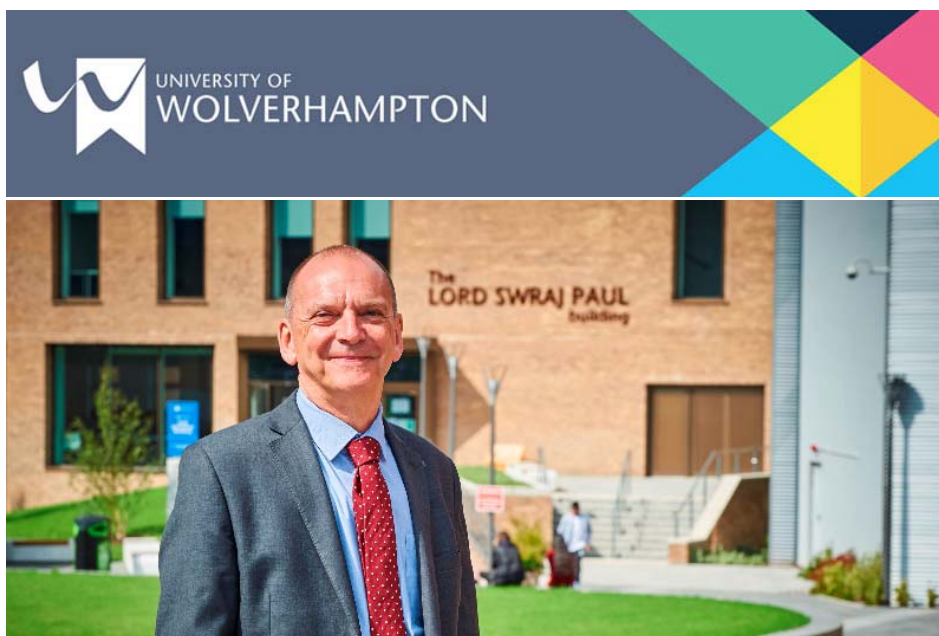


**From:** External Relations  
**Sent:** 05 February 2019 10:22  
**To:** Staff  
**Subject:** Geoff's Update - February 2019



## Geoff's Update - February 2019

We're now well into 2019 having welcomed new and returning students to the University for Semester Two and teaching is back underway.



### University achieves QS Stars rating

Starting with some good news and the University has been awarded four stars in the global ratings system, QS Stars.

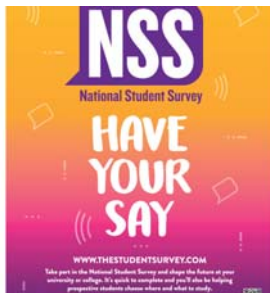
The scheme provides a detailed look at institutions against several different categories and gives them an

overall score as well as rating in individual areas. It aims to give international students an insight into worldwide universities and choose a university based on what is important to them.

Universities are scored from 0 to 5+ stars as part of the independent system.

Following its application and assessment, the University of Wolverhampton was scored four stars overall. It was also scored five stars for teaching, five stars for employability, two stars for research, five stars for internationalisation, four stars for facilities, three stars for innovation and five stars for inclusiveness.

Well done to all involved in achieving the rating.



## National Student Survey

The NSS is now live for students to complete. Results from the survey provide vital feedback to the University and helps us shape teaching and services we provide for students. It also plays a big part in contributing to our Teaching Excellence Framework metrics.

Last year the University achieved a 69.4 per cent response rate overall (just below the national average) and this year a target has been set to achieve at least 70 per cent.

The research evidence tells us that early completers are more likely to be positive than late completers so I would urge colleagues to do all they can to encourage eligible students to complete the survey as soon as possible.

All those completing the survey before 15 February qualify for a free drinks voucher and are entered in a prize draw for a £500 Amazon voucher.

The survey closes on 30 April 2019 and students should be directed to the National Student Survey website.

Last month I went out to speak to staff about the issue of sustainable development at the University. The sessions were well attended and there were some terrific points and debates had.

Clearly, there is an appetite for us to move this agenda forward and see what we can do as an organisation to be more sustainable. I am currently reviewing all the feedback from those meetings and as part of next steps will be seeking to set up a sustainability steering group to help drive this work forward.

## **Timetabling and Space Audit**

We recognise the level of staff and student anxiety caused by the late rooming of the Semester Two timetable and apologise for this.

As you will be aware, we are investing in a new timetabling system which seeks to substantially improve the situation from September 2019 onwards. It remains very important to reassure students that we are investing in this area and to encourage them to check the online timetable regularly for updates.

A space audit will be conducted over the coming weeks, the outcomes of which will help us to more effectively utilise our teaching facilities.

## **Website Project Update**

I am pleased to report that the project to implement a new look University website is now well underway.

Granite Digital, the company which successfully tendered for the redesign work, conducted a series of workshops with a range of staff groups, prospective students, businesses and alumni in last two week as part of its initial research phase.

This is added to the user experience and stakeholder work previously done which will be taken into the design phase of the project.

The aim is for the new website to be ready for this summer ahead of Clearing. In the meantime the current website is unaffected and it's very much business as usual.

More information on the project and support can be found on the [ER Webteam pages](#).



## Equality and Diversity

February is Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans History Month, a time to celebrate the contribution that LGBT people have made throughout history and highlight the unique challenges they have faced both in the past, and still today.

We are committed to working with our LGBT staff and students to ensure that our campuses are a safe and inclusive space for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We therefore want to use LGBT History Month to hear from our LGBT staff and students about what are their three key priorities for improving LGBT Equality within the University.

There will be a number of events staged throughout the month including an LGBT Staff Network roundtable on 6 February, the LGBT+ Student Society will also be holding a roundtable on 20 February.

There will also be a number of events and social activities throughout the month. Make sure you keep an eye on Staff News, Insider and What's On@WLV for more details.

If you cannot attend either roundtable you can send feedback to the University by emailing [equality@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:equality@wlv.ac.uk). All feedback provided will be kept confidential, and used to enhance the university experience for LGBT staff and students.

## Staff Networks

Our Staff Networks provide a voice for our BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic), Disabled and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans) staff members. They are led by elected Chairs and Vice-Chairs, who work with senior management to improve the University experience for their members.

If you belong to one of the groups represented by a staff network, but are not currently receiving their emails please email [equality@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:equality@wlv.ac.uk), and they can help ensure that you are adding to the mailing list.

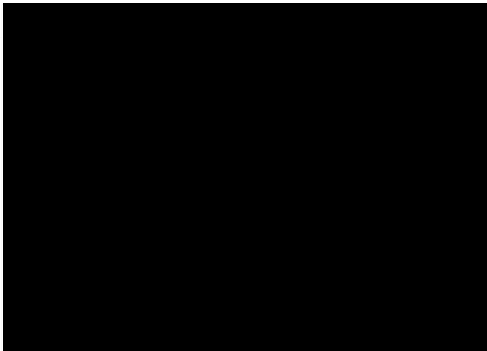
The Staff Networks also have the following meetings coming up:

- BAME Staff Network is meeting at Walsall Campus on Tuesday, 5 February between 12pm and 1.30pm. For more information email [bmestaffnetwork@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:bmestaffnetwork@wlv.ac.uk).
- Disabled Staff Network is meeting in The Chancellor's Hall, Wulfruna Building on Wednesday, 6 February between 11.30am to 1pm.
- LGBT Staff Network is meeting in The Chancellor's Hall, Wulfruna Building on Wednesday, 6 February at 2pm

Staff members have the right to attend their staff network meetings, and managers

should help facilitate their attendance. If you have any issues attending your staff network meeting please email [equality@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:equality@wlv.ac.uk).

## Staff and Student Successes



Alumnus [REDACTED] hit the headlines recently helping Newport County to FA Cup success when they knocked out Leicester City.

The Counselling Psychology graduate scored against the former Premier League champions and also featured in the fourth round against Middlesbrough, which has gone to a replay.

[REDACTED] featured in lots of media interviews after the Leicester game talking about how [REDACTED] used the skills learned on [REDACTED] course in the dressing room and on the pitch to help prepare for big games.



[REDACTED] was a finalist in the Thrive Mental Health Star Awards, run by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to celebrate the innovative work people are doing to improve mental health across the West Midlands.

[REDACTED] pioneered an award-winning approach to suicide and self-harm prevention, Three Minutes to Save a Life, developed in collaboration with Connecting with People.

The approach has been delivered to now more than 1200 University of Wolverhampton staff members, students, police officers, healthcare workers and is also included in allied health care professional curriculum at the university; to include student nurses, post graduate nurse studies, paramedic, physio therapy and pharmacy students.

Well done to The Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) which has been awarded the Forest Governance Award by the NGO Coalition of Liberia. The award recognises the work of CIDT to “support, strengthen and advocate on Forest, Environment and Land right issues in the Republic of Liberia and Africa”.

Congratulations to students from the Wolverhampton School of Art who secured second prize in a national Interior Design competition.

Six students studying for Interior, Product and Furniture Design degrees travelled to London to compete against seven other universities in a one day design project run by the British Institute of Interior Design (BIID) – the professional organisation for interior designers in the UK.

## Staffing Updates

Welcome to [REDACTED], the new [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], the new [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

And we bid farewell to Facilities Manager [REDACTED] who is retiring after 23 years of service at the University.



## Estates Update

Work is due to start on the new Cyber Security Centre in Hereford this month. The centre is a joint venture between the University, Herefordshire Council, the Marches LEP and the Hereford Enterprise Zone. It is due to open in Spring 2020 with the aim of bringing up to 190 high-value jobs and making the region a magnet for high-tech firms.

The University is increasing services and opening times for catering outlets and opening a new shop at Walsall Campus, following feedback from students and staff. A new Campus Store is now open in the Jerome K Jerome building and an additional café and bar will open in the Performance Hub during February. The outlets will open on a cashless basis with all card payments accepted and also our loyalty scheme Yoyo where added value can be achieved for regular users using the University's points scheme. The overall campus opening times will therefore support a seven day operation at Walsall.

Walsall Campus also successfully hosted the British Universities and College Sports (BUCS) Boxing Championships. The tournament saw male and female boxers from all over the country battle it out for national titles in 10 weight categories.

It is the first time the University has hosted the tournament, which took place February 1-3 in the

## Geoff

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