



University of
Nottingham

Community Newsletter

Summer 2020



Nottingham students
join NHS heroes on
the frontline

Delivering help
for pets in need

Supporting our
key workers

Welcome

to the Summer 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



I don't think any of us could have predicted the impact that the Coronavirus would have had on all of our lives over these last few months and I hope you are all staying safe and well in these challenging times.

In this edition you will read about some of the incredible ways in which our University community has responded to the pandemic. Our team of leading multidisciplinary researchers is developing a COVID-19 vaccine, looking for new treatments and beyond this outbreak to identify future threats. Meanwhile, I'm sure you will be inspired by stories of our staff and students rising to the challenge of supporting our communities, partners and the global effort.

Having successfully reintroduced students back to our campus in China we are now preparing for the phased re-opening of our UK campuses and welcoming back our new and returning students in September.

The health and safety of our staff, students and local communities remains our priority and we are working closely with Nottingham Trent University, the City Council and public agencies ranging from the NHS to Nottinghamshire Police to manage the safe return of students to the city.

We are setting out clear expectations on how our students should follow guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and show respect to their communities and have extended our disciplinary process to encompass public health protection issues through a new COVID-19 Community Pledge. Students found to be in breach of the code will face disciplinary action, fines and campus sanctions.

We are also actively exploring enhancing our investment in Community Protection Officers to patrol communities in which students live, and use their powers to tackle anti-social behaviour.

We have worked extensively with Public Health England and local public health officials to develop a Local Outbreak Plan and are investigating if we can support this with enhanced testing to detect, track and trace infections in students.

This comes as part of a wider Universities for Nottingham Civic Agreement – the first of its kind in the UK – which will see both universities play a vital role in the city's recovery from the economic ravages of Covid-19 by supporting for small business and key sectors like aerospace, attracting talent and investment, and helping meet our partners ambitions for zero carbon by 2028.

You will find more about the work we have been undertaking to minimize the effects of this global emergency on our wider university community on our website.

As always, we are keen to hear your feedback on the newsletter, and whether you would prefer an electronic version, so please do let us know by emailing offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk

Dr Paul Greatrix
Registrar
University of Nottingham

Return to campus – keeping our community safe



Ahead of welcoming students back in September, the University is undertaking a range of coronavirus-related measures in partnership with Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Trent University, Nottinghamshire Police and others to protect the safety and security of staff, students and the local community.

All students will be asked to commit to a **COVID-19 Community Pledge** – six clear expectations around following guidance to reduce the spread of Covid-19, showing respect to others, and the resulting disciplinary action should they not uphold this pledge.

The student Code of Discipline will be extended to encompass public health protection issues and our Covid-19 Community Pledge. Disciplinary measures including fines of up to £1,500, suspension or exclusion are already in place for serious breaches on an escalation basis. For antisocial behaviour issues, students may also be required to attend a Community Living and ASB Workshop being delivered in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University. The University is actively exploring extending and enhancing its investment in community protection to meet the challenges students and communities face due to the pandemic.

Collaboration with Public Health England and Local Public Health officials has resulted in a Local Outbreak Plan. A dedicated Incident Management Plan Task & Finish group for Higher Education has been established and scenario preparation exercises are being run in conjunction with local healthcare organisations.

Plans to provide support for students in the community who need to isolate are being developed and the University is exploring enhanced testing of students to support fast and effective local outbreak management. Cripps Health Centre on University Park will be ensuring students have access to outstanding primary care – and that other healthcare providers in Nottingham are able to balance the needs of the entire city's residents. Its purpose-built facilities allow the building to be split into segregated secure zones as a response to public health emergencies, including pandemics.

Other measures being undertaken include:

- The offer of help to local shops to support maintaining social distancing measures
- A campaign for all new and returning students reminding them of their responsibilities as members of Nottingham's community
- Regular data updates to partners, neighbourhood groups and other stakeholders ensuring a reliable and transparent evidence-base for decision-making to underpin action
- Regular ASB Problem-Solving Group meetings with local community groups and agencies
- Continuing regular student recycling campaigns

The Universities for Nottingham Civic Agreement in partnership with local authorities, healthcare organisations and the Local Enterprise Partnership, has been signed, committing all partners to working together to ensure the safe and secure return of students to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire from September 2020, and develop a new long-term integrated student-living, community cohesion and regeneration strategy.



Nottingham students join NHS heroes on the frontline

Hundreds of students from the university's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences have stepped up to join local NHS medical staff fighting on the frontline against the coronavirus.

More than 300 final-year medical students graduated early and gained provisional registration from the General Medical Council to allow them to work on hospital wards under the supervision of more senior doctors.

Carrying out a range of basic procedures including taking blood samples, inserting drips, ordering investigations and completing discharge paperwork, they have helped to support patient care when COVID-19 has threatened to overwhelm NHS services.

In April, viewers of the BBC's One Show flooded social media with well wishes and reported being moved to tears by an emotional 'virtual' graduation organised by the programme to celebrate the first cohort of graduating medics.

Almost 200 final-year nursing students, in their last six months of training, have been working on extended paid placements in the NHS - 172 of them with local trusts including Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Professor John Atherton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, said:

"Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures and we are incredibly proud that our talented medics and nurses have been able to step up to support the NHS in its hour of need, responding to the unprecedented pressures created by this coronavirus pandemic."



Vet school students resume face to face teaching

Students from the University's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science have become some of the first in the UK to return to face-to-face teaching following the coronavirus lockdown after resuming their studies on Sutton Bonington campus.

A package of practical health and safety measures put into place to allow the safe return of almost 150 vet students from its April cohort will be used as a blueprint for the arrival of students across the University's UK campuses when the new academic term begins on 21 September.

The University's position as a global institution has allowed it to introduce best practice developed at its campus in Ningbo, China, which has already seen the safe return of more than 5,000 students.

As part of the measures which have been introduced at the Vet School on Sutton Bonington campus which includes increased hygiene, one way systems and new signage, students are being accommodated on campus in household groups and kept in these 'bubbles' for their teaching to avoid exposure to larger groups.

Since they joined the University in April at the height of the UK lockdown, the school has been able to offer the students a full and successful programme of technology-assisted Fresher's Week and teaching activities.

However, the early return of the April cohort will enable face-to-face teaching that cannot be delivered remotely, specifically essential animal handling and health and safety skills.

The cohort back on campus at the Vet School is also part of a COVID-19 testing pilot project to explore whether routine testing of students and staff could allow the University to prepare for potential outbreaks, manage them quickly and mitigate the impact on our communities. Participants are being tested for COVID-19 every week, with antibody testing every fortnight - with researchers looking at innovations in testing methods, including pooled qPCR. A behavioural study into participant views of testing is also taking place over the twelve weeks. University is also working closely with local and national public health officials to ensure the Pilot informs joint work on local outbreak planning across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Beeston students support their community in coronavirus crisis



During the early days of the coronavirus lockdown, two Nottingham postgraduate students spotted an opportunity to generate some people power in the Beeston community in which they live.

Camilla Babbage, a third year applied psychology and psychiatry PhD student in the School of Medicine, and Craig Scott, a third year PhD student in the School of Psychology, began leafletting their street Dennis Avenue inviting people to join a team of neighbourhood helpers.

Combining forces with likeminded Beestonians,

the group became part of a wider network covering more than 30 streets in the local area connected via a Whatsapp group which also included University staff members Becky Cameron and Gemma Hallford, offering help to elderly and vulnerable neighbours and those who were shielding.

Camilla said: "We've had the pleasure of watching people 'e-meet' neighbours who they'd never talked to previously, of people's requests for help being eagerly met by the community - from members putting out sunflowers on their drives and cat owners learning of their pet's roaming to cooks offering their homemade goodies.

"It's been wonderful, and we can't wait to have a street party to put names to faces when it is

safe to do so!"

A local resident added: "The group has more than 200 people on it and helps to support individuals in the local community through dog walking, buying food and picking up prescriptions. It has had a fantastic impact in the last 10 weeks and dozens of people have benefited from it."

In addition to this, Camilla continued to take a lead on a peer mentoring scheme for postgraduate students at the university which continued virtually during lockdown, as well as sewing scrubs in her spare time for NHS staff at the nearby Queen's Medical Centre.



Nottingham students' food surplus supermarket steps up to COVID challenge



A student-run food surplus supermarket and redistribution network has been stepping up its activity after demand surged during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Award-winning social enterprise Foodprint is Nottingham's first social supermarket run entirely by students and volunteers. It is supported by Enactus Nottingham, a student entrepreneurship body based at the Nottingham University Business School.

The Sneinton-based supermarket sells and delivers unsold food, that is still good to eat, which the large supermarket chains would otherwise send to landfill. Since its launch in 2017, it has been supplying food to around 600 households, food banks, homeless shelters and school breakfast clubs in inner city Nottingham but the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown has seen demand increase dramatically.

But thanks to new partnerships with other charities and organisations in Nottingham, Foodprint has been able to expand its services. This has included providing food to four city schools for food parcels from the school gates for around 100 families whose children qualify for free school meals. And with extra funding from Capital One, Foodprint has also delivered food parcels for self-isolating elderly people unable to go to the shops.

Foodprint's Director, Chris Hyland, said: "It's been a challenging time for Foodprint as most of our student managers and volunteers went home to their families before the lockdown. As a result, we've had to very quickly change the way we operate to continue ensuring surplus supermarket food doesn't go to waste. We are extremely grateful for the continuing support of our supplier organisations, including Fareshare Midlands, Central England Co-operative and ALDI, and to the team of volunteers keeping our store and redistribution network running."

Anyone interested in volunteering to help Foodprint can email volunteer@foodprint.io



Delivering help for pets in need

When lockdown scuppered their usual weekly clinics in Nottingham city centre, the COVID-19 crisis threatened to put the University's Vets in the Community team temporarily out of action.

Instead, the quick-thinking student volunteers from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science on Sutton Bonington campus, who provide free routine veterinary care to the city's homeless and vulnerably-housed community, decided to take their support to the pets and their owners.

As Fourth year student and Vets in the Community fundraising officer Ciaran Burns explained:

"We had several calls from owners unable to get out for pet food and medication, so instead we made a delivery run. Using lots of hand gel, and observing social distancing, we were able to provide vital supplies. We're also very grateful to Olde Bakehouse Pet Shop in East Leake for their support."



With help from Vet School staff, the team of student volunteers were also able to contact support agencies and promote a telephone service to organise getting vital food and medication during lockdown to homeless and vulnerably-housed pet owners. And the group got involved with a social media campaign to support Big Issue vendors, including clients of Vets in the Community, who had lost their income during lockdown by promoting the online version and subscriptions.

The extra costs of meeting the increased demand for help during the coronavirus outbreak have been met by raising more than £1,500 through the creation of a Virtual Pet Show, involving a panel of judges including Channel 5's Yorkshire Vet, Julian Norton.



A new online fitness programme launched

Staff and students from the University of Nottingham are part of an international team of experts who have launched QuarantTrain – a student-led healthcare project to help provide information and resources to stay fit and well during periods of isolation.

QuarantTrain provides evidence-based, meaningful, effective information and support material in the form of videos and blogging. The team is providing video content through YouTube, and the website acts as a portal for huge amounts of additional and external physical activity resources.

QuarantTrain is led by physiotherapy students and has rapidly developed collaborations and networks world-wide with universities, hospitals, and specialist exercise institutes - Exercise-works promote global physical activity initiatives and is the University's key partner.

A team of 12 undergraduate physiotherapy and sports rehabilitation students from the School of Health Sciences at the university are contributing to the content, admin and technical support for the programme. There are also five international physiotherapy postgraduate students developing content.

Dr Roger Kerry said: We are trying to provide a trustworthy platform where anyone from anywhere can access, engage in, and be supported by. Our main aim is to promote physical activity, which has known benefits for many physical and mental health condition, in terms of prevention and rehabilitation. Beyond this, we want to make people feel connected, and recognise that although we may all be physically isolated, we can still connect."

Visit <https://quaranttrain.org/> for more information.

Sharing is caring

The city's universities have supplied vital machinery and supplies to support the national effort in the fight against COVID-19.

The British Armed Forces collected 13 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines from across the University of Nottingham's five campuses, as well as three from Nottingham Trent University's Clifton Campus. With a total value of £1 million, together they can perform an estimated 20,000 COVID-19 tests a day

They also supplied Category 2 Cell Culture Cabinets which provide a highly controlled environment to protect skilled scientists carrying out tests for COVID-19. In total, 28 cabinets were collected by the army from the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University. The size of the units meant it took five 7.5 tonne trucks to move them all!

Staff in the University of Nottingham's obstetrics and gynaecology department at the City Hospital campus have been working from home, so have given over a kitchen-common room and two seminar rooms within the department to NHS colleagues to use as rest areas.



Supplies including portable electrical items such as dry block heaters, 96-well plastic plates and adhesive sealing films for PCR machines, spare machine lamps, nitrile gloves and tissues have been shared to help set up local virus testing labs

The University of Nottingham has added further support to increased testing for COVID-19 with the supply of a Maxwell RSC 48 Instrument to the testing laboratory at the Queen's Medical Centre to help it triple the number of tests carried out.

To find out more about how the University is supporting the national effort against COVID-19 visit our dedicated webpages www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/covid-19



Universities experts play key role in national coronavirus research

The University is undertaking vital research into COVID-19 and offering expert advice to government and local healthcare partners.

Academics in the DeepSeq lab in the School of Life Sciences are part of a £20m Government-funded COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium to map how COVID-19 spreads and behaves by using whole genome sequencing.

Meanwhile, the University of Nottingham Health Service is recruiting for the next phase in human trials of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine developed by researchers from the University of Oxford.

The study will enrol up to 10,260 adults and children and will involve a number of partner institutions across the country, including the University of Nottingham Health Service, supported by research delivery teams from the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) East Midlands.

Volunteers will attend the Cripps Medical Centre on University Park in Nottingham to take part in the trial. People interested in taking part can visit the website for more information and to register www.covid19vaccinetrial.co.uk/participate-trial.

In a separate study, scientists from both of Nottingham's universities are assisting Scancell Holdings plc, a developer of novel

immunotherapies for the treatment of cancer, to adapt its existing cancer vaccine platform for the development of a new DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.

Virologists at the University of Nottingham's Centre for Research on Global Virus Infections have identified parts of the novel coronavirus that they hope will generate an immune response that will prevent future infection by the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Work at Nottingham Trent University's John van Geest Cancer Research Centre will screen the new vaccine for its capacity to trigger immune responses against COVID-19, prior to the new approaches being tested in healthy volunteers. And Nottingham University Hospitals and the University of Nottingham researchers at the NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre have been involved in a national clinical research study led by the University of Oxford to investigate whether drug treatments originally developed for other conditions can also help treat patient with COVID-19.

The RECOVERY trial has already shown that the low-cost drug dexamethasone reduces deaths by up to one-third in hospitalised patients with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19.

For the full story on the University's research to support the national coronavirus effort, visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/covid-19

Nottingham engineers produce certified 3D printed face shields for NHS

Engineers at the University have designed a PPE face shield with CE approval that they have 3D printed at scale for healthcare workers to use in the fight against COVID-19.

Using the latest in 3D printing technology and materials at the University's Centre for Additive Manufacturing, and working with external collaborators including Nottingham Trent University, the team has delivered 5,000 face shields to Nottingham's NHS and community healthcare workers.

Building on an open-source design of headband originally from HP, the team in the Faculty of Engineering made modifications to ensure the face shield could pass a regulatory test by BSI, the UK's national standards body, to ensure the highest level of protection is provided.

The face shields successfully passed the BSI tests and are CE approved for use as part of PPE for healthcare workers' protection against COVID-19 in both hospital and community environments. They are provided in packs to the NHS, with five replacement visors per face shield.

The team have made the design and its accompanying documents 'open-source' to enable other manufacturers to produce the face shields.

Professor Richard Hague, Director of the Centre for Additive Manufacturing, said: "Our primary goal was to ensure that we delivered a PPE solution that was safe and certified so that healthcare workers can have confidence in the equipment they're using."

The face shield comprises a 3D printed headband, a laser cut PET visor (with anti-fog coating) and is kept in place with a laser-cut adjustable strap. As well as using their own EOS Laser Sintering equipment, the University's engineering team has been heavily supported by Matsuura UK to produce the 3D printed element, using their HP MultiJet Fusion process. The visor element has been made with the help of local firm, Prime Group, and Nottingham Trent University has led on the production of the laser-cut strap.





Supporting our key workers

During the height of the COVID-19 crisis, the University was very proud to support our keyworkers by offering free parking and access to extra accommodation.

It has made more than 10,000m² of space available to NHS partners, with around 5,000m² currently being used for a wide variety of purposes such as a doctors' mess, lecture space for nursing training, labs for testing, showers for Nottingham University Hospitals staff, space for on call rooms for staff to rest, storage and delivery facilities for equipment, space for new equipment testing e.g. ventilators,

Car parking spaces were given over to NHS staff in our Nottingham Medical School car park, at University Park, at Derby Medical School and Jubilee Campus to enable workers to carry out essential front-line services.

The University worked with local partners including Nottingham University Hospitals Trust to help provide extra accommodation for key workers. The rooms in our halls of residence, on University Park, were available for staff who needed accommodation close to the Queen's Medical Centre. Cripps Hall was used to support NHS workers unable to return home, with more than 2,400 beds booked, as well as frontline hospitality workers working to support and maintain the services at Hipps café in the Medical School, which has remained open.

Non-profit rates, refunded through the Government, were put in place for halls accommodation. Other agreements put in place for key workers included those who are working to repair the A52 Clifton Bridge.

Stay in touch

-  nottingham.ac.uk
-  offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)115 951 5151
-  [UniofNottingham](https://www.facebook.com/UniofNottingham)
-  [@UoN_Off_Campus](https://twitter.com/UoN_Off_Campus)
-  [@uniofnottingham](https://www.instagram.com/uniofnottingham)

This publication
is available in
alternative formats:
+44 (0)115 951 5559

University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

© University of Nottingham 2020. All rights reserved.
Printed August 2020.