



ENSURING A SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS

Since lockdown measures were first introduced in March, the University has been working continuously to prepare for students' safe return to campus. All buildings and campus facilities have been assessed, with safety measures introduced throughout. Signage has been installed which follows the latest Government guidelines, to ensure staff, students and visitors can move safely around the campus.

The University has created a range of Coronavirus resources, including a dedicated student information site and Staff and Student Code of Conduct. We have also developed a clear process for reporting COVID-19 symptoms, which will be used by staff and students.

The University is operating a phased return to campus, with around 350 students arriving each day. This includes those living in University residences as well as private rented accommodation. By controlling the

number of students arriving each day, we can ensure we keep to social distancing regulations and reduce the volume of traffic into our city. To coincide with student arrivals, many of our campus facilities including catering outlets, the library and sports centre are now open.

We have been working closely with the Directors of Public Health for Kent County Council and Medway Council to install a local testing site (LTS) on campus. This is now available at Canterbury for any staff, students or community members to book a test if they are symptomatic. The service is available 7 days a week 08.00-20.00. Tests must be booked in advance and drop-in appointments are not available.

The University is committed to ensuring students act responsibly and are considerate of the resident population. We are working in close collaboration with local partners, including other institutions and the Council, to ensure Government regulations are adhered to. We are communicating

regularly with our students, making them aware of behaviours expected of them. This includes explaining the strict Government guidelines concerning socialising and gatherings. The University has a Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedure that sets out the behaviours we expect from our students. These help to protect people against inappropriate behaviour and breaches of the Procedure may lead to disciplinary action.

As an integral part of our local area, we have a responsibility to work together with residents and local partners to support our whole community through the Coronavirus pandemic.

More information on the work we are doing to ensure students study, socialise and live safely in the community can be found on our Community webpages:
www.kent.ac.uk/coronavirus/community

Cyber Security MSc becomes fully certified by the National Cyber Security Centre

The University of Kent's MSc Cyber Security programme has become a fully certified master's degree recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – a subsidiary of the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

The full certification, which is valid for 5 years (2020-2025), confirms that Kent's MSc Cyber Security programme meets the criteria defined by the NCSC for master's degrees providing postgraduate students with a general, broad foundation in cyber security.

Professor Karen Cox, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Kent, said: 'I offer my congratulations and thanks to those colleagues in Cyber Security who helped achieve this important certification. It will be of tremendous value and benefit to our students when they graduate. It is also further recognition of the high quality of our teaching and research in this field.'

The University is building a portfolio of taught programmes in cyber security, including a new BSc Computer Science (Cyber Security) programme.

School of Sport & Exercise Science's relocation to Canterbury from 2021

The University's School of Sport and Exercise Sciences (SSES) will relocate to the Canterbury campus from September 2021. This move to the larger of our two campuses, will allow SSES to provide students with enhanced sports and recreation facilities and study and social space. It will also help them to become part of a broader academic community that we're confident will further enhance their skills, employability and student experience.

Students who are already studying at SSES will be taught in Medway until the 2021/2022 academic year, when their studies will move to Canterbury.



Kent and Medway Medical School opens

The Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) opened its doors to over 100 founding medical students on Monday 7 September. The school is a collaboration between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, benefitting from the strengths and experience in both healthcare teaching and research they offer.

As a sign of the School's ambition to create a generation of doctors that reflect the community they serve, the School is delighted that nearly a quarter of its

students come from Kent and Medway and 37% are from backgrounds traditionally less well represented in the medical field. The KMMS students will study in bespoke facilities at the Canterbury campuses of both universities and will take up placements across the community of Kent and Medway.

We are grateful to all our sponsors and generous benefactors who have to date secured £20 million towards the project including £4.3 million in philanthropic gifts and funding for 27 scholarships.

New horticulture improvement programme following £18 million funding

The University of Kent is part of a consortium that has been awarded £18 million for a new project to strengthen the competitiveness of Britain's horticulture, food and drink industries. Growing Kent and Medway, led by horticultural and agricultural research institution NIAB EMR, will receive this government funding provided through UK Research and Innovation's flagship Strength in Places Fund.

The University will receive £3.14 million of the project funding to develop a multi-disciplinary research and training programme to improve the region's Agri-



Tech capabilities. Kent's School of Biosciences, School of Economics and Kent Business School will collaborate alongside Kent businesses.

Student Services reorganisation

Changes have been implemented in Student Services to ensure the continued success of the college system at the University and to support the delivery of an outstanding student experience. This has involved a review and restructure of the colleges including a clear separation of responsibility for college life and student conduct and complaints.

Jacqui Double (pictured) has been appointed as the University's new Head of Colleges and Community Life. She will undertake the College Master function with support from a team of College Life Officers and a Community Life Officer. This team will provide strategic leadership and management to innovate and enhance college and community life.

Alison Mansell has been appointed as Head of Student Conduct and Complaints, to provide strategic leadership and management on all aspects of non-academic student conduct and complaints, supported by a team of specialist Student Conduct and Complaints Officers.

Both teams will be led by Dr Lucy Foley, Director of Student Services, who was recently appointed to oversee non-academic student life.

Student Services works closely with Campus Security and external bodies such as Kent Police, while addressing community concerns through local residents' associations and liaising closely with regulatory bodies such as the Office for the Independent Adjudicator.

Jacqui Double said: 'I am looking forward to working with local partners and residents' associations and strengthening relationships with the Canterbury and



Medway communities. The new Student Services structure allows us to work more closely with the local community, whilst it has also allowed the University to invest further in mental health support, and out-of-hours provision.'

Kent Sport reopens

Kent Sport has reopened its Sports Centre facilities including the gym, fitness classes, sports halls, Physiotherapy Clinic and The Pavilion outdoor sports facilities.

With additional COVID-19 safety measures in place, Kent Sport is asking every visitor to pre-book activities online before accessing its services. Kent Sport has implemented social distancing within its facilities and a one-way system for members to follow. There will also be an increase in the cleaning of all facilities including a daily full clean.

For Kent Sport's Opening Times and FAQs please visit: <https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/kentsport-news/coronavirus/>



Gulbenkian Cinema and Café open again

Gulbenkian Cinema has reopened to screen both new films and returning classics.

The team at Gulbenkian have implemented measures to support social distancing such as reducing cinema capacity and putting in place clear one-way systems. Gulbenkian's online booking process has also been improved, with all tickets available online only (up to two hours before screening time) to ensure the public can book and visit with confidence. The café is also open at specific times.

Find out what's on at Gulbenkian: <https://thegulbenkian.co.uk/whats-on>



Kent part of major new medicines development consortium

The University is part of a consortium which has secured £50,000 to further develop a proposal bid to accelerate medicines development in Kent. This seedcorn funding, which is provided through UK Research and Innovation's flagship £236m Strength in Places Fund, could bring £60million investment into the life sciences sector in Kent.

The bid is being led by Kent Surrey Sussex Academic Health Science Network alongside the University, Discovery Park (Sandwich), LGC Group and Pfizer. If the bid is successful, it will provide funding for an 'Accelerated Medicines Design and Development' project to be based in Discovery Park, which aims to enhance the region's digital skills base utilising existing workforce and the wider community.

It will also develop a Kent and Medway Data Trust (KERNEL), enabling appropriate access to patient data from Kent's growing and diverse population to support research and innovation and drive greater 'patient centricity' into the medicines development process.



New study highlights employees' desire for more flexibility

New research led by Dr Heejung Chung of Kent's School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research has found that mass homeworking during the COVID-19 lockdown has presented significant challenges for parents, particularly mothers, but has also changed the way that many people intend to work in the future.

The research highlighted a steep rise in the number of employees working flexibly with 86% of those surveyed working from home at some point during the COVID-19 lockdown. Most respondents noted they would prefer to work more flexibly in the future after benefitting from a better work-life balance, increased productivity and improved wellbeing during lockdown. Parents predominantly wanted more flexibility and to reduce their working hours to spend more time with family. Managers and organisations have also improved their support for homeworking during lockdown.

The study also highlighted some negative experiences of home working during lockdown, with two thirds of employees struggling to cope with the blurred boundaries between work and home. Many respondents, particularly non-parents, missed interaction with colleagues. Lockdown had a disproportionately negative impact on parents, especially mothers, with a majority noting they had been carrying out more housework and care, while also educating their children.

PhD student wins award for launching improv and comedy sketch society



Nathan Keates, a PhD student studying at the Tizard Centre, won an award for his Outstanding Contribution to Media and the Arts at the Kent Student Awards 2020 after launching an improvisation and comedy sketch society for the local Canterbury community.

The TNT Improv and Sketch Comedy Society brings together University and non-University community members to practise improv, to devise and re-improvise comedy sketches and to perform to live audiences. The improvisational comedy aims to encourage people to embrace the nature of humanity, society and spontaneity and create meaningful comedy in collaboration with one another. Find out about the TNT Society on its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tntimprovsketch/

Research highlights social struggles of keyworkers during COVID-19 pandemic

Research from the University of Kent and Belong – The Cohesion and Integration Network shows that keyworkers have faced a tougher time than most others during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study led by Professor Dominic Abrams and Dr Fanny Lalot of the School of Psychology indicates that experiences of frontline keyworkers or community volunteers are respectively very different in local communities.

2,027 people from six local authorities and community organisations were surveyed to understand their perceptions and experiences during June 2020, as lockdown began to ease. By comparing people who were only keyworking, volunteering, or doing neither, the research exposes important differences for keyworkers compared with volunteers.

When asked about the level of deprivation of their own local area compared with other areas, 63% of keyworkers said their area was worse or much worse, whereas only 44% of volunteers did so. These perceptions were independent of the actual economic situation of the area. When asked how the pandemic was affecting their connections with their families, 42% of keyworkers said these had become worse or much worse, whereas amongst volunteers only 28% said they had become worse, and 57% said they had become better. Read the full research report for more information. www.belongnetwork.co.uk/resource-centre/resources/all-in-it-but-not-necessarily-together-divergent-experiences-of-keyworker-and-volunteer-responders-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/



Kent Law School enjoys successful year of Inns of Court scholarships

Kent Law School (KLS) was delighted to see the awarding of five prestigious scholarships to its graduates in the 2019/2020 academic year, with the law students bound for pupillages with The Honourable Society of Middle Temple and Gray's Inn.

These scholarships are part of the Inns of Court, the four Inns that have exclusive rights to call members to the Bar of England and Wales as barristers.

KLS looks to support students and alumni with their individual efforts to secure scholarships, whilst the breadth of provision at the School prepares students for the demands of the scholarship interviews, often opposite notable barristers and Queen's Counsels.

Part of KLS' provision is its renowned on-campus Moot court, in which sessions and competitions are regularly held. This enables students to tackle the difficult subjects and arguments put forward in a court of law; essential experience for those on the path to becoming a barrister.

Head of Physiotherapy swims the English Channel

Vicky Annis, Head of Physiotherapy at Kent Sport Physiotherapy Clinic, was part of a four-person relay team swimming across the English Channel on Friday 7 August.

The team – named 'A Doctor, Teacher, Princess and Frog Go Swimming' – began their challenge at 1.30am, leaving from Samphire Hoe beach and 11.32 hours later (to be ratified) arrived close to Le Gris Nez in France.

Vicky said: 'The English Channel is such a remarkable waterway with so many historical events and tales. Living in Kent, and having always been a swimmer, this challenge was one not to miss!'



We're working together with Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury City Council and Kent Police to provide our local residents with key dates and useful contacts for information and advice.

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 5 September** – Accommodation opens for Kent arrivals on a gradual phased basis to allow for self-isolation
- Monday 7 September** – Kent and Medway Medical School Autumn term starts
- Monday 21 September – 25 September** – Kent Welcome Week
- Monday 28 September** – Kent Autumn Term starts
- Friday 18 December** – Kent Autumn Term ends
- Friday 18 December** – Kent and Medway Medical School Autumn Term ends

For more key dates visit:
www.kent.ac.uk/calendar

Upcoming live events at Gulbenkian

- Geoff Norcott: Taking Liberties** – 20.00 on Sunday 27 September
- Jack Hues: Primitif Album Launch** – 20.00 on Thursday 1 October
- John Lennon Tribute UK: Lennon Retrospective** – 19.30 on Saturday 31 October
- Tim Edey (support Rudy Warman)** – 19.30 on Wednesday 4 November

For more Gulbenkian live events visit
<https://thegulbenkian.co.uk/whats-on>



Still undecided about postgraduate study?

Some of our taught postgraduate degrees begin in January. The courses run from January to December, so you will return to the workforce at a busy time for recruitment, ready to take the next step in your career.

Find out what courses are available for a January start and see if this could be the best option for you:
www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/taught-masters/modes-of-study/january-start



PhD studentship in Social Care

The University of Kent is offering a scholarship for a 3-year PhD to research one or more key topics in the field of adult social care. This **studentship** is linked to the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex which aims to develop applied health and social care research across the region for the benefit of patients and the public.

Applicants will need an excellent (minimum 2:1) undergraduate degree and a good Masters in a relevant discipline or have an equivalent health or social care related postgraduate training course at Master's level. To apply, visit: www.kent.ac.uk/social-policy-sociology-social-research/news/5185/phd-studentship-in-social-care