

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. I'm sorry about the disruption caused by the ongoing IT issues. The team is working as fast as they can to resolve the issues, and will keep you updated.

Semester two has now started, and I hope you are enjoying your learning. Apart from our students in medicine, dentistry, and health-related subjects, learning is online for the moment due to the national enforced restrictions. Yesterday, we heard from the Government that we should continue to offer in-person teaching only to students that are in medicine, dentistry and health-related subjects, until 8 March. After this time I am hopeful we will be able to offer some in-person activities to more of you, although at the moment we are fully dependent on Government easing the national restrictions. I will let you know as soon as we know more.

In the meantime, you are very welcome to come onto our campuses if you need to access study space, IT or internet facilities. You can [book a study space](#) on the Library website. Please also remember that you can travel back to University, and come onto campus if you feel that your mental health and overall wellbeing will be better served by being here. Everyone in the country is struggling with this lockdown with people feeling lonely and isolated and missing the social activities we all enjoy. Please remember there is support available to you (either online or here on campus), and there is clearly light at the end of the tunnel in the form of vaccines: I'm pleased to tell you that our vaccine centre has now delivered over 5,000 vaccines to members of the local community in the priority groups.

Our research facilities on all our campuses continue to remain open.

### **Events and activities**

Getting engaged with different activities, albeit mostly online, and meeting new people, can help everyone deal with the national restrictions we are currently living with. We have been working with our Students' Union to deliver a schedule of events and activities, building on students' feedback. Wellbeing-focused events have become increasingly popular over the past few weeks. I am delighted to see so many students engaging with the wide range of activities we have arranged for you. Please [visit the Students' Union website](#) for more information and, if you haven't done so already, please do get involved and also try to encourage others to get involved.

### **Ensuring fair assessment: Queen Mary Covid-Mitigation Measures**

You will have been expecting a further update on the detail of [our Covid-mitigation measures in relation to fair assessment](#) from Professor Stephanie Marshall, our Vice-Principal (Education), jointly with our Students' Union. Stephanie and her colleagues are working hard with student representatives on this issue, to ensure fair and robust assessments along the lines that I outlined in my previous message. You will receive an update about the detail of these measures next week.

### **Lateral flow testing for Covid-19**

Please note, that all students and staff working, studying and living on our campuses should book two lateral flow tests every week. These tests are for people who don't have symptoms, and they are a key way to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. A national change has been made in relation to what you do if you receive a positive test result. If you receive a positive test, you should immediately start a period of 10 days isolation – you no longer need to have your test result

confirmed with a PCR test via the NHS. If you have any questions, please contact [coronavirus@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:coronavirus@qmul.ac.uk).

I do hope everything is going well for you. These are very difficult times: please do look after yourselves and each other, and keep safe. If you are struggling, please remember that you are not alone and please have a look at the [support available to you](#). Do reach out if you need help.

I will write to you again next week with a further update, or earlier if necessary.

Best wishes,

Colin

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