

Event Recap: Meeting Professor Duncan Ivison



President Duncan Ivison recently hosted a special event for our non-desk based Estates & Facilities colleagues. Held in The Beehive, it gave him the opportunity to meet different teams, talk about the future of the University, and how everyone in Estates can help shape it.

The event began with Duncan reflecting on his time at the University and living in Manchester so far. He shared that Estates staff were among the first people he met on campus, and expressed his gratitude for our warm welcome and making him feel at home. He then thanked everyone currently working hard to ensure our winter graduation ceremonies are running smoothly.

Looking ahead, Duncan stated that it's an exciting time for the University as we're thinking about her future. He asked an important question: "What kind of University do we want to be by 2035, and what kind do we need to be by then?" Three main areas of consideration were highlighted:

1. **Our campus:** Duncan asked attendees to consider what our campus should look like by 2035. In an increasingly hybrid world, how do we keep encouraging staff and students to come onto campus? Do we need more green spaces, or do we need to think about how our buildings operate?
2. **Digital future:** This theme focuses on how we can use technology to make things better for our people – both staff and students. How can we use technology to make our University a better place to work?
3. **Staff development:** Duncan then asked how we can best help our people develop and grow – as he believes we need to ensure our staff receive the support, training, and development we need.

Before everyone sat down to eat the breakfast provided, Duncan took some questions from the different teams about local issues they face. Questions around staff development, technology, and the future of Estates were asked. He reflected on how the work we do contributes to the University's overall vision and helps us to achieve our goals for the future.

We are thankful to everyone who took the time to come along and speak to Duncan. We hope to see even more of you at future events!