

**From:** External Relations  
**Sent:** 03 September 2018 10:57  
**To:** Staff  
**Subject:** Geoff's Update - September 2018



## Geoff's Update - September 2018

As the new academic year is upon us, there are lots of new developments and progress reports on which to update colleagues.

### Recruitment

As ever, this has involved considerable input and effort from colleagues across the University. At this stage, most of the progress has been with full time undergraduate students. There are a number of key messages but there is still a considerable amount of work to be done. The key messages are:

- We have more students than we had at the same time last year.
- There are fewer 18 year olds to apply for HE but a greater proportion are

applying.

- Our Clearing calls are significantly up on last year.

Thank you to all involved in achieving these successes.

### **Classroom enhancement**

Over the summer, 128 classrooms have been upgraded to improve the learning environment.

The following developments will be coming soon:

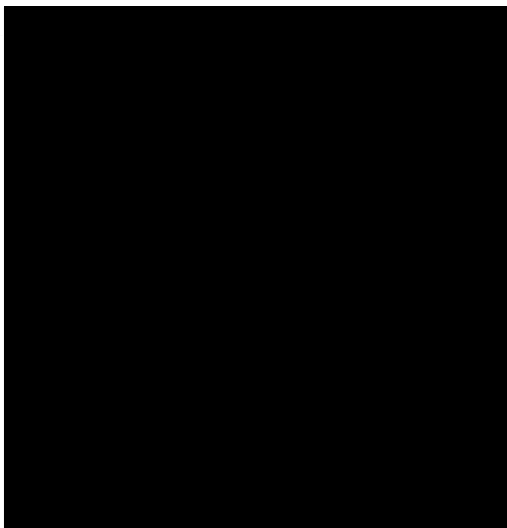
- The website is under review and a project team and external consultant is working on this.
- A feasibility study is about to report on the development of new skills laboratories for Nursing at Walsall to open for September 2019.
- A feasibility study is underway to see how we can enhance the library at City Campus.
- New skills suites for Nursing are being developed at Telford Campus.
- The Arena Theatre will have a range of new destination offers for students and staff from October including a coffee and wine bar, Monday night cinema screenings, live music and an outdoor seating area.
- A feasibility study will soon be reporting on a student hub at Walsall Campus.
- A new strategy for the Telford Campus will be launched over the autumn.

### **Lord Swraj Paul Building**

Colleagues will start the process of moving back into the Building on Friday 7 September.

### **Staff news**

We are delighted to announce the following promotions:



Iza Radecka, Professor of Biotechnology



Meena Dhanda, Professor of Philosophy



Rachel Slater, Professor of International Development (Knowledge Exchange route)



Megan Lawton, Professor of Learning and Teaching in Academic Practice (Learning and Teaching route)



Jackie Dunne, Professor of Lifelong Learning and Skills (Learning and Teaching route)

### **Readers**

Paraskevi Goggolidou, Reader in Molecular Genetics (Research route)

Niall Galbraith, Reader in Health Psychology (Research route)

Wen Wang, Reader in HR Management and Employee Relations (Research route)

### **Associate Professor**

Jenni Jones, Associate Professor (Learning and Teaching/Research route)

Julie Hughes has been seconded to CoLT to lead on the University-wide Student Transitions work stream of our retention and progression project. Julie will be working with faculties in respect of the new Academic Coach initiative as well as looking at the level 3 curriculum and pedagogy.

### **Pay Deal**

Each year, the University takes part in pay negotiations which are conducted through the Universities and Colleges Employers Association on our behalf.

The pay negotiations process has now been exhausted and participating universities have been recommended to implement the final pay offer of 2% to base pay effective from 1 August 2018. This is additional to the average 3% pay progression increases which over half of the staff will also receive.

The University is an accredited Living Wage employer, this will mean a higher uplift for our lowest pay point being implemented even ahead of the next pay settlement date.

Whilst pension costs continue to increase which brings pressure on the University's finances it is important that staff are recognised in their salary for all their hard work.

Unfortunately not all Unions approved this increased offer however we feel it is

important that staff are not denied this increase or have to wait for a number of months until all Union negotiations are finalised so we, in line with other universities, have decided to implement this increased offer which will be processed in the September payroll.

May I thank all staff for your contribution throughout the last year.

### **Book of condolence**

The University has opened a book of condolence for its very first Vice-Chancellor, Mick Harrison, who sadly passed away recently. The book is now available at Wulfruna Building Reception.

### **Graduations**

The graduation ceremonies run from 13 September to 21 September and let's hope for good weather and many happy students, families and colleagues.

**Geoff**

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