



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

Newsletter October 2021

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the new academic year. We have returned in 21/22 with developments for greater in-person teaching and opportunities to learn from approaches taken in response to Covid-19. These were a mixture of online and blended learning, practice based, real world learning and flipped approaches, for a much more personalised approach which suited the needs of both the discipline and the students.

We have had time to pause and reflect on what we have all achieved, staff, professional services and students, and address what worked and importantly understand why, from feedback, consultation and dialogue. It is indeed these conversations we have had with stakeholders, with students, colleagues at a College and School level, that has given us an opportunity to move forward with new innovative ideas to ensure we offer excellent quality teaching and learning. This 'time to pause' and reflect has also enabled us to embrace wider issues of priority, notably the importance of our role with student experience and engagement, to provide this in a holistic way.

Other key areas to flag up are the importance of wellbeing, collegiality, sharing good practice and learning from others, focusing upon inclusivity and building a sense of belonging. All of these issues are core for us in our practice, how we respond in the Lincoln way, to drivers from the wider HE context – being student centered. We have worked hard to provide teaching and learning to our students which is adaptable, flexible and agile in its approach.

A key message I wanted to share in this newsletter is we are all coming to this new academic term unsure of what the future might bring or what new challenges we will need to face. Having spoken to colleagues across the University I get a real sense that we are embracing this new academic year, welcoming freshers and returning students, with a real sense of positivity (shown with more f2f contact and a busy thriving campus with students), but overriding all of this, is a real sense of what we have achieved collectively as 'One Community'.

Evaluation of blended learning – Part 2

Before the summer an evaluation of staff experiences was completed with the report circulated through SDoTL. This consultative process was really useful in understanding what worked, where further support might be needed and how we can bring this understanding into our planning for the next academic year and the new teaching strategy. Thanks for all of your support for sharing your experiences with the transition to online and blended learning.

The next phase was to gain insights from students. This evaluation has applied results from projects conducted in LHERI, surveys from the SU, feedback from the NSS, ModVal and focus groups, with an interim report being written discussing perceptions of teaching and learning and areas of good practice. These evaluations will feed into planning and developments with teaching and learning. Please note: the full report will be shared shortly through SDoTL.

Update on Festival of Learning

The Festival of Learning was conducted in June and July. Again, thanks so much for all of your support with this on a College and School level – this was much appreciated!

This institutionally-wide initiative provided a series of programmes and sessions for students. Some of the sessions were student led, some facilitated by academic staff and others led by central services such as Wellbeing and Careers.

The Festival had four main streams. **Academic** – hosting disciplinary activities at School and College level; **Skills** – covering key themes such as sustainability and citizenship; **Wellbeing, Health and Sport** – this focused on providing sessions from professional service departments. A **Live Event** for staff and students concluded the festival's activities.

We are currently working on collecting feedback from across the festival streams. Once all survey results are in this will be used to inform, plan and develop a student-led and more student-focused events for future years.

We have also developed a Call for papers for a special Student edition on the Festival of Learning. This edition seeks to provide students with the opportunity to publish in IMPact journal on their reflections as student presenter/facilitator.

The focus for the reflective written pieces should address the following areas, rationale, key areas of development learnt, some of the challenges and lessons learnt.

Dean's projects

The plans for progressing Student as Producer, as a new more progressive teaching and learning model, are still being developed (behind the scenes!). With plans for a consultation stage to hear from all across the University, staff and students, about experiences and ideas for how and where changes can be made for future planning. As said in previous communications, there are core foundations and values of Student as Producer that are key to developing the relationship between teaching and research, between student and staff, working as partners to co- create with support services and opportunities, in teaching, learning and assessment, and in the wider aspects of student experiences. These all remain to be integral to how the 'Lincoln effect' has prioritised student engagement and student voice and will continue to do so for the future.

Plans are also continuing in the background for the development of external networks and collaboration to share good practice across the sector, with a new Regional Teaching and Learning Community Network. This will strengthen the Civic University ethos at Lincoln, enabling us to both showcase what we do well and also importantly learn from others leading in the sector.

New University Senior Tutor

In September Dr Helen Nichols was appointed as University Senior Tutor for the next two years, along with Dr Jessica Hodgson, who has been appointed as Deputy University Senior Tutor.

Together they will work to support Senior Tutors across the University in Schools, and lead the further development of the Personal Tutoring system.

LALT Information & Resources

LALT hosts and facilitates a range of information and resources to support the wider teaching & learning agenda. These can be found on the [LALT blog](#) website where there are a range of resources on teaching and learning and student engagement.

Complementing these blog resources is the [LALT Resources Hub](#), this includes easily accessible resources on practical information for both students and staff, on academic engagement topics.

Another team in LALT, Digital Education, focusing upon providing key resources and information supporting the use of digital tools for teaching. Access to training support and upcoming events can all be accessed via their website [here](#).

The third team in LALT, Digital Student Life team, work in partnership with students to deliver the [Student Life website](#), [Student Life App](#), Student Life [YouTube channel](#) as well as various UoLStudentLife social media accounts. They are also responsible for the [Learning at Lincoln](#) website hosting a range of student facing resources. You can also access Digital Student Life's website [here](#).

LALT update – HEAR

We have been working on improving the HEAR scheme for recognition, rewriting support materials, training sessions and our overall approach for supporting colleagues in applicants and reviewers. We have already made great strides, and all resources will be live on the Resources Hub via the Portal soon. We are still keen, despite encouraging take up, to continue to increase our reviewer base and urge colleagues at D2 or above to consider becoming a reviewer.

LALT update – NSS

We will see a return to a campaign in the Library for this year's NSS. T-shirts etc are being designed to drive participation and key messages to students.