

Faculty of Humanities

Director of Faculty Operations CoreMunicate

April 2017

This will be my last CoreMunicate as DoFO before handing over to Vikki Goddard on 2 May and returning in full to my 'second life' as Director of Research and Business Engagement Support Services (RBESS). I have enjoyed the last six months greatly and have been very impressed with the dedication and ability of staff across the Faculty. Thanks in particular to Catherine Smith, Gemma Keaveney and other staff in Waterloo Place for organising me so effectively.

Points for action:

- **Two-step login for email**

A new process for logging into your work emails will be launched in June by IT Services. This is part of a wider programme of security measures being introduced to reduce cyber threats to our PCs and sensitive data.

Please read the various communications being distributed about the two-step login process so that you are ready for the change, as this is mandatory for all staff. In addition to logging in with your username and password, you will be required to use a code which will be sent to your mobile phone, or landline or special key fob if you do not use a mobile.

A pilot process, which will involve colleagues from IT Services and volunteer early adopters from across the University, will take place this month to help iron out any issues before it is launched to all staff in the summer. Read more in Friday's Humanities eNews.

- **Have you completed the Staff Survey?**

There is just over one week to go until the Staff Survey closes. All staff are encouraged to complete the staff survey before Tuesday 18 April so that your views are heard and acted upon. The University is hoping that at least 75% of staff will complete the survey this year so that the feedback received is balanced and covers all areas of the University.

Progress/Updates:

- **AMBS building work update**

Work is progressing on the new Alliance Manchester Business School building and the first retail and leisure signings at University Green – the area underneath the new Alliance MBS Building on Oxford Road – have been announced. This space will provide 40,000 sq. ft. of retail and leisure space across 12 units each with double-height glazed frontages. The units will include Blackwell's, artisan coffee house, Takk, and a Pret A Manger, and all three are expected to open in Summer 2018.

- **10,000 Actions incentives**

Have your colleagues completed the 10,000 actions? SALC's Green Impact Team, Greenersamalex, were recently successful in gaining a Green Impact Micro Grant of £125

from the National Union of Students, which they have used to purchase Aloe Vera Plants. The plants are providing an incentive for colleagues to engage with the University and School's sustainability agenda and to enhance the quality of their work-space. SALC colleagues who completed the [10,000 Actions programme](#) and endorse the greener Sam Alex sustainability agenda have the opportunity to receive an Aloe Vera plant, as part of the 'Take care of your plant – take care of your planet initiative'.

- **Stellify**

Work is currently taking place in University Place to transform the foyer using new black and white Stellify branding. This is part of the wider Stellify campaign to encourage students to do more extra-curricular activities to create a distinctive identity for themselves so that they stand out among other graduates seeking employment.

Anyone working with or advising students can take advantage of the Stellify materials, produced by the Directorate for the Student Experience, to develop a conversation with students about where they see themselves in the future and what they can do to meet their goals and have real world impact.

For more information, contact Nicola Watkinson, Communications and Engagement Manager, Nicola.watkinson@manchester.ac.uk.

Policy and planning:

- **Article 50 and Horizon 2020**

The UK has formally invoked Article 50 and in the Prime Minister's statement to the UK Parliament, Theresa May reiterated the importance of continued collaboration in research: *"We hope to continue to collaborate with our European partners in the areas of science, education, research and technology, so that the UK is one of the best places for science and innovation"*.

The UK continues to be a Member State with all the rights and obligations that this brings until the point that the UK has formally exited the EU. As such the UK will continue to participate in EU funding in the same way and there will be no immediate change to existing grants or those applied for while the UK is a Member State. The HM Treasury statement of 13 August 2016 provides reassurance for applicants to Horizon 2020 projects, confirming that where applications are submitted while the UK remains a member of the EU, HM Treasury will underwrite the payment of awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. However, there are as yet, no formal policy proposals or negotiating positions confirmed on the key issues for universities.

It is too early to speculate on the timing and nature of the negotiations on UK engagement with Horizon 2020 and future funding programmes. The negotiations for the UK's exit will be expected to be completed within two years as set out in the text of Article 50.

The University's [EU website](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/eu) (<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/eu>) will continue to be updated during this time.

People:

- Nicola Smith returned from maternity leave on 3 April 2017 and took up the position of Head of Faculty Finance. Philippa Woods moved back to her role as Head of Faculty Financial Reporting and Analysis.
- Marie Gray will step down from her role as Head of Communications and Marketing on 6 April and the process of recruiting a permanent replacement is ongoing. In the interim, Alex Waddington, Head of Communications and Engagement, policy@manchester, will provide some support, undertaking operational management of the Communications and Marketing Team over the next few months to provide continuity during the transition.
- Laura Jewkes will take up the position of Marketing Manager (Student Recruitment) for Humanities at the beginning of May, covering for Antoinette Perry who goes on maternity leave at the end of April.

Andrew Walsh
Interim Director of Faculty Operations