

## INTRODUCTION FROM CHRIS OLDHAM

I hope you are enjoying the lovely weather, which particularly highlights our [beautiful campus](#). You can read more about the Grounds Team in our interview with Grounds Manager, **Marcus**. Your feedback is important to us and I would be grateful if you could take a few seconds to answer this [quick poll](#) about our Section wide communications.

Finally, I am delighted to share with you the [video](#) produced for the Celebrating Staff Excellence event. It captures the different sections of Estates and Campus Services and all we achieve around the University.

**Clayton.**



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## TRAVEL PLAN

The continued success of the [University's Travel Plan](#) has earned a Platinum Award from Essex County Council, the highest level of accreditation.



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## **WORKS ON COLCHESTER CAMPUS**

### **LECTURE THEATRE BUILDING DOOR UPGRADES**

Work is ongoing to upgrade the doors in the Lecture Theatre Building. To ensure the doors are accessible for everyone, the original doors have been reduced in height and DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compatible door closers are being installed



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## **TIP TOP TAPS**

New modern mixer taps are being installed in toilets across main Campus. The taps reduce water consumption and ensure the water gets mixed correctly in the body of the tap.



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## **CAR PARK LIGHTS**

The lights in Car Park A and Car Park B either side of the Multi Deck Car Park have been changed for more energy efficient LED lights.



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## BRIDGE BUILDING WORKS

Damaged and rusty cable trays have been updated to new marine grade cable trays under the Ivor Crewe, Square 5 Building (Waterstones), Rab Butler and Ivor Crewe bridges at the Colchester Campus.



You can keep up to date with all works taking place on campus [here](#).

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## **SOUTHEND CAMPUS**

Summer maintenance works have started at [University Square accommodation](#) in Southend. These include painting and redecorating and full refurbishment of all three adapted studios in House 1.



A team has been working nights at The Gateway Building to resolve heating issues, which have built up over several years. The strainers were cleaned, flushed and the system was chemically treated. Flexible connections have been installed in all the fan coil units.

We are also in the process in making the control units visible from the Colchester Campus.

There have been similar issues at Clifftown and again all the strainers have been cleaned. The heating controls have been modified, pump heads have been replaced along with three port valves on the underfloor heating. It was discovered that many of the thermostatic radiator valves had not been operating correctly so these have been replaced.

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## **STAFF UPDATES**

### **Farewell**

**Kathryn Scrivener** is moving from the UECS Marketing & Communications team to work down the hill in Student Support.

### **Welcome**

**Steven Cross** started his new permanent Housekeeper role on Monday 2 July; he was previously a temporary member of staff.



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## TO PARIS AND BEYOND!

**Gary Gibbons** and **Mark Bones**, traffic officers at Colchester Campus, were curious to see how far they walked during a typical working week.



They set themselves the target of reaching Paris on their weekday step count. Quickly surpassing this they are now 'walking the world'. After 31 weeks, with more than five million steps counted, they have gone past Athens, via Pompeii, a distance of more than 4,000 kilometres.

Their aim is to visit all seven continents – that's a lot of shoe leather!

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## NURSEY SUMMER FAIR

The [Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery](#) summer fair, held on Saturday 30 June, was extremely successful.

Over 250 people came along to enjoy the glorious weather in the new Nursery gardens. There were many activities to enjoy including puppet shows and a visit from the animals of wild science. Thanks to everyone who helped make the event so special.



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## CELEBRATING IN STYLE

Graduation is a wonderful opportunity to show off our beautiful campus to the thousands of visitors who descend on Wivenhoe Park to celebrate in style. Whatever the weather, the team led by [Grounds Manager Marcus Clayton](#), will be working flat out to ensure there is plenty to admire.

Marcus said: "We have a total of 230 acres to look after, so in advance of the Vice-Chancellor's Summer Reception we begin a focus on this side of Campus, around the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, the Silberrad Centre, the Squares LTB and the new Essex Sport Arena.





“Everything is busy growing at this time of year including the weeds, so good preparation is key.”

Marcus literally gets down in the dirt, swapping his suit for staff uniform, as he joins the team of eight hard at work from 7.30am to 5.00pm.

“Certain areas need more attention. For instance, the lake beds need far more attention than others. It’s a difficult area to work in at the best of times,” said Marcus. “As everyone knows we have had very strange weather this year, rain, then sun, then more rain. We can’t fight the weather or nature; it is one of the things that make the job so interesting. No two years are the same, or even two weeks!”



Before the marquees arrive, the whole area will need mowing and 'hoovering'. This will clear all the debris in preparation for the install. "We put in a couple of thousand bedding plants every year around Campus and the only additions for graduation are the special towers of flowers you will see on the Squares," explained Marcus.

“We are committed to sustainability and therefore use unique techniques to keep things watered. For instance the half-moon flowering baskets sit in a trough which trickle feeds the plants. “We aim to finish the Friday before graduation so that we can spend the next few days going around picking up on any snagging.”



“We are here to provide a really nice environment for the students to learn in and also a beautiful place to celebrate with their families at the pinnacle of their time here.”

But, just as important to Marcus, are the University Open Days. “Everywhere needs to look good for these days. It’s good for prospective students to see we care for our campus and want to make their learning experience that little more special by having great surroundings.”

I’d lastly like to take this opportunity to thank my team publicly. Without their dedication and hard work none of this would be possible, so thank you.”

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## **BOOST TO HARDSHIP FUND**

More than £1,000 was raised for the Student Hardship fund from the [Estates Helpdesk](#) lost property sale. Any remaining property was donated to Emmaus, a homeless charity in



Colchester.



## **SUMMER SEASON**

To be ready for the summer season on campus, [Accommodation Essex](#) staff quickly completed the cleaning of all ensuite rooms in Colchester. Seventy-seven trained temporary porters and housekeepers are now working over the summer to help and accommodate Event Essex guests.



Anne Knight House is being refurbished ready for the next academic year.

We'd also like to share the praise from students for two members of staff, Judy Duenas and Rebecca Johnson. Judy received a lovely thank you letter from University Square residents, whilst Rebecca received an awards from Students Union for being the best support staff member. Well done to them!

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## **INNOVATION CENTRE PROGRESS**

Works continue at the new [Innovation Centre](#). The curtain walling and glazing is nearing completion across the whole building with only the atrium glazing to be completed. The external render insulation has begun and this will continue throughout the summer with the render finish being applied in stages.





We hope that you enjoyed the latest Estates and Campus Services newsletter. If you'd like to contribute to the August edition, please send your story to [ecscomms@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ecscomms@essex.ac.uk) by 31 July 2018.