

1 June 20

Dear All

I can't believe that it is the first of June - the Summer has definitely crept up on us. I hope that you are enjoying the warmth and the sunshine. It is good for all of us.

We have had a few sad days at the University. Many people's families and friends have been affected by the virus and by other moments of crisis. This is true for both students and staff of the Hope community. For those of you directly or indirectly affected, I know things seem very difficult at the moment. Try to be strong and try to remember the good times. I know that you can get through this. In the meantime, as I have said before, if you need help please, please ask. If we can't help you ourselves at the University, we will find someone who can. I want us all to be a community together again in the Autumn, be it on campus, online or at graduation. Please look after each other. I am thinking of you all.

I have been asked by the City Council to remind you that to keep everyone safe, we should be following the current social distancing guidelines. Please make sure you know how these have changed in the last few days. Please also make sure you know what is still required in terms of keeping your distance. I know that this can be really difficult if you are living in shared accommodation but it is really important that everyone remains as safe as possible.

Good luck to those of you who are undertaking alternatives to exams this week. You are nearly there now!

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny

2 June 20

I know I mention the sunshine every day - but isn't it glorious! I have the window open while I work and the birds are singing (more about these in the section below).

A couple of quick messages today:

For residential students:

Thanks to those of you who have booked a slot to empty your bedrooms. There are still quite a few of you still to do this. Please try to work out the best time for you to come and then book a slot. As I've said before - it doesn't need to be immediate, we just need to know when you would like to come - July is fine if you want to wait for the contract for your new house to start and move in directly. If you have to travel from Wales it might be useful to know that the Welsh assembly have now published guidance on this matter. If you definitely know that you will not be able to pick up your belongings and that we need to store them till next term please will you also let us know.

For all students:

Ginny Mair who is the Head of Student Employability has asked me to tell you that employers have recently started asking students in job interviews about what they have done with their time during the Covid 19 lockdown. She recommends that if you have an interview coming up for a post graduation job, a PG place or a part time Summer or term time role, you think carefully about how you are going to answer this question. There are lots of good answers, including all the responsibilities I know some of you have, but it would be good to be ready for the question.

Along related lines, did you know that you can count all of your caring, homeschooling, key worker and other activities, that you would not normally be doing, towards the Service and Leadership Award or/and the Gold D of E. If you are not registered for one of these please do so - it would be really useful for you to have a record of this activity and recognition for it when you graduate. You can get all of the information through My Careers Centre or from the careers team careers@hope.ac.uk

I hope that you are all OK. Thanks for all the supportive messages yesterday.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny

3 June 20

Dear All

I am still thinking of you. It's a pity the rain has come, but at least my flowers are getting watered.

The big news for today, as I'm sure you have heard on the news, is that UUK have produced its guidance for Universities getting back on campus. This is really good because it will allow us to make progress with the planning for next year which I know you are all waiting for.

I know that some of you are doing timed exam alternatives this week. I hope that they are going ok. If there are any issues please get in touch straight away and I'm sure that we will be able to help.

Several non-resident students have asked about returning library books and whether you can come on campus to do this. It is absolutely fine. If you don't know what to do with them speak to the Campus Operatives in the lodge and they will help you.

I think there is some confusion about picking up belongings. It is fine to leave it until July but at the moment the team are only taking bookings for time slots until mid June. If you want a later one you will need to wait for them to be released.

If you need anything at all please ask. We will all do what we can to help.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny

4 June 20

Dear All

We live in very difficult and challenging times. We have a global pandemic on our doorstep which has changed all of our lives in so many ways. In the midst of this crisis we also see the terrible events of the last week in the USA. It makes me remember how lucky we are to be part of the Hope community that values every one of its members, that condemns discrimination and has its roots truly in social justice for all.

It seems unbelievable that this is the last week of term. For some of you, this means that tomorrow is technically, your last day at Hope. I'm sure that you would have wanted this time to be different, that you would have wanted a celebration with your friends, feeling a combination of happiness that your exams were over and sadness about leaving; all mixed in with excitement and trepidation about what lies ahead for you in the future. I'm sorry that you can't do this face to face now, but let's all look forward to Graduation when hopefully we can all meet again. I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to seeing you all in the Cathedral. Remember that you will always be part of the Hope community.

Students with extensions:

I am aware that many of you, at all levels, have extensions on a whole range of coursework and exam alternatives. I hope that the situations you have written to me about are beginning to resolve themselves now or, if not, that you are at least personally in a better place to face them. Please keep going with your assessments - I would really like to see you all progress or graduate alongside your colleagues. Several of you have asked me about Board dates for 21 August extensions. The Registrar has confirmed to me that the Board for all students with August extensions will be Monday 14 September 2020 with results publication planned for Thursday 17 September 2020. For those of you in Level H this gives plenty of time to get you into the Graduation lists and for those at other levels time to rejoin your cohort for the next academic year.

Remaining Assessment Boards:

The first Level I Board meets tomorrow, so progression results should be available to you on Wednesday next week. For those of you who have taken assessments in the last couple of weeks, a second Board will be held when the marking is finished. We will also be using this Board to consider any outstanding Level F and C students who missed the last Board but whose assessment is now complete.

The Level H Board meets on Monday 20 July and we expect to publish degree results on Thursday 23 July. As I have said before, if at that point you need a statement of completion there will be an opportunity to request this.

The Postgraduate Board will be held on Thursday 23 July with the intention to publish results on Tuesday 28 July.

Good Luck Everyone!

Look after yourselves

Best wishes

4 June 20

Penny

5 June 20

Dear All

The last day of term. A poignant moment. The end of a difficult few months. Much sadness has occurred in many aspects of all of our lives. Many of you have coped in extraordinary circumstances. Many of you have volunteered to help others or been part of the workforce in challenging circumstances. I salute you all.

I know that some of you still have assessments to complete, others are waiting for results to be published and some of you are looking for what to do as you graduate. Keep going - you will cope and the

Please remember that the University support services will be available to you over the coming weeks, so please ask for help if you need it.

I will be contacting you over the coming weeks, but I just want today to mark a moment in time and say the following:

Thank-you for everything you have done for your families, friends and local communities.

Thankyou for your support of the University and your positivity and understanding as we have found our way through unknown times and circumstances.

Thankyou for being such a great group of students who have supported each other in so many extraordinary ways.

And most importantly thank-you for the personal messages of support, your photographs and your constructive suggestions, all of which I have taken on board (and many of which have already been acted upon).

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny

12 June 20

Dear All

I hope that you are all well.

I have decided to write to you once a week during the holiday period so that I don't overload you with emails every day. I have been very touched by how many of you have emailed me since term ended. Please keep writing to me - I love to hear from you and I want to help you with anything I can.

I know that today has been particularly difficult for some of you. I have been thinking of you. I am grateful for your support, both for each other and for your tutors. Try to stay strong.

I have a number of pieces of information for you all:

Level I results

As some of you will be aware, we released the first batch of level I results on Wednesday. For those of you who progressed - this was a great set of outcomes, you should be very proud of yourselves. For those of you with extensions - keep going - you will get there too.

I am aware that some students were offered resubmission opportunities for individual assignments that you had not passed, even though you had achieved a progression outcome overall. If this applies to you, please consider taking up this opportunity, it may make a difference to your overall degree outcome next year.

There are more Level I results to come towards the end of the month for those of you on accredited programmes. Good Luck!

Extensions

Several students have asked me about changing their agreed extension dates. You are welcome to do this. Just contact your School or Department and they will make the change for you.

Student Finance

The Student Loans Company has [announced](#) an extension to the application deadline for student loans for full-time returning students in England and Wales, from 12 June in Wales and 19 June in England, to 30 June. This means that there is still time, but you need to get started now.

Support Services

Please don't forget that the student support services; mental health support, disability support, student finance, accommodation, the library and the careers team are all still operating online and will do throughout the Summer. If you need some assistance or advice, please get in touch, they will be happy to help.

12 June 20

As usual if you have a query or need some and you don't know who to contact or the contact details of a specific service, the Gateway team can help you. Just send an email to gateway@hope.ac.uk and they will refer it to the appropriate person.

British Academy

If you have any free time next week you might be interested that the British Academy has [announced](#) details of its virtual summer showcase event on 19-20 June, aiming to provide “intellectual nourishment” drawing on research in the humanities and social sciences. I have seen them do similar events in the past and I think it will be very interesting.

Level C Music

Our Level C Music students did an online concert for their tutors this week. I watched the recording - it was wonderful - what a great thing to do - thankyou!

I will write again next Friday. In the meantime look after yourselves. I hope, as the rules for lockdown ease in the next few days, that many of you are able to meet up with loved ones and friends.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny

19 June 20

Dear All

I hope that you have had a good week. I hope that you and your families and friends are still coping and that you are getting help when you need it. Time is passing slowly and it seems a very long time since we were all together at the University and the Colleges; hopefully we will all be able to see each other either when term starts in the Autumn or at the Graduation ceremonies.

There are two sections to my letter today, the first is about next academic year and the second is a summary of answers to the most common questions I have received over the last week.

Firstly, I want to tell you about the arrangements for the coming year. As you can imagine, we are in the middle of an extensive planning process to start the new academic year. Our main concern is the health and welfare of all our students and staff. We will do everything we can to protect students and staff. We will, at all times, follow the relevant guidance from Public Health England. If for reasons beyond our control, the Government's advice changes, the University has worked on several alternative ways to continue full academic work to the high-quality experience that Hope is proud of; albeit in a modified form where this is necessary.

The intention is that our halls of residence will be fully open, although there will be a need for heightened health and safety arrangements. The student support services will also be fully operational as will access to the library and other learning resources at the University.

At the present time the situation relating to Covid 19 is changing on a daily basis, so it is really too early to have a full picture of how the University will function when the term starts. Our preference is to be teaching face to face in accordance with Hope's commitment to building relationships and delivering a personal education. We will, of course, only do this where it is safe to do so. Where this is not possible, we may use a mixed model of face to face and online delivery. Whatever model is used, I can assure you that it will maintain the excellent academic quality of which this University is justly proud.

As you can understand, much of what is to come is beyond the control of the University, as it is for all Universities across the country. If the Government should introduce new measures or in the event of a resurgence of the infection, we shall have to act appropriately to ensure everyone is safe. That may mean, as for all Universities this year, the need to modify or cease all face to face teaching for a period. Obviously, we hope that this would not be necessary, but in preparation for such a scenario, we are ensuring that all of our courses have a comprehensive online version which can be used at short notice should it be necessary.

We are also working with the SU to ensure that a range of social and other activities are available to you. An important part of university life is the community life of students and the important formation that being together brings. Again, in preparation for any interruptions, the University is using the current situation to try out new and innovative events which I hope that you will enjoy.

19 June 20

I know that you are all waiting for dates for the start of term to be published. The University Senate is considering this matter next week, so hopefully it won't be long now.

Secondly, these are the answers to queries that have been sent to me this week and might be of interest to you:

Level I results publication:

If you are in Level I and took part in the recent exams related to PSRB requirements, your profile will go to the University Board for verification next Friday 26 June. The results are due to be published on Wednesday 1 July.

Level H/Degree outcomes publication:

The University Board will meet on Monday 20 July and your results will be published on Thursday 23 July.

Postgraduate (taught) results publication:

The University Board will meet on Thursday 23 July and your results will be published on **TUES**day 28 July.

Return of library books:

Arrangements are in place at all campuses for return of library books. You can ask the staff in the security lodges to direct you to the appropriate place to leave them. If you are not going to be in Liverpool for a while please don't make a special journey. You can return them after the Summer.

Please remember that the University support services are still there if you need them, even if you have just completed your studies. If you don't know who to contact, email the Gateway team gateway@hope.ac.uk and they will help you.

Have a good week. I am thinking of you all.

Best wishes
Penny

26 June 20

Dear All

I can't believe that June is nearly over! I have enjoyed the heat in the last couple of days, but this morning's rain is a bit of a relief.

I hope that you are all well. I also hope that the loosening of some of the restrictions has made the lives of those of you who were struggling a little easier. I know that many of you still face considerable challenges. I am thinking of you all but if there is something practical that Hope could do to help please let me know and we will do what we can.

We have an online Open Day today and I have just learnt a new skill of running a webinar. I did my Open Day Welcome to Hope this way. There were people online asking questions, but it wasn't the same as welcoming people onto the campus. Hopefully we will be able to do this again soon. As you know, the personal Hope welcome is a fundamental part of what we do.

There are several updates for today.

Start of Term dates for 2020-21

I know that you have been waiting for start dates. These were agreed by the University Senate this week so are hot off the press. I have listed below the start dates for each level. During next week I will send out a student bulletin with all the detailed dates for the whole year, but this should give you a start. We have changed the pattern of the academic year a little to try to minimise numbers of students on campus at any one time. As I said, full details to be published next week.

Note that for all undergraduate levels and Masters courses there are online induction activities in the week before term starts. This is because we want to make sure that you are absolutely clear about the teaching arrangements and also about Health and Safety arrangements for coming to the campus. These arrangements will be covered separately for PGCE students.

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| Level F and C: | Full Induction week 28 September, Full teaching 5 October |
| Level I: | Online induction activities w/c 12 October, Full teaching 19 October (except Level I QTS which start a week earlier) |
| Level H: | Online Induction activities w/c 21 September, Full teaching 28 September |
| Level M and UGM: | Online Induction activities w/c 5 October, Full teaching w/c 12 October |
| PGCE: | Full teaching w/c 14 September (except School Direct where the arrangement is directly with the partner institution and you will hear separately) |

For those of you on Network of Hope Courses, the arrangements are still being discussed with the Colleges. I will get these to you as soon as possible.

As I wrote to you last week, our wish is to be able to be on campus but we will make a final decision about to what extent this is possible nearer the time. Obviously the government guidance is changing almost daily and we need to make the best decision based on the current guidance at the time. Please be assured that we will take the particular needs of every student into account.

26 June 20

Student Finance queries:

Some of you have asked about how to contact the Student Finance and Funds team.

Student Funds deal with information and guidance about money available for your course including bursaries, scholarships, maintenance loans and grants. studentfunds@hope.ac.uk

Fees and Collections deal with information on fees for all courses and accommodation offered at Liverpool Hope University. financequeries@hope.ac.uk

Remaining Level I results:

The University Board meets this afternoon to consider the next tranche of Level I results. The Registrar tells me that she is pleased with them. The outcomes will be published on Wednesday next week. Good luck to all of you who are expecting results!

Please remember that the University support services continue to be available to you, so if you need mental health support, counselling, careers advice, library support etc. please make contact with the relevant department and the staff will be pleased to help you. As always, the Gateway team can direct you to the right person if you need it. gateway@hope.ac.uk

Look after yourselves

Best wishes

Penny