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

**New Online Guide for Staff**

Following research as part of the Simplifying Kent Internal Communications Project, work has begun on developing a new online staff guide.

The new guide would replace the existing Campus Online webpages and act as a one-stop shop for all staff-related information and services across Kent.

Corporate Communications is leading the development of this project and would like to involve as many staff as possible to ensure the guide works for everyone.

A number of focus groups have already taken place this month with staff at different campuses. If you couldn’t attend, but would still like to be involved, please get in touch with Wendy Raeside/Etienne Donzelot at communications@kent.ac.uk by Wednesday 28 February.

**Master’s Office - Medway College Life**

College Life is a sense of community that is encouraging Medway staff to engage in social, physical, recreational and cultural activities for the purpose of creating a sense of community and belonging to Medway College.

Get together with your fellow colleagues for a range of free activities and events hosted by the Medway Master’s Office in the Rochester Senior Common Room (R2-04)

A full list of our events are available via the following link: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/campusonline/?view=12457](https://www.kent.ac.uk/campusonline/?view=12457)

**Learning and Organisational Development (L&OD)**

**Central Staff Induction**

L&OD are holding the next Central Staff Induction event on **Thursday 1 March 2018** on the Medway Campus. New staff who have recently joined the University of Kent will receive an invitation letter to attend the event, however, if you have not previously attended an induction and you have worked at the University for less than 3 months, please contact the L&OD team at ldev@kent.ac.uk to book a place. The Vice-Chancellor, Karen Cox, will be speaking at the event along with representatives from L&OD, Safety, Health & Environment and Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity. There will also be an information fair for staff to browse and find out more information about working at the University of Kent.
Managing Performance - Medway Campus, Thursday 1 March 2018, 1pm-4pm.
A practical and interactive workshop designed for managers/supervisors who are responsible for managing staff performance. This workshop is aimed at those new to or who have limited experience in this area but may also be used as a refresher for more experienced staff looking for practical insights and therefore cohorts may consist of mixed ability participants. Providing practical guidance on managing performance, both rewarding good performance and improving poor performance, including management activities required in early stages to 'nip things in the bud'. To book a place or find out more please visit: https://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-learninganddevelopment/bookings/courses/index.html

L&OD News
The L&OD team has received feedback regarding activities and various programme modules and their availability across both Canterbury and Medway campuses. We have a responsibility to make sure our development opportunities are available and inclusive to all staff at Kent. Therefore, L&OD have made a commitment to ensure, where possible, future planning of programmes and activities is incorporated to feature equally across both Canterbury and Medway campuses irrespective of staffs permanent work location. We hope this will encourage a more inclusive working environment and the opportunity for staff to visit both campuses as part of their ongoing learning journeys.

Let’s Play Activities

Kent Sport is building its Let’s Play programme each year, which aims at engaging physical activity into the lives of students and staff, regardless of ability or age. Activities such as swimming, UV events and couch to 5km are part of the timetable enabling you to meet new people and maintain a healthy lifestyle. So join in and Let’s Play.

UV Bootcamp, a circuit style class featuring a variety of workouts to music is taking place on Wednesday 28 February at Medway Park 2-3pm

Email Jemma Whyman for more information: J.Whyman@kent.ac.uk

Touch Rugby – No experience required
We are extremely lucky to have an RFU rugby coach, coaching the first few weeks. New to the timetable is touch rugby. It is a minimal contact session working on passing, catching, agility and handling skills. It can be played by men and women, who enjoy the thought of rugby, but without the tackling. It is played on a flat indoor court and is aimed at beginners and those wanting to have fun whilst getting fit. Come along as an individual or in a group, everyone is welcome.
Medway Campus - New Year Couch to 5K Challenge

Just because you don’t run doesn’t mean you can’t. If you can walk for half an hour, chances are that you can pick up the pace and give running or jogging a try.

The Medway Campus is bringing you the Couch to 5K programme. It has been especially designed for people who have done little or no running.

In this 12-week plan, you will work on your running and by the final week you will be running for half an hour, or approximately 5K.

You won’t be on your own as we have our enthusiastic session leader, Jemma Whyman, who will be with you every step of the way to help you achieve your target.

We meet every Tuesday at 1pm – 2pm (until Tuesday 3 April). Please note the 1-hour session includes warm up, cool down and stretches, you therefore won’t be active for the full hour.

There is no need to register, just turn up and meet outside the main reception to the Medway Building and Jemma will welcome you. The classes are free of charge. Comfortable clothing and footwear is advisable. Any questions please contact: Jemma Whyman - Medway Sports Development Officer j.whyman@kent.ac.uk

For further information on any of the above or for a full list of events, please visit the website: https://www.kent.ac.uk/sports/letsplay/

Selection into England training camps for touch rugby

Danni Payten and Jemma Whyman both current and former students at the University of Kent have been selected into England training camps for touch rugby.

Jemma studied at the University 2012-2015 receiving a First Class Honours in Sports Therapy, and now works in Kent Sport as a Sports Development Officer, also assisting the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences (SSES) in supervising massage students.
She started playing rugby union in her early 20’s playing for Kent and the South East. During a game of rugby in 2016, Jemma broke her ribs and punctured her lung, which left her retiring from contact rugby, although making a full recovery.

In 2017, she started playing touch rugby at Canterbury Rugby which quickly led her to being selected for the over 27’s Nationals then over 27’s England training squad.

Jemma and Danni are now part of their respective training squads and are hoping to be selected for the Euro’s, which are being held in Nottingham on 18-21 July, and then the World Cup in 2019.

**VC Photo Competition Winners**

The competition was open to all students, staff and alumni and participants were encouraged to submit black and white photos that captured the essence of all the campuses and centres of the University of Kent.

The winners received a cash prize plus their photograph is to be displayed in the Vice-Chancellor’s Office at Canterbury.

**Medway Winner:** Emma Harrington, Staff  
**Canterbury Winners:** Simon Hicks, Staff and Anamika Misra, Student  
**Athens Winner:** Marina Watt, Staff  
**Rome Winner:** Katie Van Sanden, Staff  
**Paris Winner:** Alice Helliwell, Student  
**Brussels Winner:** Vanessa Wynn, Student  
**Honourable mention for Canterbury:** Claire Dowling, Student

The judges commented on the creatively of the winners and their interpretations of the centres, cities and what it means to be the University of Kent in these places.

**Featured photograph by Medway winner Emma Harrington** - *The elephant-cow was created by Fine Art graduate Rajvia Kaur, who graduated from Kent in 2012 in which she conceived and created a seven-foot-tall sculpture of a hybrid elephant and Friesian cow, as a representation of her own identity as a British citizen of Indian background. Rajvia's elephant-cow sculpture won her the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Prize for 2012, and has been installed permanently near the Medway building.*

All entries can be found here: [https://www.flickr.com/groups/4161349@N20/](https://www.flickr.com/groups/4161349@N20/)
Student Learning Advisory Service

Staff at Medway behind Faversham’s new Literary Festival
Louise Frith from the Student Learning Advisory Service is co-directing the Faversham Literary Festival which takes place from 22-25 February. There is a packed programme covering a wide range of interests including, politics, nature writing, children’s literature, food writing, psychogeography and crime fiction.

In addition to this, Prof Alex Stevens will be in conversation with historical novelist, Jane Harris about her new book which is nominated for the Booker Prize, Sugar Money. If you would like to find out more or to buy tickets, please follow this link www.favershamliteraryfestival.org

Student Services are looking to recruit extra staff for the Sexual Assault Responder (SAR) team in Medway

The role of the Sexual Assault Responder is to provide immediate support to victims of serious sexual assault or rape at the Medway campus out of hours (between 17.00 and 9.00) and at weekends. Full training is provided, and SARs operate on a rota system. The role is to provide advice and guidance to victims of serious sexual assault or rape with regards to aftercare support procedures. The role is NOT a counselling role.

SARs receive a £100 remuneration for joining the team and completing the training and receive £70 for the first hour of a call out, with time and a half for subsequent hours. Any transport costs are also reimbursed.

A Sexual Assault Responder must meet the following criteria:

- Be a University of Kent member of staff

- Be able to access the University of Kent Medway campus within 45 minutes of receiving a phone call from Campus Security out of hours (considering the accessibility of a staff member’s usual mode of transportation when accessing the University)

- Attend a training session

- Have the permission of their line manager to register for the role of SAR.

For more information, to request a role description, or to express an interest in becoming a SAR, please contact Debbie Worthington in Student Services on D.C.Worthington@kent.ac.uk
Kent Hospitality

If you have never had the opportunity to visit Liberty Quays where the majority of our first year students are housed here’s your chance.

Kent Hospitality are arranging an open afternoon for Medway staff on 22 March where you can view the accommodation, ask any questions and grab some refreshments. We will be putting on a shuttle bus to take guests to and from Liberty Quays, but you will have to pre-book to take advantage of this service. More details to follow soon.

Have a student who needs accommodation?
The University of Kent currently has rooms in Liberty Quays, Medway, available for both graduates and undergraduates. We are able to offer short-term lets to students from now until mid-August 2018*. The cost is £145.00 per room, per week, which includes all utilities and internet access. Please contact conferences@kent.ac.uk for further information or to book.

*minimum stay 14 nights. Room only, students will need to provide their own duvet/pillow/bed linen/kitchen items.

Do you have commuting students worried about travel delays during exams?
During the exam period, we will be offering short term stays of four nights to those that commute and are worried about travel delays and being late for exams.

All rooms are single en-suite and will be provided with a duvet; pillow; bed linen and towels. Access to the self-catering kitchen, with basic utensils to allow you to prepare simple meals, will also be included.

There will be two packages available in May – mid-June 2018:
- four nights self-catering at £110.00
- four nights with catering included at £150.00**

Those taking exams will share flats with other students also taking exams.

It will be possible to add on additional nights if required. Bookings will open in early March 2018 and pre-payment will be required. The details of the booking website will be sent out as soon as the site is open. In the meantime, please contact conferences@kent.ac.uk for further information.

** £60.00 catering credit will be loaded to your KentOne card on your arrival day. This credit must be spent during your four day stay
University Entrance Diploma

We are very pleased to have recruited sufficient student numbers in September and January to run the University Entrance Diploma for the first time this academic year. This new course at the Medway campus provides the opportunity for students aged 16-19 to gain an Access to Higher Education Diploma as part of the University’s NCOP provision, aimed at widening participation in higher education across Kent. While most students are due to complete the course in July 2019, four have chosen to fast-track their studies and are due to finish this July. All four have successfully completed their UCAS applications and are now awaiting offers, giving them access to a wide variety of exciting opportunities that may otherwise have been unavailable to them.

SMFA News and Events

Amazing range of music ensembles to join at Medway!
A fabulous selection of ensembles, vocal groups and bands run at SMFA. We’re lucky to be in close range of London, so top performers and teachers come down to coach our groups. Importantly, lots are OPEN TO ALL – students, staff & the broader community.

More info here: https://www.kent.ac.uk/smfa/news.html?view=2569

SMFA Spring 2018 What’s On out now!
Find a print copy on Reception, the Galv café and across campus, in venues in Chatham, or online at:
https://issuu.com/musicfineartkent/docs/06_university_of_kent_-_what_s_on_a

Friday 25 May, MAAST concert in the Royal Dockyard Church
This will be an exchange concert (the second in the series) between Greenwich University and SMFA students. It will involve multi-channel electroacoustic compositions by students taking the Cinema for the Ears module and Audio-Visual works by Greenwich students.

SMFA DIARY DATES – check website for details
8-12 May: Event & Experience Design Final Realisation Project Show in the Galv
14-17 May Music Performances from SMFA final year students in the Galv
19-26 May: Fine Art Degree Show

External Exhibitions at SMFA in June:
4-23 June: Mid Kent College Show in Engineering Workshop
13-22 June Brompton College/Access Course

Music alumni Jack Mc Donnell VT runner for Strictly Come Dancing!
Music alumni Jack, who graduated from the BA (Hons) Music Technology in 2013 with a First, is now a VT Runner for Strictly Come Dancing at BBC Studios, joining for the 2017 series. Whilst at the University, Jack was President of the Music Society, Music Technology Course Representative, choir singer, Big Band guitarist and very actively involved in many student events.
SMFA students feature in Black History Month Art Exhibition
Two BA (Hons) Fine Art students - Solomon Dada and Amanda Rosette Nsubuga - exhibited work in an exhibition as part of The Historic Dockyard Chatham and University of Kent Black History Month Art Exhibition, with the Launch Event on Wednesday 18 October at the Historic Dockyard’s Mess Deck. The theme of the exhibition was ‘Celebrating Black Professors in Kent’s Universities.’ The exhibition ran from October 1 to 31, 2017.
For more information: https://www.kent.ac.uk/smfa/news.html?view=2603 and https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsuccess/inspirational-speakers.html

SMFA music student Chad Davies appears in premiere of Black Heroes of Kent
Chad Davies, who is in Year 3 of the BMus (Hons) Popular Music, played Ignatius Sancho, the first black man to vote in England in 1773, in Black Heroes of Kent, a play dramatising the lives of African and Caribbean people in Kent in the 19th and 20th Century, which was premiered on October 7th at Mid Kent College in Gillingham as part of the celebrations for Black History Month. The play featured on ITV news. A comprehensive review of the event appears here: http://diversitybusinesspromotes.uk/black-heroes-kent-evening-pure-joy-edutainment/

SMFA concert series
The 2017 SMFA Concert series finished with a fantastic gig from the SMFA Little Big Band on Friday 15 December 12-1.30pm at the Deep End, with music that included a funk set, from 1970’s Stevie Wonder to Bruno Mars, and well-known, popular jazz standards

The 2018 SMFA concert series, featuring talented students performing a range of musical styles, takes place in the Galvanising Shop Performance space at the Historic Dockyard Chatham. All these concerts are free to attend and usually last for 2 hours. Booking via Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-music-and-fine-art-ensembles-showcase-tickets-4227118052

The next concerts are:
- Weds 21 and 28 March 2018, 11am-2pm, Undergraduate Lunchtime Concert
- Tues 13 February and 3 April 2018, SMFA Ensembles, 3-5pm
- 15 March, SMFA Ensembles Showcase, 7.30pm https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-music-and-fine-art-ensembles-showcase-tickets-4227118052

Don't miss the Popular Music Gig at Cargo Bar, Liberty Quays on Thursday 5 April, 8pm until late.
DIARY DATE: SMFA Easter Concert 28 March 7.30pm, Dockyard Church
The Easter Extravaganza concert performers include SMFA World Percussion Group, Advanced Improvisation groups, Chamber Music Forum and Chamber Orchestra. The programme will feature a selection from Queen's iconic album *A Night at the Opera*, plus John Zorn's *Cobra* and a range of items from SMFA ensembles. FREE – booking via Eventbrite. [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-music-and-fine-art-easter-concert-tickets-42421538965](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-music-and-fine-art-easter-concert-tickets-42421538965)

**Publication Dates for 2017/18**

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