

Welcome Onboard: new induction module ready for September

As we now start to think about welcoming new students in September, we are all turning to induction planning.

To help colleagues this year, we are building a new module in Brightspace designed to guide students through their first steps as members of our academic community.

It will include information on our Personal Academic Tutoring system, how to get help with academic skills development, how to access and use our online systems such as Teams and Office 365, signposting to our student support services, and how to access our library, among other things.

Staff should find it useful in planning Flying Start and induction activities as a resource they can signpost students towards.

The project lead for the new module is Director of Student Services Matt Mills, who said: "We have been thinking about how to deliver induction in an online environment, and asking ourselves what do our students need to know when they first arrive, and how can we help them get on board so that

they get the most out of their time with us?"

"As part of enrolment we will be guiding our students towards our digital estate and steering them towards this module which will help get them started.

"We are concentrating on providing resources in four key areas, preparing for study, using our digital resources, getting the most out of our library services, and accessing student support, careers and well-being.

"We have been sharing information about this project with your DTLs and ADTLs, who will be able to guide you on how to integrate it into Flying Start and induction."

Matt added that there will be a version available to returning students and also to postgraduate research students, and the module will remain active to students throughout their time with us as a resource they can return to when needed.

More detail on module content will be available in the coming weeks and will be shared with Schools.

BBC releases archive pics for Zoom and Teams



If you feel like running your seminars from *Dr Who's* TARDIS next year, or even from Fletcher's cell in *Porridge*, then the BBC has released archive photos of some of its iconic sets for use in Teams and Zoom.

Quick quiz question: whose living room is pictured above? (Answer at the bottom of the page)

<https://bbc.in/38bJEgF>

Tutors praise new MYMO course for help in designing blended learning



Logo design: Daniel Hall, HHS

More than 700 academic staff have accessed the newly developed Moving Your Module Online programme on Brightspace since its launch at the beginning of the month, and many have emailed the team to say how useful they are finding it.

The discussion threads have been lively with more than 400 posts to date, and staff are now starting to share resources and ideas at School and subject level - we even have a new logo.

Project lead Sue Folley said: "We have

been really pleased to see so many staff start to move through the stages of the programme, and the feedback we have had has been really positive.

"Staff are starting to explore the teaching technologies available for blended learning and are telling us that they are enjoying the experience of trying something new.

"Remember to get in touch if you would like to set up a meeting with one of our tutors to work through any aspect of the programme with you or your team."

Tech team's top tips

We have a brilliant IT team working behind the scenes to bring us the new programmes and platforms we are starting to use in Teaching and Learning. We asked some of them to share their favourite finds in Teams.



Luke

Luke Brunning, a Senior Computing Officer, has been setting up the Teams interface for staff: "I love the Whiteboard app on my iPad.

With the Apple Pencil I can 'grab a pen' and quickly start drawing. Sure there are lots more features in OneNote, which I also use, but the simplicity of the digital Whiteboard app matches a real whiteboard and that is its strength."

Sarah Gullick is the University's

Collaborative and Research Systems Team Leader and has found Teams Chat really useful:

"It has made working from home with my team so much easier. It keeps all my chats together in one place, I can pin staff I talk to most to the top so they're easier to find.

"If I feel that someone needs to physically talk to me rather than just messaging, it is literally a quick click and it becomes a face to face meeting. Plus, the emojis and GIFs help

to put a bit of fun into the day!" Emma Bowden is the Project Manager for the Digital Delivery Team, helping to keep Teams implementation on track.

She finds tags a really useful feature.

"With so many messages flying around it can be difficult for people to keep track of what's relevant to them.

"By setting up tags for smaller groups and then @ mentioning that tag you can help to keep communication focussed."



Emma



Sarah

Emergency computer loan scheme helps keep students connected

An emergency scheme to help students without access to a PC or laptop has targeted more than 150 members of our community since March.

As lock-down approached, many students who were dependent on the University for access to a computer made good use of the 24-hour laptop loan system operated through the library (the loan period has been extended until we are able to reopen campus).

Unfortunately some students were not able to secure a laptop from the library lockers, and had no access to computer facilities in the family home, so the University put in place an

emergency system to help them out.

We drew on contingency stock and also bought more than 100 additional laptops and configured them for student use in what was a massive logistics operation.

Students who had contacted their tutors to make them aware they had a problem with access to IT were invited to one of two special collection events during lock-down - set up in such a way that risk to students and staff was minimised - and they were given laptops to use throughout the current assessment period.

In total 156 students were invited to these events.

Ruth Stoker, scheme coordinator, said: "Some students got back to us to say they had managed to sort themselves out, some were simply unable to travel to campus or to send a proxy to pick up a laptop.

"We recognise that some of our students and their families are struggling in lots of ways at the moment, including digital poverty. School teams have been made aware of who those students are so they can offer alternative ways of supporting them.

"Colleagues in CLS did a fantastic job in securing and preparing laptops for distribution at a very difficult time." A final third distribution event is under way this week to help students who are still working to complete assignments, though CLS staff are now looking at safe ways to recall laptops out on loan to have them ready for use in the next academic year.

