KENTVISION PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, February ’18

Improve Student Experience
Empower Users
Support Decision Making
Look to the Future
DEAR READERS

Thank you for casting your eye over the first of our new fortnightly Newsletter. With a strong emphasis on looking forward to the ‘18/’19 academic year, we will round up the highlights of our progress and introduce you to upcoming changes.

KentVision will be a complete administration solution to underpin staff activity for the full student lifecycle. The Programme team is working to enrich many areas with business process development alongside implementation of a new student management system.

So if you would like to know more about how we are working hard to improve student experience and student lifecycle administration with business change, just how that will impact you and how you can get involved, read on to find out more.

WHY KENTVISION?

There are more than a few reasons KentVision will launch for the ‘18/’19 academic year, whether looking back, grounding yourself in the now or planning for the future the KentVision launch proves imperative. It signifies the realisation of major University investment, delivers immediate improvement to student experience and student administration, all whilst being very necessary preparation for meeting our CMA, GDPR, and Data Futures responsibilities as external changes quickly approach.

This is exactly the reasoning that leads us to identify that ‘KentVision is the current University priority, bar none’, as stated during our December 2017 Forum by David Nightingale, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost.

We strive to balance between the University’s strategic objectives and the needs of those whose day to day is going to include KentVision. Both as an institution and as individuals, we all benefit from a future including…

◊ Unified and value-added business processes, planned and controlled by your business rules
◊ A system with your business rules embedded in the functionality, better to support your processes and easier to maintain
◊ Efficiencies enabled by KentVision as an administrative ‘management’ system
◊ Security of reliable, quality data
◊ Unified programme structures, the portfolio now reduced from over 650 models to 41
◊ A robust foundation for the future - simplified, lean and agile

POSTCARD PROFILE

Watch this space for Postcard Profile’s from Issue 2 forward. Get a feel for the changes your colleagues expect to notice most, and how adopting business change translates to benefits for individuals!

If you would like to share the changes you’re looking forward to, we want to hear from you. Likewise, maybe you want to know a little more about some of the changes you’re likely to experience, take this opportunity to explore what’s coming. Either way, get in touch and you could be on the next Postcard Profile!
LETS TALK BUSINESS RULES

KentVision will see the introduction of many changes; some big, some small; some institutional, some localised. There is, however, one area of change that is both institutional and localised - cultural change.

We have all been proud to be part of an organisational culture driven by flexibility, but that doesn’t mean we can’t see when it’s time to give a little more shape to that flexibility. And that’s where business rules enter the equation. Not to stifle our freedom, but to guide us as a unified institution with shared goals, values and processes. Business rules are not about turning us into a business, but are simply institutionally agreed conditions that inform us how to act upon particular circumstances. An interlocking set of business rules keeps us connected, in tune and working as a mutually reinforcing system without missing a step.

We gain a unified solid footing, answering to regulational demands without imposing rigidity. We nurture a culture that is supportive of our vision, new initiatives and achieving our goals by improving how effectively and quickly tasks can be performed, how easily manoeuvrable we can be in times of change and how complimentary our processes are to one another.

This applies to the individual in the same way it applies to the institution, creating an environment with clarity of process is not just about improving productivity, but about allowing us to understand our place in that environment as individuals. Once we are committed to those rules and the role’s we play as individuals, we don’t just find our own path without difficulty, but those of our colleagues as well. Not just mutually reinforcing, but mutually supportive.

The ways in which we adopt those rules in our daily activities has the capacity to further strengthen that position. Embedding our business rules in our system functionality creates efficiencies at the same time as effortlessly keeping us all pointing true North.

It means the possibility of decision making in system. We define what we want to happen under specific circumstances in our logic, and it happens! Input triggers automated processes that deliver reliable, consistent and predictable outcomes according to our business rules. And although there’s no doubt it will help, automation is not even the bit that’s going to really feel different for you every day; what you will notice is the intuitive, user-friendly way the system will be able to assist you undertake tasks and quickly assess status. Embedding the rules allows not just data to be displayed to you, but what that data means.

You won’t have to look very far to find this illustrated. Take the traffic light display developed for the UKVI team: Green means all rules have been satisfied and all the required passport or visa data is present and in order, amber means not all rules are satisfied and there is potential action to be taken, whilst red indicates something is not as it should be. With something as important as our compliance, instantly being able to identify status with no more than the sight of a colour-coded indicator is seriously useful. Visa on record is expiring? There’s that amber indicator, let’s get on it. Moreover, no need for constant double-checking, the task in hand is validated as you proceed. You’re scanning endless documents at registration and they’ve all become a blur, the nationality in that last passport didn’t match what we have on record, you know because there’s that red indicator.

Still can’t see the benefit of business rules to the institution, the individual and even applying them to your system functionality? Don’t believe you.
KENTVISION QUESTION FAIR

We’re hosting monthly events to get us all together and talking KentVision and what that means for 2018/19. Each event will include a Programme level update followed by a break for discussion with a drink and biscuit in hand. Then you can go in your own direction to one of two functionality demonstrations, or if you just must see both they will each be repeated so you can swap rooms and have it all!

Keep an eye out for the details of the series here.

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You can subscribe to this Newsletter on Sympa; we hope you do if you haven’t already.

Or if it’s easier, just reply to the newsletter email stating subscribe and we’ll make it happen.

There’s lots more for us to share with you, and we’ll be delving into more and more interesting topics over the coming months. Whether you’re an academic, professional services or even somewhere in between there will be features relevant for you.

Don’t miss out!