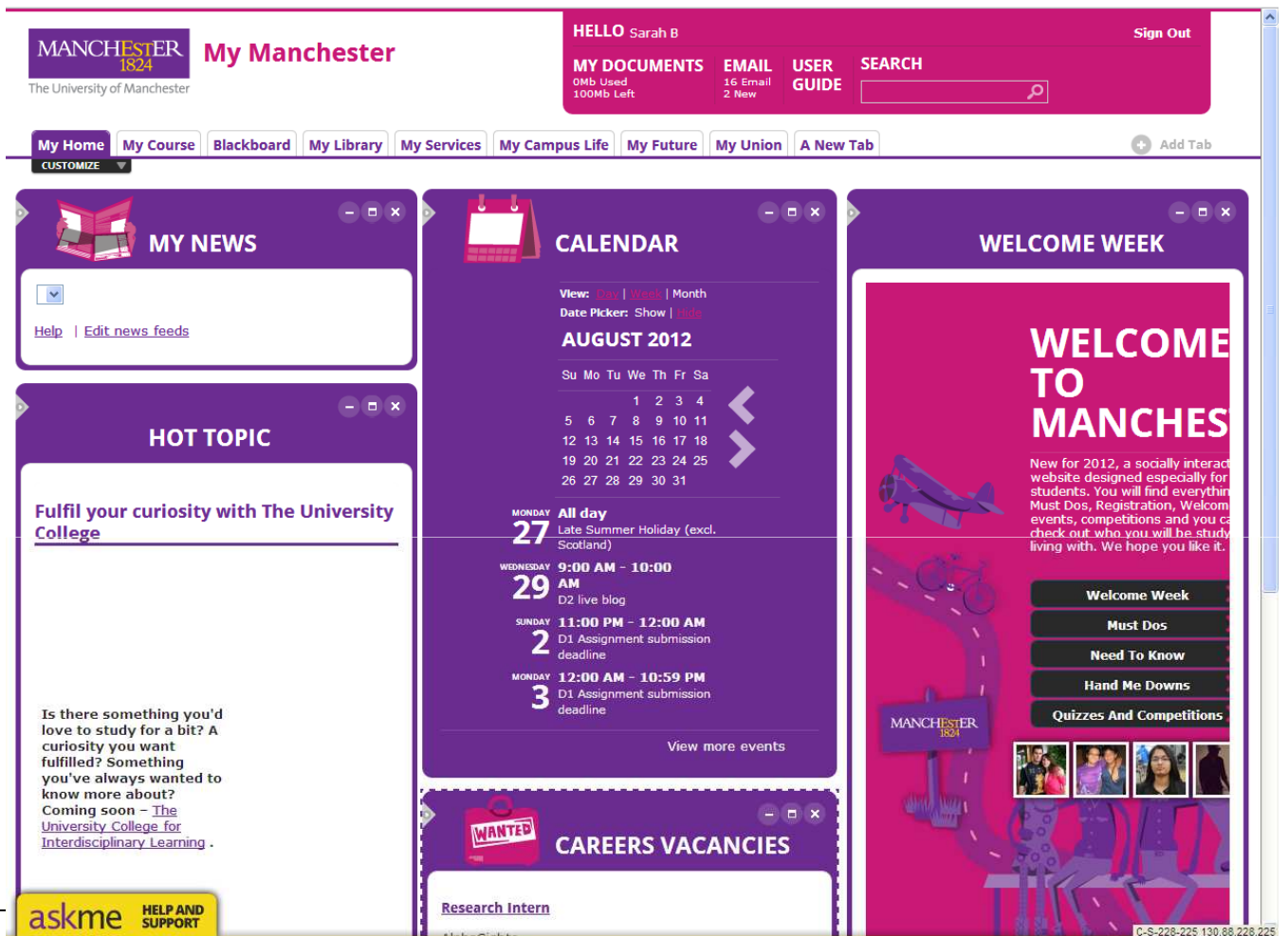# New-look site takes shape

Since the last update, Student Communications and Marketing and the Application Support and Development Team in IT Services have been working with external design agency Wonder Associates to translate the initial design mock-ups into reality, applying them to the upgraded uPortal4 infrastructure.

The modern interface and iconography, combined with improved functionality, should make the site easier for students to navigate and encourage them to engage and explore available tools and features.

Phase 2 enhancements: an overview

• Modern design and iconography
• Blackboard tab allows quick access to BB9
• Live jobs, events and social media feeds
• More powerful and visible search function
• Online help and support resources easier to access via floating 'ask me' tab
• Optimised for viewing on mobile devices

Current state of play

Design work is now complete and the new interface is having some final tweaks in an Alpha development environment, before going into Beta and then UAT (for testing).

The aim is to get the new site live well in advance of the first day of Registration – the target go-live date is Thursday 23 August.

We will issue another edition of this bulletin once the site has gone live, with further information.

Plans for testing

Testing of the new My Manchester site comprises several elements;

• Design agency Wonder Associates will be performing extensive cross-browser and cross-device testing, to ensure any issues are picked up at an early stage

• SSC is liaising with a number of colleagues to perform end-to-end testing of dummy student profiles, focusing on the robustness of the Registration and Confirm Attendance processes which originate in My Manchester.

• Student Communications and Marketing has recruited a cohort of several dozen current students to perform user testing of the new site.

Compatibility testing for browsers and devices is current taking place, with end-to-end and user testing due to take place Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 August.

How does this affect the Applicant View for students confirming attendance?

The new design and colour scheme will be applied to the limited Applicant View of My Manchester, which new students are using to confirm their attendance. To address any possible confusion among students who may log into the current Applicant View (with the 'old' My Manchester design), and then again, once the new version goes live, a message will be added informing of them of the reason for the change and reassuring them.

Please note there will be no changes to any of the current portlets in the Applicant View beyond them getting a new 'skin', meaning that all instructions for how students should confirm attendance remain unchanged.

It is planned that further updates like this one will be produced throughout the next academic year as My Manchester continues to be developed.

If you would like to receive these directly, please email mymanchester@manchester.ac.uk

Echoing new design in Blackboard

The team working on developing My Manchester is working closely with eLearning Applications Team Services in IT Services to explore how the new look and feel of My Manchester can be applied to Blackboard, to create a consistent experience as the users move between the two environments. We are working towards achieving this for the Start of the new Academic Year.

For more details about My Manchester development contact

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