples of topics under discussion are social distancing arrangements, including one-way systems; the use of face coverings, and their availability to staff and students; the use of Perspex screens; installation of increased ventilation in rooms; and increased availability of hand sanitisation stations amongst many more considerations. You will be required to take part in an online Health and Safety briefing before returning to the campus.

You also need to be aware that during the term circumstances may change very quickly, such as the imposition of a local lockdown; this might mean that we also have to change the form of delivery at short notice. Your subjects will be fully prepared to do this. We will make sure that you are kept informed of the situation each day. For students who study at Network of Hope Colleges, your individual College will let you know about the arrangements that are being put in place there.

I hope that you are managing to get some well earned rest. Remember that your well-being is really important and that there are many of you who have found the last few months very challenging. If you need support you can still contact Student Development and Wellbeing sdw@hhope.ac.uk. You can also access their list of recommended resources which you might find helpful <https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/studentdevelopmentandwell-being/coronavirusresources/>

Good luck to those of you expecting degree results next week!

Look after yourselves

Best wishes

Penny

PS I thought you might like to see how much the [baby swans](#) have grown. The water in the canal is a bit green now though!

Penny Haughan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life and Learning)

24th July 2020

Dear All

I can't believe that it will be August next week. It feels like the new term will be upon us before we know it. I hope as many of you possible are getting some sort of break. You all need a rest.

Updates from me today are as follows:

Degree results: Congratulations to all of you who received degree outcomes yesterday. You all worked so hard and I am proud of all of you. I hope to see you in the Cathedral in December so that I can congratulate you in person. Apologies to those of you whose results arrived 10 minutes later than the published time. A small IT gremlin snuck in as we were sending some of the emails out and we had to resend them.

Remember if you need an interim proof of your entitlement to your award before you receive your certificate at Graduation you can use a 'notice of entitlement to award'. These will be available to download from your SRM from Monday 27th July. This document can be given to employers/other Universities who need evidence of your achievement prior to graduation.

Also don't forget that you still have access to the Hope careers and employability service if you need to careers@hope.ac.uk

PGT Board:

The PGT board which will consider Masters, PGCertificates and PGCE awards and progression met on Thursday. Results will be released by 5pm on Tuesday.

Graduation for students who have received degree outcomes:

We are still hopeful that Graduation ceremonies will take place 1 - 3 December in the Metropolitan Cathedral. You will receive further correspondence about this in the Autumn; obviously the arrangements in the cathedral are subject to the Government's guidance at the time. Similarly, we are still intending that the PGCE ceremonies take place on campus on 30 October. Again, there will be more information in the Autumn as soon as we are clear what the environment we are working in looks like.

Graduation for PGT students currently undertaking Dissertations:

I have had several notes from masters students who are in the process of completing dissertations, asking about Graduation dates. If you get your Dissertation and any other outstanding assignments submitted according to the October date set by your tutors then there should be no problem with you graduating at the December ceremonies. If you need some extra time please don't worry, you can be included in the July 2021 celebrations.

Online learning in the new academic year - feedback needed from all students:

Several of you have written to me with really helpful feedback on your experiences with online learning. Obviously we do not know yet what form all of the teaching will take in September/October, but we do need to be ready to be on line should it be necessary. I think it would be really useful to get some more feedback to make sure that we do this as well as we can, so next week you will receive a brief e-questionnaire asking you to reflect on your experience of online teaching last

academic year and for your thoughts on the year ahead. Please take some time to complete this as it will help guide the university's preparations for all Learning and Teaching eventualities whatever 20/21 might bring. I would be really grateful if you would do this.

I have an extension or reassessment and so don't have a result yet:

Don't worry. This is perfectly understandable. You have all had a difficult time over the past few months and we want to give you the best chance of success. You need to get your work submitted for 21 August for it to go to the September Board. If you are struggling to meet the 21 August date we will consider further opportunities if it is necessary in your specific case.

I have progressed to the next level of study, what happens next?

If you have received a positive progression message congratulations! You don't need to do anything at present. In mid September you will receive a letter explaining how to register for the new academic year. Please do this as quickly as possible when you receive the instructions. In the meantime please make sure that you have your accommodation and finance sorted out for the new year.

I will continue with these notes on Fridays throughout the Summer.

As arrangements for the start of term and for graduation come clearer I will make sure you receive them as soon as possible.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny

Dear All

What a beautiful day! I hope that you are all enjoying the sunshine. I am trying to work; I have all the windows open to get a breeze but it is quite difficult to concentrate with a walk by the river beckoning!

I have heard from many of you over the last couple of weeks. I really value your emails - it is great to share in your joy and I'm always happy to help you when I can.

For those of you with degree or progression results already, congratulations again - you have all worked so hard under difficult circumstances. Be proud of your achievements.

For those of you who have still got work to do, hang in there - you can do this, but please ask for help if you need it. I am aware that many of you still have very challenging personal circumstances, please feel that you can ask us for support - we will always do what we can.

As you can imagine, we are now focussed on getting the University up and running for the new academic year. We have introduced a wide range of new initiatives to help ensure your safety whilst maintaining the excellent student experience that we expect you to have at Hope. I think it will be a different year for all of us, but the Hope family coming back together will be a cause for celebration.

There are several messages for all students this week.

Senior Resident Tutor Opportunity

The Residential Life team has a vacancy for an SRT at Hope Park for the new academic year. If you have just graduated or will be a Level H or M student in 20/21 this could be a great opportunity for you. If you would like to be considered, and have not previously applied for an SRT post, you can register your interest by emailing residentiallife@hope.ac.uk with a paragraph about yourself.

Physical Library Resources for Postgraduate Dissertations

A temporary Request & Collect service will be available for Postgraduate students during August while the University buildings are closed. This service will enable you to request copies of print books which currently show as available on OneSearch. Requests should be submitted on the [online form](#). Library staff will visit the libraries once a week on Wednesdays to retrieve items so please submit your requests by the end of Monday if you wish to collect them on Wednesday of the same week. You will receive an email when the books are ready for you to collect. Books will be available for collection from the Security Lodges - books in The Sheppard-Worlock Library will be sent to Hope Park lodge for collection and books from Cornerstone or Capstone Libraries will be sent to the Creative Campus lodge.

Preparing for the new academic year

I am very aware that some of you are concerned about a potential return to campus. There are groups of individuals who are at higher risk from Covid-19 and others who are particularly anxious as a result of certain aspects of their circumstances. We need to make sure that appropriate arrangements are put in place for you if you fall into one of these groups and that we give reassurance where it is needed. Over the next fortnight you will receive a questionnaire through your email account, asking you to tell us about your circumstances. Please complete the questionnaire and send it back, so that we can make sure that you are contacted. Please don't assume that we know about your situation, we are asking anyone who needs support to complete the questionnaire, so that we are sure we have not missed anyone. Before the start of term, the Learning Support team will then be in contact with those who need arrangements made or reassurance given.

Look after yourselves. I am thinking of you all.

Best wishes

Penny