

**From:** [John Vinney](#)  
**To:** [All Staff](#)  
**Subject:** Update from the Vice-Chancellor  
**Date:** 02 May 2019 12:24:42  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)

---



Dear Colleague,

I hope you enjoyed the lovely weather over the long weekend – it is nice to see that Spring has arrived on campus.

#### **External developments**

The last few months have been a time of national uncertainty as the government have tried to complete the Brexit process. It now seems that this uncertainty will continue for some time. I was glad to see that the government have now removed the fee for applications for settled status for EU citizens and that they have also clarified the time period for family members to join EU citizens in the UK. Despite the ongoing uncertainty about when and how the UK will leave the EU, at BU we remain committed to welcoming and supporting our EU and international staff and students as part of our vibrant community.

The Office for Students has recently celebrated its first anniversary. We are starting to see a new approach from the OfS as a regulator, as they begin to issue guidance and sector updates across a range of topics. Later this year we are expecting the outcome of two important reviews, the Parliamentary Review of the Teaching Excellence Framework, led by Dame Shirley Pearce, and the Department for Education's Review of Post-18 Education and Funding. You can read [BU's response](#) to the TEF inquiry call for views.

The panel led by Philip Augar was originally due to issue initial recommendations for the Post-18 review in November 2018, but it has delayed its report, which is now expected later in May 2019. The DfE's final conclusions are not expected until the end of the summer at the earliest. This means that any structural changes or changes to funding arrangements would not take effect for some time.

This is also a period of great change in our region; our local authorities merged on 1<sup>st</sup> April to form two new unitary authorities – Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council and Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals are preparing for their merger. We have strong relationships with the new bodies and are working with them on a number of projects as we finalise our review of external engagement as part of BU2025.

**BU2025**

We have been making good progress with our BU2025 objectives over the last few months.

I am delighted to see the progress of the Poole Gateway and the Bournemouth Gateway buildings. These buildings will provide fantastic learning and research space, for the benefit of staff and students. They will also provide more flexibility in planning timetables and enable staff to interact more easily. These are major investments for BU which will have an impact over a long period into the future.

I acknowledge that this has been a time of uncertainty for some staff as we have concluded the departmental review. We will now be working to implement the final outcomes of this review over the next few months. I believe that this will put BU into a strong position to achieve our BU2025 outcomes and I thank everyone involved for your support in delivering these important changes.

Some of the external developments I have described above may change the environment in which we operate. When we were preparing the BU2025 strategic plan we were aware that we needed the plan to be flexible and allow us to respond to changes in our environment. We have therefore created a plan which allows us to adjust the pace of our investments and focus our activity. In implementing BU2025 we have also recognised the importance of setting out the principles to guide the actions that we take and the priorities that we choose. We have strong financial governance at BU, and are able to adjust our plans as required.

#### Advancing knowledge:

- We have been taking steps to implement [our research principles](#). These include a focus on teams, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary activity and building critical mass and reflects the importance of social science and humanities research. I was pleased, in this context, to see that the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation tweeted recently that *“humanities, arts and languages degrees not only help to develop vital skills, they are vital to defining, interpreting and shaping our future society”*.
- There is an [on-going staff feedback exercise](#) on the BU REF2021 Code of Practice and I encourage staff to respond by 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and the new BU Research Funding Panels [have been announced](#).
- The [final inaugural lecture](#) in the year’s series is on 21<sup>st</sup> May, when Professor Michael Silk will be speaking at AFC Bournemouth on “Taking sport seriously: looking behind Olympic and Paralympic mega events”. I hope to see you there.

#### Inspiring Learning:

- We are also [using principles](#) to guide how we implement our Fusion learning approach across BU. Dr Geli Roushan, who has been leading the Fusion learning implementation project, has now also been appointed as Head of the Centre of Excellence in Learning (CEL), and you will be hearing more soon about how CEL will work with colleagues from across BU to help us build on our strong base of Fusion across BU to further enhance learning opportunities and outcomes for all our students. I would like to thank Professor Debbie Holley for her contribution over the last two years and wish her well in her new role.
- I am also looking forward to this year’s [Festival of Design and Engineering](#), from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June – this is not only a great celebration of the hard work by our students, but also a great way for our students and BU to develop our links with industry.

### Enriching Society:

- We can all make a contribution to enriching society, through the direct impact of our work or by other actions. Inclusivity is the theme for the [latest edition of InsideBU](#), and it is well worth reading.
- I was delighted that Bournemouth University has been ranked 55<sup>th</sup> in the world in the first [Times Higher Education \(THE\) University Impact Rankings](#). This new league table recognises universities across the world for their social and economic impact, based on the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#). BU was placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the UK. I was particularly pleased that BU was 7<sup>th</sup> in the global rankings for SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production – this is an area where we have had a considerable focus, with support from staff and students over the last few years. Currently, 75 per cent of waste on BU's campuses is recycled. I encourage all staff to join me and sign up to the Green Rewards programme and take part in the simple actions that will make a real difference, and also to look at the [latest recycling initiative](#) and see how you can help.

We continue to hold regular meetings to discuss progress against BU2025 with staff at meetings in faculties and professional services, as well as at open meeting - you can [sign up for them here](#). I look forward to seeing you soon at one of these events and discussing the next steps with you.

Best wishes,

John Vinney  
**Vice-Chancellor**

Follow me on Twitter @VCJohnVinney

