

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. The further easing of national Covid-19 restrictions has started, albeit slowly. You can now meet up with up to 6 people from different households outside, and outdoor sport can also resume. We are running as much social and sporting activity as we can for you within the Government guidelines – do keep checking the [activities calendar](#) to see what's on offer as new events are added all the time. The activities are a mix of on-campus and online, and include 'Get Active' pop up events, running groups (including couch to 5k groups for those of you new to running), walks from campus, book clubs, craft sessions, employability events and student societies' activities – see the [new Students' Union sports page](#).

Looking ahead to exam season, the Students' Union also has a range of tips and activities to [help you study](#). The main 'Study Well' campaign will launch on Monday 12 April offering additional activities, events and giveaways; keep an eye out for further information next week. On our campuses, further Students' Union facilities continue to open to cater for the increased number of students and staff on campus; for example Ground Café on the Mile End Campus has reopened this week, with further study space inside, and on the Whitechapel campus the Students' Union's Building will be open for longer periods from April 12, and the Griff Inn will also re-open at that point. The Students' Union is also planning to reopen [Qmotion](#) from 12 April, as long as Government guidance allows gyms to open at that point. Do get involved, if you can, with the activities on offer – on campus or online.

Your educational provision

I am very sorry that we are not able, under current Government guidance, to offer all of you in-person teaching at the moment, although we will provide as many social events as we can under the guidelines. We are expecting another announcement in mid-April from Government regarding when in-person teaching for students on non-practical courses can resume. On this point, we are continuing to push Government very hard to allow us to offer face-to-face teaching on campus in line with the Government's commitment that education will be the first sector to fully open. It will be disappointing if the Government goes back on this commitment and opens non-essential retail, hairdressers and nail salons before we are allowed to offer face-to-face on-campus teaching to all our students.

Please remember that, no matter what the Government says in the next couple of weeks about in-person teaching, you can come back to campuses now, if you feel your wellbeing would be better served by being here, or need to access our facilities or [study space](#). Even if we still cannot offer you in-person on-campus teaching due to Government restrictions, we will offer as many social and sporting activities as we can for you, so do come back if you would like to take advantage of these.

Looking forward to next academic year, we will be combining the best of on-campus and online teaching into our educational offer for you. Over the last year we have learned a lot about what works in online teaching – including, crucially, from your feedback. We will be building that into our offer for next year. We also know that students really want a significant amount of on-campus teaching, and we will make sure that, Government guidance permitting, every student has plenty of on-campus activity to enjoy.

Covid-19 vaccination programme

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is progressing at pace now across the country: the Government is aiming to have offered all adults a vaccine by June. In order to be invited for a vaccine you must be registered with a GP, so please make sure you are registered, either through

our [student health services](#) or near where you live. This is really important – if you are not registered with a GP, you will not be invited for a vaccine.

Knowledge Excellence Framework

I'll finish off with some good news! The [Knowledge Exchange Framework \(KEF\)](#) is the latest way in which government measures the success of universities. The KEF measures the contributions universities make locally and nationally, including how they work with partners ranging from big businesses to small local firms, how they engage the public and how they commercialise their research.

I'm delighted to tell you that in this first national KEF Queen Mary is placed in the top 10 per cent for research partnerships and public and community engagement, and the top 20 per cent for commercialisation and intellectual property. On the first two of these measures we are above the Russell Group average. These are very good results, and they make us all proud!

Do please take care of yourselves and your friends and family. I will write to you again soon.

Best wishes,

Colin

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