

September 2020

Dear Neighbour,

Preparations for the return of students to campus

We appreciate that the coronavirus has made this a challenging and uncertain few months for everyone. We take our role in protecting against further spread of the virus very seriously and as the start of the new academic year approaches, we want to outline the extensive preparations we have been making in line with government and public health advice. We are continually updating the University's dedicated Coronavirus webpage on the various measures we are putting in place (visit www.brookes.ac.uk and click on the link to 'Coronavirus information') and would like to share some of these below.

As part of our efforts to make our campuses Covid-secure for everyone, our sites will, until further notice, be open for essential visitors and by invitation only. Most of our public events have been moved online, so please sign up and enjoy the exhibitions, open lectures and virtual activities. Although local residents will not be able to access the library or catering facilities at the current time, other services on our Headington Campus, such as Brookes Sport, the dentist and Oxford Brookes University Nursery, will remain open. The shop on the Colonnade is due to re-open later in September as a Co-op.

We recognise that the area in which you live contains a large number of student houses and we understand the concerns you may have regarding the return of students to Oxford. We would like to reassure you that the safety of students, staff and the wider community is paramount in all of our preparations and we are taking every possible step to ensure students are well informed and prepared for their arrival in Oxford.

The University will be taking a blended approach to teaching and learning this semester. There will be no large scale lectures; these will instead be delivered through high-quality, online learning. Only small scale and individual teaching will take place on campus. This will enable the University to provide essential classroom-based teaching with social distancing in place as it optimises teaching spaces. The University has followed the Government's five-step approach to ensure a safe campus including:

1. **Carry out a Covid-19 risk assessment;** extensive risk assessments have been carried out in line with Health and Safety Executive guidance.
2. **Develop cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures;** an enhanced cleaning regime will be in place across all campuses, with sanitising stations placed in key areas.
3. **Maintain 2m social distancing, where possible;** extensive signage will be in place and key touch points will be clearly marked. Limited capacity will be applied to teaching rooms and only essential, invited visitors should come onto campus.
4. **Where people cannot be 2m apart, manage transmission risk;** we will be delivering a smaller scale face-to-face teaching programme, installing sneeze screens at appropriate places and timetabling will be adjusted to accommodate staggered arrival times. All students, staff and visitors will be required to wear face coverings while indoors (except where there is a valid medical reason or while eating).
5. **Help people to work from home, where possible;** We have instructed all non-academic staff who can work remotely to continue to do so until 4 January 2021, further reducing numbers on campus.

In order to support the NHS 'test and trace' service and help ensure the safety of our staff, students and visitors, the University is implementing a system which will track attendance in key areas across campuses. We have also been working with Oxfordshire County Council to establish an on-site Coronavirus testing facility which is now available **via appointment only** for the local community, as well as Oxford Brookes students and staff. The new testing facility is located at the site formerly occupied by the Brookes Restaurant on Gypsy Lane. Please visit the NHS coronavirus website for information on booking a test.

Arrivals Weekend

The University has put in place a number of steps to ensure that students arriving at our halls of residences during the weekend of 12-13 September will be safely managed. Arrival times will be allocated and staggered to limit the number of students arriving at any one time and social distancing will be in operation. We have already communicated extensively with students prior to their arrival and registration will be completed online.

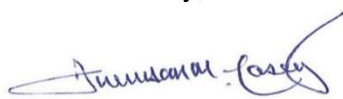
A new Acceptable Behaviour document has been introduced to complement the existing Student Conduct Regulations. This provides more detail on what the University expects from the behaviour of its students. Students will be required to sign up to general principles about keeping each other safe; this includes their behaviour while in the wider community, such as maintaining social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, wearing face coverings as necessary and staying at home if they have any symptoms.

We are pleased to report that the Student Community Wardens will continue and they will provide support to local residents and help students living in private rented accommodation to settle into their neighbourhood. This year they will be receiving training and protective equipment to prepare them for working safely during the pandemic and their duties will be modified accordingly.

Our Community Engagement team will continue to be the first point of contact for any issues or concerns that residents wish to raise and a new form has been designed to help ease the process. Please complete the form online by visiting www.brookes.ac.uk and search for **Resident Information**.

We hope you find this information useful and if you have any queries regarding its content please visit our dedicated Coronavirus webpages or email us at community@brookes.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,



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