



University of
Nottingham

Community Newsletter

Autumn 2020



**Testing the key
to safe departure
and returns**

**Protecting the
Community**

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the colour of money**

Welcome

to the Autumn 2020 edition of our **Community Newsletter**, our opportunity to share with you the many ways in which our students are making a positive contribution both on and off-campus.



We start this edition with a glimmer of hope – the announcement that a Covid-19 vaccination programme should begin its roll out this month across the City, starting with the most vulnerable people in our care homes and frontline healthcare workers. Dare we dream of life returning to a more recognisable normal by the springtime? I sincerely hope so.

This term has probably been the most challenging that we have ever faced in higher education. After the spike in Covid cases in Nottingham this October, there has been understandable debate about whether universities should have resumed face-to-face teaching in September. I still believe that the alternative would have had a greater negative effect on the educational outcomes and mental health for both our new and returning students, something that I am sure none of us wanted for this generation of our young people. Moreover, a move to online only provision would have had a hugely detrimental impact on Nottingham's economy, something we could ill afford right now.

Thanks to our preparations, local partnerships and the sensible responses from most students to our Staying in to Save Lives campaign – as well as by testing and isolating students quickly - we were able to rapidly bring the outbreak under control, reducing the number of active cases across our community by more than 90% in just a matter of weeks. This has made a major contribution to the decline in the infection rates in the City of Nottingham in November.

Of course we recognise that many local residents will want to know how we will manage the departure and return of students to the city for the winter holidays. In this edition, we include information about our procedures for the departure of our students for winter break and, importantly, how we intend to manage their safe return in January to prevent the situation arising again.

While we are proud of the overwhelming majority of students who have helped to protect their communities by following the Government guidelines, I am aware that a very visible minority have continued to flout the rules.

We have worked closely with police to manage this situation and ensure that those students are appropriately disciplined. We invite any residents with concerns to contact us by email at offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas and to send the University's best wishes to you for a positive start to 2021.

Dr Paul Greatrix
Registrar
University of Nottingham

Testing the key to safe departure and returns



All 35,000 of our students will be offered Covid testing as they return to Nottingham in the New Year.

The University has developed comprehensive plans to support the Government's programme for the safe movement of students both pre and post-Christmas.

This has included phasing our teaching online, staggering departure dates and using both the Government's Lateral Flow Test and our own in-house Asymptomatic Testing Service to provide additional reassurance.

This month students who have had negative test results have been able to travel home, while those who test positive must isolate in line with current guidelines. We have started our testing early enough to help everyone who wants to return home for Christmas.

While many of our students will return home for the winter break some will stay in Nottingham. They may not choose or be able to travel, perhaps because they are local or this has become their home; we will provide the activities, campus space and support that they need in line with whatever local restrictions are in place over the winter.

Until the University closes for our winter break, some students and members of staff will still be working on campus or on site elsewhere. This may include those undertaking placements, research teams and staff carrying out work which cannot be done from home. The majority of staff continue to work from home where it is possible to do so.

Education continues to be classified by Government as an essential activity which may continue provided COVID-secure measures are in place. This recognises the value face-to-face learning brings to a cohort of young people who have faced various barriers to their learning this year, as well as the significant steps we have taken to provide a Covid secure environment on our campuses. There is no evidence to suggest face-to-face teaching has contributed to transmission.

Preparations for the safe return of students to campus in January are well underway.

Unlike the start of the Autumn term, we have a fully developed testing service in operation and we will be able to offer tests to all students, both on campus and those living out in the community, as they arrive back in Nottingham.

The University will follow strict government guidelines to manage a phased return of students for the new term across the whole of January, testing all students on their return to identify and isolate any positive cases quickly, which will reduce the potential for outbreaks and protect all our communities.

We will continue working with our partners to help ensure we all play our part in keeping each other safe.

Protecting the Community

Nottinghamshire Police has been working closely with staff at the University of Nottingham this academic year to ensure that students show respect and consideration for their new community, while keeping themselves and their friends safe.

Several operations have been running across the year tackling everything from antisocial behaviour to burglary and Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Amy English, who covers Radford, Lenton and Arboretum, has thanked students for their cooperation throughout the pandemic.

Inspector English said:

“Over the last few months, we have seen the introduction of our Radford Road Operation Reacher team, bringing extra officers to the area who are dedicated to clamping down on organised criminal activity while building strong community relationships with residents and businesses.

I am pleased to say that they have had an incredibly successful first few months and will be looking to build on their great start moving forward.

We have increased designated patrols across Radford, Lenton and Arboretum tackling burglary and antisocial behaviour and have seen some positive action, including an arrest of a 16-year-old boy in connection with a series of distraction burglaries targeting students.

I have attended regular meetings with the University of Nottingham staff to ensure that we are doing everything we can in order to address issues when they arise appropriately and proportionately.



We also have worked closely with our partners in Community Protection, including partnership meetings where we assess issues affecting local people and how best to tackle them.

I would continue to ask that anyone who is a victim of crime or witnesses suspicious activity to report it to us as soon as possible on 101 or in an emergency, 999.

While I am thankful to the majority of students have complied with the local and subsequent national lockdown restrictions, I have been disappointed by the minority of students who have chosen to break the rules.

We have mentioned time and time again that we are at a crucial point in the country's response to the Coronavirus and we need everyone to play their part in adhering to the legislation.

Through our close working relationship all student-related issues we deal with as Police are also sent to the University for follow-up disciplinary action.”



Help out our hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are among the numerous Beasts of UoN that we are lucky enough to see on our campuses, despite the fact that the numbers of these wonderful creatures have declined by approximately 50% since the year 2000.

Here our Hedgehog Friendly Campus group share some top tips for a hedgehog friendly garden:

- You may have a 'wilder' area of your garden - leave it be. Wild areas (with long grass, logs, leaves etc.) are great nesting sites for hedgehogs, and provide a haven of creepy-crawlies that they love to eat.
- Put a shallow dish of water in your garden for hedgehogs to drink. Don't offer milk - hedgehogs are lactose intolerant. Go one step further and put out a dish of meaty pet food.
- Make or buy a hedgehog house. This provides a safe place for hibernation. Hedgehog houses can be as simple as an upturned plastic box with a hole cut out for a door. Check out britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-homes for more information.
- Make a 13x13cm hole in your garden fence to allow hedgehogs to roam between gardens.

Find out more about our Hedgehog Friendly Campus group on Facebook at facebook.com/uonhedgehogs



Green and Gold – the colour of money

The mighty Green and Golds have excelled themselves in their charitable endeavours this term. Here's a round-up of some of the amazing fundraising efforts from our University sports teams:

- Inspired by England star Marcus Rashford's work around child poverty, the University of Nottingham's Men's Football Club teamed up with St Paul's RC Church to offer more than 200 free lunches to eligible children over October half term. Charity Secretary, Max Adler, said:
"Following the Government's decision not to provide free school meals for school children over the half-term holidays, the University of Nottingham Football Club would like to help the community. We understand the difficult times we are living in and we firmly believe that no child should ever have to go hungry."
- Also sparked by Rashford's national campaign, the University of Nottingham American Football Team picked up the idea and ran with it, organising a food collection for the Trussell Trust.
- The Movember Campaign has raised more than £80,000 collaboratively across student groups. Honourable mentions particularly for the Men's Hockey Club which has pulled in £10,000 towards that total along with more than £6,000 from the Rugby Club, £5,000 from the Ladies Hockey Club and £3,000 from the Men's Football Club.

That's a wrap!

The University's Cheerleading Club will be helping to make Christmas a little sweeter for children in need in our local community, in partnership with the charity Operation Orphan – by helping to wrap 976 selection boxes for them.

Isobel Martin, the Cheerleading Club's Charity and Welfare Secretary said:

“It is so important as, for some children, these small gifts we wrap are the only presents that they will receive for Christmas. We also write cards to go inside the presents as a personal touch. It is such an amazing event and our help really makes a big difference for this small charity. We of course wanted this event to still go ahead this year as just because there's a horrible virus, these children still need to receive their presents.

Unfortunately this year the other sponsors that operation orphan relies on to wrap these presents have pulled out because of Covid, so we wanted to help more than ever. The effort and determination from our team to get these boxes wrapped has been amazing! As a sport that revolves completely around teamwork, for me this is the perfect example of how we can work together to help the community especially in such



a hard time when lots of people seem to be dropping out and small charities like Operation Orphan get left behind.”

School workshops for Nottingham OutLAWs

The University's Pro Bono Society has been running a project delivering workshops on legal study, legal careers and university skills sessions for secondary school students, with a focus on those from underprivileged backgrounds.

They have held recent workshops for students at South Nottinghamshire Academy, Trent College, Derby Moor Academy and Nottingham Girls' High School about accessing higher education and providing them with help on their university applications and personal statements. They provided two live workshops with around 30 students each and for schools that couldn't accommodate a live session, they sent pre-recorded videos with additional resources.

The heads of the OutLAW Project, Max Knowles and Jacob Dean, said:

“We believe it is crucial that all students have a level playing field. They ought to be assessed on their merits alone, without regard to their background or circumstances. A majority of the students we work with would be first generation university students and do not have the support or guidance required to access higher education. Our volunteers provide this by giving our students the confidence they need to apply to university and access the legal profession.”

Vaccine centre at King's Meadow Campus planned

The University is delighted to use its facilities to assist with the planning of a regional vaccine centre.

The NHS is setting up a number of centres across the UK in preparation for the vaccination programme being rolled out. Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust approached the University for use of space at Kings Meadow Campus to help them carry out this vital work in the fight against the virus.

The centre will operate independently to the University for bookable appointments only and is likely to be in place until at least Spring 2021.

Christmas cheer... in a shoebox

The Sutton Bonington Guild has been busy organising a Christmas Shoebox Appeal for the charity Link to Hope.

They collected 41 gift and goodies filled shoeboxes and raised £123 for the charity. The shoeboxes will go to underprivileged families in Eastern Europe.

The guild has also helped to get a donation point on campus for the new Kegworth Food Bank called the Kegworth Larder.

Niamh Dunn Mason, Campaigns and Charity Officer for Sutton Bonington Guild (pictured) said:

"Here at SB Guild, we really wanted to try and help less-fortunate families this Christmas so decided to take part in the Link to Hope shoebox appeal. They do amazing and necessary work in Eastern Europe, giving aid to families and the elderly. Everyone deserves something special at Christmas time and we are proud to be a part of this wonderful cause."

The Kegworth Larder has been set up by One Kegworth and will provide food and essentials to local residents, including students, in times of need. We are very pleased to have a donation point on campus in the Cafe where anyone can donate food other essential items."





Virtual daytrippers

The children and young adults with disabilities who are members of the University’s PhabSoc, which organises day trips and events they may not otherwise be able to experience, were facing disappointment when Covid restrictions appeared to scupper their planned activities.

But the small student-run charity, which promotes and encourages people of all abilities to come together on equal terms, were determined they would not miss out – and organised two virtual day trips instead.

For the first trip they partnered with a company called Electric Umbrella who used music to enhance the lives of the members by getting them to sing/dance and enjoy themselves for the day. And for the second event they were able to be introduced to the residents of an animal sanctuary – over Zoom.



Kira Riding, the Publicity Officer said:

“We organise a diverse programme of activities with the end goal of empowering these young people and focusing on their abilities rather than their disabilities. This allows them to experience opportunities which they may not be able to do otherwise whilst providing them with care and companionship. One of our main aims as a society which we think is really important is to bring our members together on equal terms and support their transition into adulthood. We also aim to provide respite to parents with children affected by a range of disabilities.”

Stay in touch

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