

**All Student Email
Friday 20 March**

Good Morning again and thank goodness it's Friday,

It's the first day of spring and despite the doom and gloom there is much hope for the future. Once again, I hope that you are as well as possible and this email, like the last one (Wednesday), has gone to all students with a cc to staff colleagues for information. Many thanks to all who responded to the last email too. Your feedback was very valuable. I intend to send another on Monday 23rd. (I promise shorter next time!)

The University at this time remains open to you, but I must admit feels very different as the vast majority of students have now switched to studying from home, reaching us online and by phone. Incidentally, many thanks to all those who have let us know that you have moved out, it really does help with planning.

We know from those still on campus, that most plan to head out this weekend whilst transport networks remain open.

We recognise that events continue to move at pace and so new updated communication is required daily at international, national and local level. I mention this because you will have received numerous emails from the University and I note the website was updated yesterday too. Please bear with us, at a local level, we'd rather give more updates than less at this time, particularly as approaches change within a 24hr period.

Many students, quite rightly are being vexed by concerns around such things as access back to their accommodation, future charging, what will happen after the Easter break and normal academic processes, particularly level 6 students, who are so close to completing and have one eye on their desired grade. Please, at this time, just go with the flow. Using myself as an example, I can only influence or control certain elements in these exceptional times, so this is my focus, other things planned for the near future, I am noting, but parking for now, there is simply no point in putting my energy there. Our current priority is your safety and the ability for you, albeit remotely in most cases, to access support services and resources in support of your studies. The other aspects, are very important to us too and will be worked out in time, and probably in consultation with students where possible. We will be fair, we are one community.

I make no apologies for repeating this paragraph from Wednesday:

'Please do take Covid-19 updates that you view or receive from the Government or the University seriously, they are based upon the best current known scientific information. You will note as adult students who are very capable of assimilating information and making your own decisions, that at a time of change and emerging factual data, your position is likely to change as will ours in response to new information that stands up under scrutiny. The point is that each of us own our decision based upon the facts and options put before us at a point in time. My colleagues in SSW and other University departments are here to support you and are very open to supporting the process of decision making based upon your individual circumstances.'

The following elements are broken down with a reach, depending upon your circumstances:

Already at home as a commuter or because you've made a positive decision to relocate for now:

- We very much hope that you are accessing what you need to. Please do let your department or SIZ know if there are any glitches or even feedback on what is really working well.
- Please do keep in contact with your peers, this is a real opportunity to be creative and increase the bond that you have developed between each other in accommodation or on your programme. A virtual online seminar or WSIHE Wednesday anyone? My neighbour is running Zumba to her class from her kitchen at 10am each day for example.
- If you left belongings behind in your room, don't worry we have a strong security presence.

In Halls of Residence:

- I appreciate that most students in a position to do so, will be making active decisions to return home this weekend, particularly as SIZ, LRC and Otters continue to amend their offer to meet the vastly reduced demand. Good luck with your travels. Based upon the recent pattern of announcements by the Government and the mirroring of modelling in Europe, it does feel like this weekend is the last chance to do so before further temporary restrictions come into force. I know that accommodation colleagues were in touch with many yesterday, so please do let them know any changes to your plans.
- For those of you that are remaining in accommodation, we may be required to ask you to switch to another site if possible as we move into next week. We have not reached this decision yet, this is more of a timely 'heads up' just in case. It all depends how the national and local picture moves forward. We do recognise that certain students may not be able to do this, so 1:1 consultations will take place based upon need.
- If you are in isolation, hopefully we know this by now and also hopefully that period will be over for you very soon and you will be in a position to return home if you wish. If you believe that we may not have been told, please do so without delay so that we can work with you.
- If you know that your situation will keep you on campus, I would welcome any ideas that will help establish a 'community network and spirit' so that we can continue to support.
- Finally, if money is a barrier to travel, I have colleagues who may be able to help with a temporary loan (interest free) that can be paid back at an agreed (and sensible) time. Please get in contact if this is the case.

Living in a student house in Bognor or Chichester:

- Government advice is to self-isolate if you present with symptoms. This is still for a period of 14 days. If the symptoms get worse to the point that you would have gone to a GP, please do contact the NHS111 number after three or four days. There remains a chance that the opportunity to mass 'test' will be available soon. Other members of the household are also expected to self-isolate too. Remember a household definition would also include a student house or a flat within a residential block. As such, I remind you that if no one in your 'household' is currently self-isolating you may see this as a 'window of opportunity' to move to study from home and still access University resources. Also note though, that if someone is already self-isolating, all such household 'mates' should be too, and therefore a move home now would be irresponsible, particularly if you were moving back in with a vulnerable relative. As such, we need to work together, so that the flat/household is supported by your external peers/landlord and if necessary and/or possible the University. We are already aware of certain households that are impacted and we would like to work with others so

that communication and food/drink etc can be worked through. Therefore, please inform studenthealth@chi.ac.uk for student houses and we will work with you.

- Today, we will attempt to call at least one member of each student house that we are aware of, so that we can ascertain if you are there or back home and whether you have an established network in your student house if you had to self-isolate. You should not be dependent upon the University to support in such an occurrence, but we are one community and so will of course do our best to be there for you in extremis. We will also ask whether you have a spare room on a temporary basis, so if you get a chance in advance please check this out.

Final bits:

- SSW Wellbeing Pop Ups and Drop Ins are still active, but have mainly shifted to telephone, but of course we can still see individuals face to face at a slightly further distance, so keep asking for support. It's like all face to face will cease next week.
- Academic Mentoring Support from SSW continues, primarily now being by skype or phone. Feedback suggests that this is working well at agreed times. If you perceive that you are vulnerable at this time, please do get in touch and we will be reaching out further to individuals today.
- Lastly, please do as much as you can to remain positive and maintain a balance in your life. Control what you can control and seek coping strategies where this is not possible.

Many thanks and please try to enjoy your weekend.

Dave Corcoran

Director of Student Support and Wellbeing