I hope that you are managing well through these extraordinary and demanding times.

This email is to provide you with some updates and share online activities which our staff have prepared to help keep you engaged. There is also a reminder of where to go for support, particularly as we head into the Easter break.

EASTER BREAK: THINGS TO DO

Our Student Journey team, in collaboration with the Students’ Union, has prepared online activities to help keep you active and engaged – as you can see HERE.

Do take a look and take part; from physical activities and mindfulness sessions to social events and more, there is plenty to keep you engaged and in contact with fellow students in Sunderland and London.

EASTER BREAK: SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Our Gateway service will be open throughout the Easter break, albeit with reduced staffing. The team – who respond to queries submitted through Compass at go.sunderland.ac.uk/submitenquiry – will continue to offer advice and support over the closure period by signposting wherever possible and responding to urgent requests.

LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Earlier this week we shared alternatives to the face to face assessment with you,. We have developed a set of Emergency Academic Regulations to recognise the exceptional nature of the current circumstances and their impact on teaching, academic student support and assessment. These Regulations are a ‘grading safety net’, designed to ensure there is no detriment to student outcomes and to enable the University to uphold academic standards and quality.

To support this, there is a set of Frequently Asked Questions in the Student Handbook.

We are seeing excellent examples of students showing incredible resilience and empathy to others, which is heartening to see. Please remember though that we have staff available to support you all over the Easter break. In the meantime, do engage with the online activities.

Finally, remember to follow the government guidance, maintain social distance and, above all else, stay safe.

With best wishes

SIR DAVID BELL KCB
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

NOTE

Sunderland City Council asked us to share this LINK for anyone who would like to volunteer to help and their information leaflet here: Coronavirus - Can you help in your community_ (1).pdf