Welcome to the seventeenth edition of the Medway Staff Briefing, we hope you find the items included of interest.

**LGBT History Month 2017**

LGBT History Month 2017 started on 1 February 2017! The LGBT+ Staff Network, in association with Student Services, Kent Union and the LGBT+ Student Society, have organised a number of events and activities to celebrate the LGBT community at Kent. All events are open to all and guests are welcome.

Some of the highlights that have taken place or are about to are:

- Friday 3 February: [Screening of ‘The Pass’](#), followed by a post-screening discussion at the Gulbenkian
- Tuesday 7 February: LGBT+ Staff Network Lunch, Medway campus
- 13-20 February: LGBTQ Writers’ Week, in association with the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and Writing. Various events held
- Friday 17 February: LGBT+ Staff Network social, Canterbury campus
- Wednesday 22 February: [Researching the Rainbow Conference](#), with a variety of speakers from different research disciplines

Also…

- Rainbow badges will be available (for donations to Stonewall) at a number of locations around the Canterbury campus
- The Rainbow flag will be flying over each college on the Canterbury campus and at the Medway campus
- Rainbow cupcakes will be available at the Gulbenkian Café Bar
- Kent’s Varsity team will be wearing rainbow laces to support their LGBTQ team-mates

Further information on all events, including those organised by the LGBT+ Student Society and the staff network at CCCU, is available on the (newly re-designed) [Staff Network blog](http://campus.medway.ac.uk).

Happy History Month!

**Your feedback is important to the Library – The Drill Hall Library**

Since October 2016 the Drill Hall library has had a new way of collecting feedback on our services. Serv Metric is on every pc in the library, the Drill Hall website ([http://campus.medway.ac.uk](http://campus.medway.ac.uk)), and also a face to face terminal in the library.

Comments are welcomed from all users of the library; student, staff and visitors. We are using the feedback to plan the future of our services, be it the facilities, resources available, layout of the website or the general environment, so please feel free to let us know what you think.
100th Anniversary Commemorative Service comes to Medway Campus

September this year sees the 100th anniversary of the World War I bombing raid of the Drill Hall that took place on 3 September 1917.

The Royal Naval Association is holding a public ceremony outside the Drill Hall Library on **Sunday 10 September 2017** to commemorate the 131 naval men who lost their lives during the raid.

In the course of the weeks leading up to the service there will be a display of handmade poppies in the Drill Hall Library to mark the event.

The Drill Hall Library is calling for contributions to this display. Anyone interested in hand-crafting or knitting poppies are invited to contact: dhl-feedback@gre.ac.uk for further details.

The Drill Hall was originally built in 1902 as part of the first phase of developing the Royal Naval Barracks in Chatham. It was constructed to provide an indoor space for Navy personnel to exercise and train during inclement weather. Often referred to as the Drill Shed, it has also been used as an overflow barracks, exhibition centre, naval store and building materials warehouse.

On Monday 3 September 1917 the Drill Hall was being used as an overflow dormitory for around 900 naval ratings when, at about 11.00pm, it suffered two hits from bombs dropped by German Gotha aeroplanes, this was known as one of the first of the First World War ‘moonlight raids’.

To read more about the rich maritime history of the Drill Hall, please see our website [http://campus.medway.ac.uk/about/history.html](http://campus.medway.ac.uk/about/history.html)
Launch of the new Centre for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

All staff are invited to join the Higher and Degree Apprenticeships team in celebrating the launch of the new Centre for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, with a range of speakers from the sector and a wine reception to follow. The event will be an opportunity to find out more about the new Centre’s work and ways it can support academic schools. There will also be the chance to learn more about new opportunities and ways to get involved with Higher and Degree Apprenticeships at Kent. As well as being open to University staff, we hope to reach employers, so colleagues are welcome to share information about the launch with corporate contact.

Hannah Sullivan-Guckian, Jakki Bardsley, Scott Wildman and Helen Leech

For more information and to register please visit the event webpage: here and check out our blog at: https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/chda/2017/01/30/university-of-kent-the-centre-for-higher-and-degree-apprenticeships/

The University is proud to open a new catering unit for its staff and students in Medway

Situated on the Historic Dockyard, The Galvanising Shop Café boasts a wonderful building full of character dating back to circa 1890. Grab a freshly-made coffee and a bite to eat whilst on the move, or sit and soak up the surroundings. The food offer is always changing - from traditional sausage rolls to new potato dogs, pop in and see what they have available!

The breakfast menu is served from 8:30am, this includes bacon rolls, waffles and pancakes. The main menu is served from 12:00 – 5:30pm and includes jacket potatoes, toasted flatbreads and hot food options.
The Student Hub and Deep End fully opened on Monday 16 January to students and staff and experienced an extremely busy day. Complimentary samples of the menu were offered after 7pm and over 700 students came through the door. The general feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and numbers and revenue during the first week were far higher than anticipated.

Friday 20 January was the students grand opening night; NXT featuring a live performance from Tynchey Stryder. The building looked amazing, the sound and lighting systems worked well and the bar staff’s training, paid off.

The Hub/ Deep End has already proved very popular from morning until night; we have received enquiries and booked a wide range of events from a diverse range of students which was our aim. University staff are also taking an interest and we have a good calendar of meetings booked predominately in the Mezzanine.

We are pleased to be asked to host a number of events for student’s final projects, including a fashion show and a Speak Easy night. We have had gospel singers, guitar heroes and a Blind Date night and we are looking forward to hosting ‘A Little Shop of Horrors’, a 24-hour gaming night and a pancake race day! Other Key events for 2017 include the official opening on 23 March, and the commemorations in September of the Drill Hall bombing.

On 25 January we hosted Re-Freshers within The Hub and Sports Hall, themed as ‘The Big Chill’. Using feedback from Freshers we offered the most voted food choice (chocolate) offering hot chocolate on arrival, chocolates and a chocolate fountain, that proved rather popular! To engage with the students we had a snow board simulator, cash grabber offering varied prizes, a 3-in-1 blow up sports activity and an amazing branded photo booth.

The Deep End is open at weekends serving hot food and the ever popular, Starbucks from 10am. We are working with the sports activities coordinator to promote food and drinks deals for such events as the Six Nations. We had a fantastic turn out for the Super Bowl and shall be promoting other sports fixtures such as the FA cup. Every Sunday there is the Sunday Cinema on the big screen.

It’s been a promising start to the year and we are looking forward to far more engagement from all students and staff.
BSc Computer Science for Health

We recognise that the future of healthcare and healthy living is implicitly tied up with technology, and such technology is primarily decentralised, mobile and personal. The future is not in large scale centralised health informatics systems; these have been shown time and again not to work in practice.

Healthcare providers are currently in the middle of a revolution, with many transitioning directly from a non-IT centric model, into a decentralised IT model, mostly skipping the intermediate step of centralised informatics services (very few health providers in the UK had even managed to achieve the interim level of fully working centralised informatics systems).

The proliferation of monitoring apps, fitness trackers, lifestyle trackers, the provision of software services in health equipment, exercise equipment and dietary resources is part of the distributed model. This model is driven by the public themselves who require access to their health data, and wish to make informed choices based on that knowledge.

The transition means that the NHS, in particular, needs to invest significantly in a technology transformation. They have recognised this, and are slowly starting to respond. Health authorities are already short of skilled computing professionals, and this trend will grow - especially as our population ages and becomes more technology literate.

BSc Computer Science for Health will produce graduates who are conversant with the demands of the UK healthcare system, who are knowledgeable about the trends towards personalised, pervasive, mobile and decentralised health systems (as well as the rigours of old fashioned centralised systems). Graduates will have a working knowledge of the basic technologies and possibilities implicit in health systems, the ethics and security issues of handling personal data, and be able to create the health apps and systems that are needed to bring the NHS to the forefront of the eHealth revolution.

This programme will attract those who have an interest in applying computer science to the real world in a socially impactful way. They will enjoy computers, yet wish to have a career in computing that benefits society. They may have been debating whether to pursue a degree in medicine/healthcare or a degree in computer science, or they may simply realise that eHealth is likely to become the largest employment sector for computer scientists in the years to come.

Our internal analysis has shown that this programme will attract many female applicants - something that is crucial to improving our undergraduate gender balance. Apart from the enormous and growing eHealth area, our graduates will be educated well enough to find work in any standard computer science discipline.
Introduction to Sam Cunningham

Sam took up her role of Commercial Services Manager at the Medway campus in the summer of 2016. A member of the Kent Hospitality management team, Sam has oversight of all our catering outlets and conference activity during term time and vacation periods and the accommodation contract with Liberty Living, who provide over 1000 bedrooms for our Medway students at Liberty Quays.

Prior to the main student arrival in September, Sam liaises regularly with the Liberty Quays management and staff ensuring that the application and allocation process is smooth and trouble free. Once our students have settled in, Sam runs regular drop-in sessions to offer help and advice to students on any accommodation related issues. The next accommodation drop in sessions are: Thursday 23 February, 2.30pm to 3.00pm (phase 2 social room, Liberty Quays) and Wednesday 1 March, 10.30am to 11.00am (No 1 Bistro).

We are working hard to grow the conference and event business on the Medway campus to maximise both the use of the facilities and income generation. We really do believe that Medway is a unique venue for residential conferences, day meetings and summer schools and we are keen to develop academic conference business during the summer vacation periods.

If you are running a large and/or complex event, we also offer a full event management and delegate registration service. This bespoke service deals with the bulk of the administrative tasks for you, allowing you to concentrate on the academic content of the event and includes: setting up the registration page; collection of registration and accommodation fees; dealing with delegate queries; booking and managing delegate accommodation; issuing receipts and invoices; preparation of delegate badges and packs; sending out joining instructions; staffing the desk during registration; providing weekly reports on bookings; preparing final accounts and disbursement of monies as well as many of the other, time consuming tasks involved in running a large event. For a price list, or a bespoke quote for your event, please contact Sam Cunningham.

Our catering team, led by Samantha Riddington, are extremely flexible and always keen to meet your specific requirements. If you are hosting an event and need to talk to us about the catering, please get in touch as we are always keen to try something different. For example, we recently hosted an ice cream social at a conference, instead of the usual wine reception, which proved a great success. We can deliver catering to venues all over Campus, but don’t forget our No.1 Bistro in Rochester Building, Galvanising Workshop Café in the Dockyard or our Cargo Bar & Bistro near Liberty Living for your events – be it a breakfast bap at No.1, or dinner for a team social at Cargo.

Sam can be contacted at s.a.cunningham@kent.ac.uk or on 01634 888950.
Writing Retreat 2017

The Medway Post-grad Writing Retreat will take place 15th and 16th June. Places are limited so booking is essential. If you teach or support post-graduates at Medway please let them know about this opportunity. The writing retreat is open to all Medway-based post-grad students. The aim of the event is to support students to make progress on their dissertation or thesis. A SLAS Adviser is available throughout to offer support and guidance. The accommodation and all food is included in the price (£20.00 per person). Internet access is limited, so students will need to come prepared to write. Students have enjoyed the event in the past. Last year one student said, “I was amazed by how much I could write when I put my mind to it”.

For further information:  http://store.kent.ac.uk/product-catalogue/uelt/events/medway-postgrad-writing-retreat-2017

Guiding Student Achievement – SLAS is here to help

Do your students wish to improve their academic writing and study skills?

Need help with essay writing?

Not sure when, how and what to reference?

Managing their time is a concern?

The Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) (www.kent.ac.uk/learning) is here to help. It offers confidential, individual advice and guidance appointments on all aspects of effective learning and study skills.

Advice, guidance and support is also provided off-campus through phone calls or by emails.

To book an appointment, please find below the Medway contact details:

- Online booking system: SLAS CONNECT:: https://kentslas.targetconnect.net/student/appointments.html
- Phone: 01634 888884
- Email: learningmedway@kent.ac.uk
- Or just drop in to SLAS office: G0-09.
Professional writers enhance students’ academic writing skills

The [Student Learning Advisory Service](https://www.kent.ac.uk/learning) (SLAS) in UELT is very pleased to welcome back our Royal Literary Fellow: Diana Evans to the Medway campus. [https://www.kent.ac.uk/learning/academic-advice/literaryfellow.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/learning/academic-advice/literaryfellow.html)

Diana brings a diverse background in writing to her work supporting and developing students’ academic writing at University. She is available by appointment to help all students, in any subject.

Diana is based in DB034 in the Drill Hall Library on the Medway campus, on Mondays and Tuesdays during term time. She will be happy to see students on a one to one basis to help them with their academic writing skills.

To book an appointment with Diana, please find below the Medway contact details:

SLAS CONNECT: [https://kentslas.targetconnect.net/student/appointments.html](https://kentslas.targetconnect.net/student/appointments.html)

Phone: 01634 888884 Email: learningmedway@kent.ac.uk

Or just drop in to SLAS office: G0-09.

For those of you wishing to learn more about the Royal Literary Fund, please visit the Royal Literary Fund website [http://www.rlf.org.uk/fellowshipscheme/index.cfm](http://www.rlf.org.uk/fellowshipscheme/index.cfm).

The Vice Chancellor’s Cup – Vinesh Kurup

As part of the Let’s Play program, I organise the annual Vice Chancellor’s Cup where staff departments play against each other once a month in a variety of sports.

A different sport is played each month between 12.00 and 1pm. We require a minimum of 2 participants from each department but if there are more then please come along. Trophies will be presented to the winner of each sport.

Last year’s winners were GK Unions.

Please see the following information below:
- Thursday 23rd February (12-1pm) - Badminton
- Thursday 23rd March (12-1pm) - Table Tennis
- Thursday 20th April (12-1pm) - Petanque
- Thursday 18th May (12-1pm) - Bat & Trap
- Thursday 22nd June (12-1pm) - Mini Olympics
- Thursday 20th July (12-1pm) - Mini Golf
- Thursday 24th August (12-1pm) - Quiz (food and drink will be available)

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact me as follows: Vinesh Kurup: V.Kurup@kent.ac.uk
'One Day Without Us' - Medway

The national organisers of ‘One Day Without Us’ called for a single unifying action to take place. Participants in communities across the UK were invited to link arms or hold up placards to show their support, and to share this moment via social media using #1daywithoutus.

On Monday 20 February 2017, 12:30pm outside the Rochester Building staff stood together to celebrate the contribution migrants make in the UK. Migrants from inside and outside the European Union, and everyone who supports them, came together to celebrate the contribution that migrants make.

As the UK's European university, Kent values intellectual and cultural diversity. We are proud to be an outward-facing and international institution with more than 25% of our students and over 20% of staff coming from outside the UK. For academic and research staff, the figure is even higher at 37%. Our international community not only contributes to our teaching, learning, research and campus experience, but also to the economy, culture and social fabric of the region. Many go on to become global ambassadors for the University and the region.
An Update from Enrolment Management Services

Recruitment Activity
As the 2018 Undergraduate prospectus launches at the end of February, so begins the start of the recruitment round. The Recruitment team will embark on the busy round of UCAS HE Fairs across the UK, meeting prospective students and promoting the wide range of courses that Kent has to offer. The team will also be attending a range of schools and colleges across the South East giving presentations on why go to University; choosing a course and a university; student finance; student life and preparing for university life.

Details of all the UCAS events we will be attending can be found on the website at: https://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/representatives/arounduk.html

In addition to the events in the UK the team will also attend number of Education Fairs and International Schools in mainland Europe. The spring term is particularly busy with events in Europe in order to encourage prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students to consider applying to Kent. Details of in-county activities can be found on the website at: https://www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/application/meet-us-in-your-country.html

Admissions
According to UCAS, the undergraduate admissions position nationally is showing a decline in applications of around 3% with the University Kent closely mirroring this decline. However the picture at Kent is mixed, both across campuses and within faculties. The Medway campus has seen a 12% drop in applications on last year but a 4% increase in the number of offers made to those applicants. The Recruitment and Admissions office is working closely with staff at Medway to support conversion activity and encourage applications. This is likely to be another tough cycle for the University with summer clearing likely to play a key role in filling any remaining vacancies.

Applicant Conversion
Medway Applicant Days and Selection Days are underway for this term. Laura West coordinates these events, alongside her colleagues in the Applicant Days team based at Canterbury. These events are an excellent way for applicants to experience the campus, to tour the campus with current students and to meet academic staff. They also have the opportunity to visit their academic schools and to view all the fantastic facilities that the Medway campus has to offer our potential students.

Alongside these events EMS also coordinates ‘after offer’ conversion communications on behalf of the academic schools. These communications set out to provide our applicants with interesting information about their subject of choice and about the University experience they will expect to receive if they choose Kent as their firm choice.

Partnership Development Office
The University’s Partnership Development Office has successfully led a £4.1m bid to HEFCE, securing the University’s position as lead partner of one of the 29 selected consortia participating in the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP), a programme which aims to support the most disadvantaged young people in England to progress into higher education.

Other members of the consortia include Canterbury Christ Church University, University for the Creative Arts, University of Greenwich, the East Kent and Canterbury FE Partnership, MidKent
College, The Hadlow Group of Further Education Colleges, North Kent College and 50 targeted secondary schools.

The consortia will address the gap in progression between young people and began in January. There will be four members of staff based at Canterbury, and three new staff based in Medway developing Access provision and schools’ outreach work.

**Publication Dates for 2016/17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medway Staff Briefing No: 18</th>
<th>Friday 26 May 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for articles:</td>
<td>Friday 12 May 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>