

Dear Colleague,

BU2025

We are close to completing the current planned set of workshops that will inform our work on the BU2025 vision and strategy. We are having on-going discussions about the Fusion themes, and how we will use them as a lens for communication of our work and our impact. See the [BU2025 pages on the staff intranet](#) for more information.

There has also been a focus on the community that we create at BU, allowing us to fulfil our purpose to inspire learning, advance knowledge and ultimately to enrich society, both directly and through the impact of staff and students on our communities.

- To support this, we want to focus on the learning environment at BU. The intellectual and cultural environment that we create by the way that we collaborate, share knowledge and work together are a vital part of this along with our participation and contribution to a positive and active learning community.
- We believe that “place” is important – technology will continue to evolve but as the Fusion building has demonstrated already, students value the opportunity to work together on campus, and work has already started on the next stage of our inspirational new buildings.

We have summarised your feedback so far on the [intranet](#). If you haven't had a chance to get involved in the debate, please do, and let us have your view - there are several ways to get in touch including [email](#).

BU's TEF Silver award

In my recent update, I shared the news about [BU's silver award](#) in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). I have been reflecting on the comments by the TEF panel, which highlighted a number of BU strengths, including our engagement with our students, and the impact of the Fusion model on the way that we work. The panel highlighted:

- *Very high placement levels with all students offered placements and a very high proportion of uptake*
- *Systematic and well-embedded staff development mechanisms, with most staff holding a teaching qualification*
- *Strong support for Peer Assisted Learning within the institution and very good uptake levels*
- *Effective student engagement which is supported by a number of initiatives such as the development of a well-received Student Research Assistant programme*
- *Good levels of investment in, and student use of, learning resources, including the development of a Student Project Bank*
- *Very high levels of professional accreditation.*

Thank you again to everyone for your hard work and contribution to these initiatives and to excellent education, the learning environment and student outcomes at BU.

Celebrating excellence

If you haven't had a chance to nominate a colleague for the Vice-Chancellor's Staff Awards, now is a great time to do it. **Nominations are open until midnight on Friday 14 July**, and there are five award categories, so don't miss your opportunity to highlight an individual or team who stands out from the crowd. All the documentation and guidance you need to make a nomination (or several!) can be found on the [intranet](#), together with information about

eligibility and awards criteria.

Your feedback

I would also like to remind you to complete the [staff survey](#) if you have not yet had a chance to do so – it closes on 21st July. You will have received an e-mail with your log on details (from Star Surveys@Capita) – please check out the [FAQs on the intranet](#) if you have any questions.

External news

One issue that has been in the news recently is cyber security, and in this context, we will need to take the new [General Data Protection Regulation](#) very seriously when it comes into force next year. This will affect all our activities at BU, so please look out for updates and training.

I was pleased to see that the government has made constructive proposals for the rights of EU citizens to remain in the UK after the UK leaves the EU. These are very detailed proposals and will need to be negotiated with the EU but it is helpful to see that steps are being made to ensure that EU citizens will be able to remain and that there will be a transitional period. The statement also includes helpful clarification about the rights of EU citizens in the UK to take up student loans and pay UK fees. The continued uncertainty about the important date by which people had to be here is unhelpful – I hope that this can be announced quickly. You can read more about the latest proposals [on the intranet](#).

Following the approval of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 just before Parliament was dissolved for the election, [progress is now being made on implementation](#) of the new regulatory structure for the sector. The CEO of the Office for Students (OfS) will be Nicola Dandridge, currently Chief Executive of Universities UK. The Chair of the OfS, Sir Michael Barber, recently [made a long speech](#) setting out his perspective on its role. On Tuesday, Sir Mark Walport, the Chief Executive Designate of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) made a speech outlining his vision for the future of UKRI, which you [can watch here](#).

And finally

Thank you for your patience during the summer works taking place on Talbot campus – you can see from the signs around the campus that this will make a big difference to the campus when the work is complete.

This time of year is a great time to be in Dorset – it's a busy time as we prepare for confirmation and clearing and for the new academic year.

I hope you enjoy the summer.

Best wishes,

John Vinney
Vice-Chancellor

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