Welcome from Chris Oldham

Many thanks to everyone who came to our recent staff Breakfast Club to enjoy a coffee and pastry, and to learn more about Capital Development by taking part in our fun Lego challenge. We are delighted to announce that the group with the winning Lego model chose to donate all the used Lego bricks to the East Anglian Children’s Hospice in Ipswich.

Look out for details of the next Breakfast Club coming soon.

ECS Culture Club

We introduced the new Culture Club initiative at the ‘You Ask, We Listen’ session of the Breakfast Club.

The Culture Club has been designed to ensure we create a happy, healthy and productive environment in which staff can thrive. It will provide an opportunity to put change in the hands of staff, to increase staff engagement, to provide feedback mechanisms and to facilitate collaboration for all our teams. Many thanks for your contributions and comments in the ‘You Ask, We Listen’ session, where we asked ‘What matters to you most when you’re at work? What can be done to improve the things that matter to you? What outcomes would you
like to see from the Culture Club? As promised, here are a few of the ideas/suggestions for the Culture Club to consider:

- Create ways to further establish and encourage a culture of achievement and the celebration of any success
- Create ways for more collaboration, transparency and greater communication between the ECS teams
- A range of possible staff perks to consider
- Whether we can create staff communal break out areas
- Explore the possibility of an ECS All Staff Christmas party, and other staff parties
- Consider a range of flexible working arrangements
- Consider a reward scheme for money saving ideas and other ad hoc rewards and recognition outside the R&R process
- Training programmes: more training opportunities, especially if there’s a big change coming our way, more training and refresher training for line managers
- Whether nursery parents can be allowed to go through the barriers
- Possibility of job shadowing scheme

Are you, or someone you know, interested in taking these and other suggestions forward? If so, nominate here to be put forward for the Culture Club.

Welcome to... Ellie Turner
Ellie joined us in February as the new Administration and Communication Assistant in the Customer Services division of Estates and Campus Services.

Ellie will assist the team in delivering effective and timely communication of our operational activities to stakeholders. Ellie works alongside colleagues to ensure the Estates Management Team achieves excellent customer service levels and performance.

Ellie also helps with the operational and administrative side of putting events on the Squares liaising with customers, operational staff and management to resolve queries and issues.

A keen traveller Ellie has visited countries such as Nepal, India, and Singapore and has had the chance to live and work in New Zealand for six months.

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Red Cord Cards for Accessibility
Our Estates teams have been working on installing Euan’s Guide Red Cord Cards in our accessible toilets to highlight the importance of leaving emergency red cords untied and easy to reach.

Euan’s Guide is a charity and was founded in 2013 by Euan MacDonald, who is a powerchair user, and his sister Kiki. Euan’s Guide is passionate about accessibility and has thousands of disabled access reviews and listings for places all over the UK and beyond as well as championing initiatives such as this one.

**Footy results**

On Friday 26 April staff across the university were invited to take part in Football Shirt Friday with a suggested donation of £5 going to the Booby Moore Cancer Fund. Over the last four years the highly popular Football Shirt Friday has donated £800 for charities.

Organisers Richard Lythgo and Colin McAuley would like to thank everyone who has participated, supported and donated money to Football Shirt Friday. The total raised for this event was £200

**Update on Bertrand Russell Tower**
Refurbishment work on our Bertrand Russell Tower on the south side of the Colchester Campus is progressing well. Scaffolding is up and covered with debris netting and the internal fixtures and fittings are being taken out. Windows with ventilation units to allow better air flow to the bedrooms are being installed along with new fire doors throughout. Works are expected to be finished in time for the new academic year. See more photos of the refurbishment [here](#).

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**A summer of sport for juniors**

Our popular CHUMS holiday camp, run by Essex Sport, for children aged 5 to 14 years is back for the summer and you can save 10% if you book before 31 May.

Mini CHUMS, for ages 5-8, will include a range of games, sports, and arts and crafts. Junior CHUMS, for ages 8-14, will include favourites such as basketball, football, rounders, a mini Olympics and tennis. Plus, there’ll be a mini graduation ceremony at the end of camp! Both sessions run from Thursday 25 July to Friday 30 August and you can book individual days or complete weeks.
More information here.

Coffee for a good cause

UK Coffee Week ran between Monday 29 April to Sunday 5 May and Essex Food took part in fundraising for Project Waterfall. Five pence was donated for every cup of coffee served. There was also a chance to win 30 free cups of coffee by guessing the weight of a jar of coffee beans in outlets.

Project Waterfall is a charitable initiative delivering clean water, sanitation and education to coffee-growing communities across the world.

Thank you to all who took part and congratulations to the winner of 30 free coffees! The amount of donations raised for Project Waterfall totalled £376.50.

Fun ahead at the Summer Fair
Children at Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery celebrated Easter by making egg and chick inspired decorations for the Easter tree and by taking part in a carrot hunt, before being given some chocolate eggs to take home.

Attention has now turned to the Summer Fair on Saturday 29 June with lots of exciting activities planned for both children and adults to enjoy including Rocky’s Animals mobile zoo, giant garden games, BBQ, pre-loved toys and clothes stalls, craft activities and your chance to meet Frozen's Elsa and Anna.

The Summer Fair is a great chance for current and prospective parents to look around the facilities, chat to staff and for the children to have a fun day out.

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Social Sunday at Wivenhoe House

Wivenhoe House colleagues are hosting their first ever Social Sunday on 7 July and everyone is welcome.

The beautiful grounds will be dedicated to fun and games to raise money for Hospitality Action, the charity for workers in the hospitality industry, and everyone is welcome.
As well as giant garden games, face painting and musical entertainment, we’re heading down nostalgia lane with some popular games from yesteryear for everyone to enjoy.

We hope that you enjoyed the latest Estates and Campus Services newsletter. If you’d like to contribute to the June edition, please send your story to ecscomms@essex.ac.uk by 25 May 2019.