

OCTOBER 2016

1. COREMUNICATE TOPICS ON VIDEO

Welcome to the first CoreMunicate of the new academic year. This month's video features an overview from me covering a number of items which have arisen during the summer months including the University's performance against some of our Manchester 2020 Key Performance Indicators; changes to our Faculty structure; and decisions aimed at delivering a sustainable financial position for the University. This is followed by a piece from Professor Clive Agnew, Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students and Tim Westlake, Director for the Student Experience who are interviewed by Naa Acquah, General Secretary of the Students' Union. They are talking about some of the key aspects of our work to improve the student experience including an overview of Welcome Week and the Sustainability Challenge, an update on the Student Lifecycle Project and the launch of our new and distinctive student-facing campaign Stellify. You can watch the video at:

- www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/pss/coremunicate/

2. PAUSE TO SOME CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROJECTS

As I mentioned in my video message, work is being undertaken to deliver a sustainable financial position for the University so that the necessary investments can be made for us to achieve our Manchester 2020 ambitions. The difficult decision has therefore been made to pause on parts of our capital programme, in particular the Main Library Redevelopment and aspects of the redevelopment of Coupland 3. The Main Library Redevelopment will be paused until summer 2017 and will then be reconsidered. In Coupland 3, essential long term maintenance works will be completed and accommodation for the School of Dentistry and some teaching spaces will be progressed, but other work will be paused. This will affect PSS colleagues in the Faculty of Humanities and the Directorate for the Student Experience and when more detail is available this will be communicated in these specific areas.

3. THE MANCHESTER LEADERSHIP AWARD AND STELLIFY

During Welcome Week, around 5,000 of our first year undergraduates took part in our Sustainability Challenge 2016 and by doing so took the first step towards completing The Manchester Leadership Award. This is a new award focused on helping our graduates to develop the qualities and values of strong ethical leadership through a range of extra curricula activities. At the same time we've launched Stellify – a campaign aimed at our students emphasising what is distinctive about a Manchester graduate and encouraging them to get involved in the unique opportunities on offer to them during their time with us. You can find out more about Stellify at: <http://www.stellify.manchester.ac.uk/>

4. NEW FACULTY STRUCTURE

During the summer a new Faculty structure for our University was launched so that all academic activity now takes place in three Faculties - the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health (FMBH), the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) and the Faculty of Humanities. FMBH brings together the Faculty of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences in a new, simpler, more integrated structure. FSE continues to be made up of the nine Schools which featured in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences but has been augmented with the transfer of the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology. In addition a number of academic members of staff have moved to the School of Chemistry from the former Faculty of Life Sciences and environment and ecology has joined the renamed School of Earth and Environmental Science. Thank you to all PSS staff who were involved in ensuring that these new structures were in place in time for the 1 August launch.

5. UNIFORM BENCHMARKING EXERCISE – SERVICE EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY

In July's CoreMunicate, I shared some key headlines from the UniForum Benchmarking Project around the relative cost and staffing levels at the University compared with some other Russell Group institutions. I mentioned that the University would be running a Service Effectiveness Survey to collect feedback on a number of key PSS services to help provide a clearer picture of their effectiveness, benchmarked as appropriate with other Russell Group institutions. The Survey will be launched at the end of October and will be open for three weeks. A large sample of both academic and PSS colleagues will be invited to respond via email and provide feedback on key services which will help us understand what we are doing well and where we need to improve. The Survey is being conducted by an external consultancy company, Cubane Consulting, on behalf of the universities involved in the UniForum programme. It should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and it is important that we get a good response rate. Therefore, if you receive the invitation, please do take the opportunity to feed in your views.

6. DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The 2017 call for nominations for the Distinguished Achievement Awards is now open. Faculties will be co-ordinating the researcher, teacher, undergraduate and postgraduate research student categories but nominations for the PSS, Library and Cultural Institutions' and General Distinguished Achievement Awards can be submitted directly to the President's Office. For more information visit: <http://man.ac.uk/5n2tHG>

7. CHANGES TO VEHICLE ACCESS ON OXFORD ROAD

You'll have seen that significant work has been taking place along Oxford Road over the summer as Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), in partnership with Manchester City Council, complete improvement works to create a pedestrian, cyclist and bus friendly space. New bus lanes and stops have been added, along with segregated cycle lanes and 'Dutch-style' bike bypasses which safely separate cyclists from buses. There is now a 'bus gate' in operation which covers the section of Oxford Road between Hathersage Road and Booth Street and which gives priority to buses, cyclists and taxis – general traffic is prohibited. The bus gate becomes fully active on Monday, 10 October and after this date every motorist – other than buses, cyclists and hackney carriage taxis – will receive a penalty charge notice should they drive through. CCTV cameras are now active and the restriction applies seven days-a-week between the hours of 6am and 9pm.

8. AUA CONFERENCE

The Association of University Administrators (AUA) Annual Conference takes place at the University in April 2017 with the theme of 'Transformation'. This event for PSS staff promises a diverse programme which debates, informs and reflects on the challenges and changes we face as individuals, teams, institutions and as a sector. If you're interested in attending, the early bird rate is open until 31 October 2016. To find out more visit www.aua.ac.uk

9. DISPOSAL OF CONFIDENTIAL WASTE AND DATA SECURITY

Finally, a note to remind all staff to take care with data security in your communications with students, as mistakes can result in harm and distress to individuals, significant financial penalties and severe reputational damage to the University. For guidance on data protection visit: www.dataprotection.manchester.ac.uk Paper records which contain confidential or person identifying information must be disposed of either by shredding or via Shred-it, the University's approved shredding services provider. Further information can be found at: www.estates.manchester.ac.uk/services/operationalservices/envsvcs/waste/confidential/ Remember that the 'blue-bag' collection service provided by the Directorate of Estates and Facilities is not a sufficiently secure method for disposal of confidential waste.

Will Spinks, Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer