

From: External Relations
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To: Staff
Subject: Geoff's Update - October 2018



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It's great to see our campuses buzzing again with students. There's been a lot of work during the summer on upgrading and refurbishing classrooms, in preparation for the new academic year, and it is good to see the results of that work being put to use for our new and returning students.

Graduation Thanks

As always, Graduation was a joyous occasion. It takes a huge amount of work behind the scenes to make each and every ceremony one to remember for our graduates and their guests and so I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making it happen - from the robing,



photography, the ceremonies themselves, the post-ceremony receptions and the Graduation Ball. A new element which we trialled this year were the [Class Photos](#), which proved to be really popular and something we will repeat next year.

VC Roadshow Action

Thank you to everyone who came to the school, institute and directorate open discussion meetings at the end of the last academic year. The main aim of these was to provide an opportunity for staff to raise questions and to have their say about issues at the University and what they need to make their jobs easier. The feedback ranged from suggestions for changing our systems and processes to improving our physical environment. Actions were collated from every meeting and a paper was put before the Corporate Management Team in order to move some of these forward. A number were issues that we could change or implement relatively quickly, and therefore some have already been progressed in time for the 2018/19 academic year, while others were longer term considerations. All of the actions have been assigned to the relevant faculties or directorates to look at and a number of suggestions made will be realised very soon. A copy of the action plan and progress will be made available shortly.

Timetabling

We understand there have been concerns regarding the late issuing of timetables over the last two weeks. This isn't ideal but a lot of hard work has gone in from staff across the organisation to resolve the difficulties in order to minimise any impact on students. Despite the late issuing of the timetable the vast majority of classes have taken place as normal and without any issues; however it remains critical for staff to refer back to the online timetable and not to print or distribute different versions, which may quickly become out of date.

We have embarked on a Timetabling Project which seeks to address the problems experienced this year and we would expect improvements from this project to start to be felt from September 2019. As a University we do have sufficient teaching space, but our approach to scheduling activity means this is not currently fully and effectively utilised. The Timetabling Project will address this issue.

It is vitally important that we continue to reassure students in these early weeks of the academic year and I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support and the work of everyone involved.



Arena Theatre

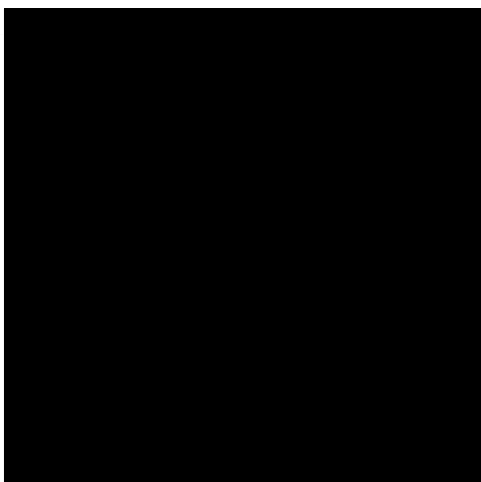
We are expanding on the role of the Arena Theatre. The Theatre is at the heart of the City Campus Wulfruna on Wulfruna Street and has a 150 seat theatre, studio space and café bar. It will carry on doing its traditional programme but it will become a café and bar and will open six days a week between 10am and 10pm from 15 October. As well as offering theatre productions, it will be offering film screenings, spoken word and music

nights. It will also be open for coffee, cake and lunch and a licensed bar will be in operation after 5pm. It is a great opportunity to open up the space to a wider audience but particularly for more staff and students. Plans will soon be announced for a similar investment in Walsall. A launch event for the Arena Theatre's new programme will be held on Monday 22 October with a free screening of The Greatest Showman. [Tickets are first-come-first-served from the Arena.](#)

Presence Champions

Many of you will know that over the last couple of years one of the issues I have talked frequently about is the need for the University to establish and build its presence. For me presence is about having pride in where we work, showcasing our surroundings and having a welcoming environment. A lot of work has gone into improving the University's presence and I am pleased to say that, as part of the 2018 Emerging Leaders programme, a new Presence Champions scheme has been launched. Initially this focuses on our buildings and each building will have a champion or a number of champions assigned to it, whose role will be to monitor and maintain internal signage, presentations boards and the general aesthetic of the main reception areas and corridors. More details are available [here](#) about who your building champions are and more details will be made available about the scheme soon.

Appointments



Alice Wilby has been appointed as the new Director of Recruitment and Partnerships. Alice will join us in January 2019 from Oxford Brookes University where she has worked for the past four years. She replaces [REDACTED] who will retire at the end of October. Interim arrangements will be made to cover the role of Director



Professor Clare Schofield has started as the new Director of the University of Wolverhampton Business School. She is Professor of Business Enterprise and also has a Faculty of Social Sciences wide role for Business Engagement. Prior to joining the University, Clare was the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and

during the months of November and [REDACTED] at the University of Chester. December and a further announcement will be made about this soon.

Gary Hix, the Head of the School of Science, has been appointed as Professor of Materials Chemistry.

New Professors, Readers and Associate Professors

Further to awarding 7 Professorships, 3 Readerships and 1 Associate Professorship in the last conferment round, we have issued another call for applications from internal candidates. The deadline for applications is **Friday 16 November 2018** and should be sent by email to [REDACTED]

We welcome applications from members of staff with a distinguished profile and, as women are under-represented in the professoriate, applications are particularly welcomed from this group. To provide staff with support in the application process there will be a workshop on Monday 8 October at 1pm at City Campus. The workshop is available to book through [Agresso Self-Service](#).

Estates Update

After a busy summer we have plenty that is still happening across our estate. This month we have the official openings of both the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills Hub at Springfield and the Science Centre at the University of Wolverhampton Science Park. Also at the Science Park work has now been completed on the new reception area in the Technology Centre and the catering area in the Creative Industries Building is done. New signage has gone up across Walsall Campus and inside and outside our sports centres at City. The MX Building has been named The Housman Building after poet and scholar A.E. Housman and new teaching rooms for nursing have been completed at Telford. Finally we are due to announce the main build contractor for the new School of Architecture and Built Environment at Springfield and work will start on site this month.

Just a reminder that we have two all staff surveys currently in circulation that I'd encourage you to complete if you haven't had the chance to do so already. [The Race Equality Survey](#) closes on Friday 21 September and the [Learning City Regions Survey](#) is open until the end of this month.

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