

**From:** [John Vinney](#)  
**To:** [All Staff](#)  
**Subject:** An update from John Vinney  
**Date:** 12 September 2018 10:25:55  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Colleague,

This is an exciting time of year as we prepare for the arrival of new and returning students. The campus will be buzzing again soon and we will all be called upon to give directions, help with settling in and support returning students, particularly those who have been on a placement and will be in a different cohort this year. I am looking forward to welcoming international students from more than 80 countries at the International Commencement Ceremony on 20 September. It's important to remember our postgraduate and PGR students who have been here with us all summer, struggling with us in the heat and enjoying the opportunity for some quiet moments outside.

I hope that you have enjoyed the long hot summer, wherever you have been, and are refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

#### **External update**

This year will be no less busy from a policy point of view than the last two, as we see in the autumn the interim report of the government's review of post-18 education and funding reports and a final report in March 2019. You can read more about these developments and other policy issues on the [policy pages of the intranet](#).

A parliamentary review of TEF is planned for 2019, following another pilot of subject level TEF starting this autumn. We should know more during the course of this academic year about Brexit arrangements and how they will affect research collaboration and funding, staff and student mobility, including final arrangements for EU staff based in the UK.

I was pleased to see that [UUK are calling](#) for a new post-study work visa scheme to help the UK increase global market share. We believe that international, EU students and staff are a vital part of ensuring that we have a dynamic and inclusive learning environment at BU, and we support these proposed measures to help us attract international students.

#### **Internal update**

The [new edition of the Bournemouth Research Chronicle](#) (BRC) is now available. This year's edition is a celebration of the outstanding research BU academics have carried out over the last 25 years and the difference it has made to life beyond our campus. Further developing our research is a key priority for BU2025 and we are working on a range of plans to support and facilitate this, as well as preparing for REF2021. In order to reinforce our Fusion approach, Professor Tim McIntyre-Bhatty has taken responsibility for research at UET level, working with leaders from across BU.

There has been a lot of visible change over the summer, as the new gateway buildings take shape on [Talbot Campus](#) and in [Lansdowne](#). You'll also have noticed the new signage going up across our sites. These changes support our work to develop the learning environment at BU as part of our BU2025 strategic plan.

Brightspace will be launched for all programmes this year. Further guidance can be found on the [Brightspace Staff Resources](#) area. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in implementing this important change which will enable us to provide a more consistent learning environment for staff and students.

Our learning environment is not just about buildings and technology – it is also about the culture and way that we work together at BU. Another of our BU2025 implementation plans requires us to make sure that we take account of the student voice in all our activities and I look forward to hearing from staff across BU about how they will be developing this in the current year. It has been great to meet our new SUBU sabbatical officers over the summer and to hear about their plans for this year. I look forward to working with them on matters that affect students across BU. We will also be continuing staff engagement events related to BU2025 this year.

The results of the NSS 2018 survey of final year undergraduate students were released in July. The results show BU making a small increase in overall student satisfaction from 80.93% to 81.26%. This represents an upward trend against an overall reduction in the sector, with BU now closing the gap to 2% below the sector average of 83% for overall satisfaction. Areas where BU saw good improvement included:

- A 3% increase in 'Learning Opportunities', against a 1% decline in the sector, which now places BU 1% above the sector average for this area.
- BU continues to outperform the sector for the 'Learning Community' question area (by 2% in 2018), following a 1% increase to 79% for BU against a sector average of 77%.
- In the 'Student Voice' question, BU has seen a 1% improvement and now performs level with the sector.

There was a mixed picture in results across 69 individual programmes in 2018. 34 programmes perform above sector average, three of which have the outstanding achievement of 100% satisfaction – BA (HONS) Sociology and Anthropology, BSC (HONS) Archaeology and BSC (HONS) Physiotherapy.

Excellence is one of our values, and ensuring that we consistently deliver excellence, is part of the BU2025 implementation plan. We will also be ensuring a focus on outcomes for students and staff, enabling achievement by inspiring learning that will advance knowledge and enrich society. A recruitment process is underway for an Executive Dean for the Faculty of Media and Communication, and Professor Keith Phalp is acting as Interim Executive Dean while we complete this process.

## **Our people**

We are committed to ensuring that we recognise and celebrate the achievements of our staff and this week we will be celebrating with staff who have been with BU for 25 years at our Long Service Celebration event. If you have achieved an academic or professional qualification over the last academic year, please make sure that you [complete the form](#) to join our Qualifications Celebration Event. This new event gives us more time to celebrate

with you and I am looking forward to congratulating you on your hard work and success in January.

I spent some time last week reviewing the nominations for this year's VC staff awards – it was fantastic to see the range of nominations and read about the contribution of so many of our staff. Thank you to all of you who took the time to make a nomination. The new categories this year reflect our values: inclusivity, creativity, excellence and responsibility, and I look forward to celebrating your achievements with you in November.

If you haven't had a chance to do it yet, please complete [the survey for Athena SWAN](#), which will inform our important work on gender equality. Work is also continuing to support our application for an award under the Race Equality Charter.

Best wishes,

John Vinney  
**Vice-Chancellor**

Follow me on Twitter @VCJohnVinney

