

JUNE 2016

TLSO Bulletin

The Bulletin of the University's Teaching and Learning Support Office

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1. Staffing news

We have welcomed, or will shortly be welcoming, a number of new colleagues to the TLSO team:

- Diane Bennett joined us from MHS as Teaching and Learning Manager (Distance Learning) on 30 May.
- Fran Hooley has joined us from MHS and Catherine Wasiuk from MMU as Learning Technologists (Distance Learning) in June.
- Isabella Fairclough will (re)join us in the position of Teaching and Learning Adviser (Peer Support) at the beginning of August.

2. TLSO Website/policy and procedure changes

• Exam Board Toolkit

A new Toolkit for Exam Board Chairs and Secretaries has been produced, which is a signposting tool to assist Exam Board Chairs and Secretaries in their role. It contains links to the main University Regulations, policies and guidance documents which Exam Board Chairs and Secretaries may need to refer to as part of their roles.

If staff members have any suggestions for additional documents to be linked to as part of this Toolkit, please contact [Miriam Graham](#).

- [Exam Board Toolkit](#)

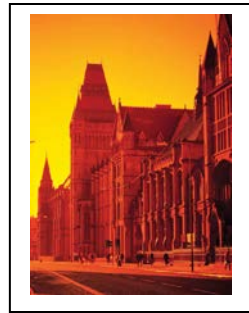
• Advising Taught Students Toolkit – new link to 'HEA Academic Advising for Employability toolkit' that was developed at Manchester

TLSO's Advising Taught Students' Toolkit, which was launched last autumn, now contains a link to a new 'HEA Academic Advising for Employability toolkit' which was developed by colleagues at Manchester.

The Advising Toolkit can be found below, with the link to the 'HEA Academic Advising for Employability Toolkit' available from the 'Employability and further study section':

- [Advising Taught Students Toolkit](#)

3. Government White Paper: Success as a Knowledge Economy



You will be aware that a Government White Paper was recently published, setting out proposals for major changes to the higher education sector in England, with the key aim of increasing competition and quality. There are three main themes of the paper which are:

- to increase the number of universities and 'challenger institutions' in England and the levels of competition between these and existing institutions;
- to improve the quality of teaching through the introduction of a new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) assessing teaching quality via student satisfaction and graduate employability and link TEF performance to the ability of universities to increase fee levels in line with inflation;
- to address the number of different organisations which currently regulate higher education by creating the Office for Students - a new regulatory body to replace HEFCE and OFFA and bringing together Research Councils and Innovate UK into a new organisation called UK Research and Innovation.

It's important to stress that these are proposals at this stage and a Government Bill now needs to go through the Houses of Parliament before becoming legislation. While it's likely that the proposals will be amended during this process, what is certain is that the higher education sector will go through a number of radical changes over the next two to three years and we need to be ready not just to adapt to new ways of working, but to embrace the opportunities these changes present to ensure that we deliver on our ambitions laid out in Manchester 2020.

The University will be providing feedback on the various aspects of the White Paper in due course. University staff may be interested in a concise summary of the contents of the White Paper provided by Andy Westwood, Associate Vice President of Public Affairs, in the video contained within the June 2016 PSS CoreMunicate briefing:

- [PSS CoreMunicate: June 2016](#) (you will have to log in with your University user name and password to access)

The White Paper itself can be found at:

- [Higher education: success as a knowledge economy - white paper](#) (external webpage)

4. Teaching Excellence Awards

Four winners were selected by the panel for this year's Teaching Excellence Awards, which were celebrated with a ceremony at Christie's Bistro on 16th May hosted by Professor Clive Agnew.

The winners of these awards will now join the University Teaching Excellence Network along with previous winners, our National Teaching Fellows and Distinguished Achievement Medallists to support and influence teaching and learning development in the future.



Teaching Excellence Awards (continued)

The panel is drawn from across the University and chaired by Professor Kersti Börjars. The winners demonstrated individual excellence, evidence of supporting and developing colleagues, impact and engagement beyond their immediate role as well as a commitment to their own development in teaching and learning.

In making the awards, the panel were particularly impressed by:

- **Kostas Arvanitis , School of Arts, Languages and Cultures** for his ongoing work with ‘Digital Humanities’ and the way in which he has applied this to change student learning. Also, of particular note was the way in which he connected a wide range of external engagement activities with the teaching and learning agenda, which has had a positive impact on student cohorts.



- **Charles Walkden, School of Mathematics** for the important role he has played in the large-scale revisions to teaching and learning in the School of Mathematics. The panel were also impressed by the positive influence he has had on colleagues to develop and embrace a blended learning approach alongside sustained public engagement activities to encourage mathematics to be seen as beautiful and exciting.



- **Tianjian Ji, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering** for his ‘seeing and touching’ initiative and its demonstrable impact on students and staff alike, both locally and more widely. The group also recognised the influence he has had by encouraging colleagues to consider how they can use the ideas behind your ‘concepts’ module in both academia and industry.



- **Jason Hall, Manchester Pharmacy School** for the breadth of his impact at a discipline, Faculty and national level, in particular recognising the difference he has made to Pharmacy teaching nationally through the establishment of the National Conference. His contributions to the challenging area of Fitness to Practise were highly praised.



Further details of the Award winners, can be found at:

- o [Teaching Excellence Award Winners 2015/16](#)

*Professor Kersti Börjars
Associate Vice President Teaching, Learning & Students
and Chair of Teaching Excellence Awards Committee*



5. Peer Support Annual Celebration Awards

The annual Peer Support Celebration Evening took place on Thursday 5th May at the Palace Hotel. This academic year marks the first that Peer Support is offered to all year one undergraduate students at the University of Manchester, which would not be possible if it wasn't for the hundreds of passionate students who advise, signpost and facilitate, many going above and beyond what is expected.

The event recognised the commitment of all students and staff involved in Peer Support, celebrating their achievements and thanking them for their efforts in helping students through their first year in Manchester. The evening was also an opportunity for students from different schemes to socialise and make new connections for future collaborations.

In addition to those students and staff involved with Peer Mentoring and PASS, the event was an opportunity to recognise new peer led self-help groups run by the Counselling service as well as partnership activities with PricewaterhouseCoopers and My Learning Essentials.

Certificates were given to all Student Coordinators, PASS Leaders and Peer Mentors at the event, and the following awards were presented:

- **PASS Scheme of the Year Award:** Aerospace Engineering
- **Peer Mentor Scheme of the Year Award:** Geology and Environmental Science

Outstanding Contribution Awards:

- Fred Adomakoh, Luke Wheadon, Jack Willgoose (Aerospace Engineering PASS)
- Andrew Aldridge (Aerospace Engineering PASS)
- Scarlett Ash (English American Studies and Creative Writing Peer Mentoring)
- Jennarong Chanrachakul, Keshia Kon (Mechanical Engineering PASS)
- Lusanda Donnelly (Speech and Language Therapy Peer Mentoring)
- Iain Dupère (Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering PASS)
- Janet Ellis (Nursing and Midwifery PASS)
- Gautam (Vaz) Gorasia (Aerospace Engineering PASS)
- Rebecca Lancaster (Religions and Theology PASS)
- Devin Ridgway, George Vanburgh (Computer Science PASS)
- Jenny Rogal (Chinese Peer Mentoring)
- Vusal Suleymanli (Physics PASS)
- Zachary Wilde (Life Sciences PASS)
- Carys Williams (Chemistry PASS)



The current TLSO Peer Support Graduate Interns, with Marcia Ody, Teaching & Learning Manager

Peer Support Annual Celebration Awards (continued)

Peer Support Video Competition winner: Electrical and Electronic Engineering PASS

Congratulations to all of our worthy winners, and a big thank you to all involved in Peer Support for your hard work this year.

The Community of Peer Support (COPS) society hosted an after-party for all who attended the Celebration Evening, where students were given the chance to try their hand at swing-dancing.

Peer Support Celebration Evening in full swing in the Grand Room at the Palace Hotel



Winners of the prestigious Outstanding Contribution to Peer Support Awards



Winning Peer Mentoring Scheme of the Year, Geology and Environmental Science



Winning PASS Scheme of the Year, Aerospace Engineering



6. Periodic and Institutional Reviews

The latest version of the review schedule for internal programmes and collaborative provision for the next six years is available below:

- o [Periodic and institutional review schedule](#)

7. Contact

If you are aware of other staff members who would like to be added to the TLSO Bulletin mailing list to receive future editions of the Bulletin, please contact Miriam Graham (email m.graham@manchester.ac.uk).

If you are from a Collaborative Partner and you are having difficulties accessing any of the linked documents or web pages, please also contact Miriam Graham (m.graham@manchester.ac.uk).

