

OUR COMMITMENT TO A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



The University has launched a new initiative, Closing Our Gap: Black History 365, part of our wider commitment to making a stand against racism and building a better future for all by celebrating diversity.

Launched in October 2020 to coincide with the national Black History Month, the University has organised a year-long series of events, workshops and campaigns that will aim to raise Black voices, educate on race and racism and create opportunities for the University and wider communities to engage positively with Black history.

To find out more visit canterbury.ac.uk/black-history-365



Gold for Canterbury in Bloom

Canterbury Christ Church University is part of the Canterbury in Bloom team that has successfully gained Gold for its entry in the South and South East in Bloom 2020.

Led by the Canterbury BID (Business Improvement District), the Canterbury in Bloom team is formed of 20 local community groups, businesses and local authority members who work to keep Canterbury's gardens, parks and streets flourishing throughout the year.

The 2020 judging was based on a portfolio alone as the site visit had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, but the University's Grounds and Gardens team has continued to maintain the Canterbury Campus, including growing traditional hops from the Kent region. Our hops grown on campus contribute to the production of an annual celebratory ale made in association with a local microbrewery, the Canterbury Brewers.

Commenting on Canterbury's submission, one of the Bloom judges said: "The commitment to sustainability, community engagement and a high standard of horticultural practice will ensure that Canterbury remains a beautiful and attractive city for residents and visitors, thus contributing to health and wellbeing and the economy of the city - for which the council and the In Bloom group should be congratulated - well done to all those involved in such difficult times."

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Each university has a Community Liaison contact who can advise on a number of community projects, opportunities or issues.

Canterbury Christ Church University
e: community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk
or t: 01227 922836

University of Kent
e: communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
or t: 01227 816156

The universities take the concerns of our neighbours very seriously. If local residents experience anti-social behaviour and believe our students are involved, there are places you can go to complain and get help.

Police

Call 101 to report non-emergency incidents and 999 for emergencies.

Canterbury City Council's Refuse and Recycling Services

For all recycling enquiries and to report missed bin collections,
e: environmentalhelpdesk@canterbury.serco.com
or t: 0800 031 9091

Canterbury City Council's Environmental Health Team

To report a problem with noise, neighbours or nuisance, e: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk
or t: 01227 862202

Parking Enforcement

To report a problem with parking, e: parking.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk
or t: 01227 862429

If you encounter an obstruction or other endorsable offences, please telephone the police on 101.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any questions or comments about the University, or if there is something you would like us to feature in a future issue of Community Matters, please email community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk

For an electronic version of the newsletter and further information, visit canterbury.ac.uk/community



Kent and Medway Medical School

The founding term of the new Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) was set amid entirely unprecedented circumstances, but staff and students have risen to this exceptional challenge. From over 1,500 applicants, 108 students began their medical education in September 2020.

The School aims to develop a generation of doctors that are representative of their community, and we're delighted that 25 students have come from Kent and Medway, with 38 students from social-economic backgrounds that are less represented in medicine, and a further five international students.

While providing in-person learning opportunities has faced challenges in this extraordinary term, the School has been able to offer students three placement weeks across the community of Kent and Medway. It is hoped that many of these students will stay in our community once they graduate to address the growing need for medical professionals in the region.

KMMS is a collaboration between Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent. To find out more, visit kmms.ac.uk



ONLINE HISTORY WEEKEND: TUDORS AND STUARTS

Uncover the mysteries of the **Kentish Tudors and Stuarts** with this year's History Weekend!

Moving online for 2021 with a choice of live virtual talks on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March, you will have the chance to hear from leading experts on the themes of Royalty and Conflict, Minorities, Manuscripts and Religion, and Social History in the Tudor and Stuart period.

We're delighted to welcome back speakers such as Glenn Richardson, Amy Blakeway

and Keith McLay; as well as new speakers, including Andy Wood, Pamela King and Matthew Johnson.

There will also be two films bookending the weekend, and both films are freely available when you buy a ticket for any of the lectures. All ticket sales raise money for the Ian Coulson Memorial Postgraduate Award fund, which helps those at Christ Church researching Kent history topics.

To book tickets and find out more, go to canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture

Community matters

Feb / 2021

Canterbury Christ Church University

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



Dear residents,

Welcome to the first 2021 issue of Community Matters.

The year 2020 was unlike any other, and for many of us it brought an unprecedented set of shared and individual challenges. There is no doubt that Covid-19 will continue to impact our communities across Kent and Medway, but we are looking to this year with renewed hope. Recent scientific breakthroughs to combat the pandemic, including more effective treatments as well as the much-anticipated vaccine, have provided hope for us all.

Our Canterbury Campus hosted an asymptomatic testing centre, a complex facility which our staff rapidly co-ordinated, and which allowed students to return safely to their homes for time with loved ones over Christmas. This testing identified a very low percentage of positive cases, with just ten positive results out of 1,851 tests, allowing our students to travel safely over the Christmas period and providing reassurance to our University and local communities. Asymptomatic testing will continue as students start to return to campus.

As a result of the national lockdown in early January, most of our students have been unable to return to campus and are being supported online. However, in line with government guidance, we were pleased to welcome back students on

critical courses, including health and social care, social work, teacher education and medicine, who have returned to face-to-face learning on campus. Health, safety and wellbeing remains our top priority for these students and staff on campus. We look forward to welcoming the rest of our student community safely back to campus next month, dependant on the latest government guidance.

While the start of 2021 has not been easy, we are all looking optimistically to the future. Many of our students will be undertaking their final few months of education before starting their new careers in healthcare, teaching, sciences, creative arts and many other professions that have proved so vital in these difficult times.

At the start of this month, we opened our new multi-million-pound Science, Technology, Health, Engineering and Medicine building, which will provide important research and course facilities for future generations of scientists, engineers and healthcare professionals, including state-of-the-art equipment and technology that offers an unparalleled STEM learning environment in the region.

We are also working hard to ensure our research, teaching and activity in the community plays a key role economically and culturally in the region, as we embark on our collective recovery from the effects of the pandemic. We are proud to work alongside our neighbours in ensuring Kent and Medway rebuilds and grows stronger in the coming months, and beyond.

With very best wishes,

Professor Rama Thirunamachandran
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



Watch our video celebrating how our community came together at <http://bit.ly/CCCU-2020>

Canterbury Christ Church University



Message from the Students' Union

This year has truly been one to remember. For students, the challenges have been unprecedented and the responses from us, their Students' Union, needed to match them. We have been immensely proud of the way in which the students have come together as a community in order to support each other and, indeed, the local communities of Canterbury, Medway and Tunbridge Wells.

As students began to look toward returning to campus in September, anxieties were high for all involved, however in true Christ Church style, the close-knit community rallied together to enjoy student life in a safe way. Whether it was our teams training together in groups of six to ensure that sport continued, adhering to all guidance from the Government and the University, to our societies organising huge virtual fundraising events in lieu of in-person meetings, students truly embodied the University ethos of equality, diversity and inclusion.

We supported the University in placing emphasis on blended learning, as we believe that in-person teaching is integral to students' experience and wellbeing. Students were able to continue their studies and continue to forge friendships and experiences throughout their first semester. It is a testament to our students that in maintaining this level of experience, the rates of positive Covid-19 tests were well below the national average as students understood the gravity and responsibility each person has to protect and support their community.

As we look ahead to this new year, with the new challenge that a national lockdown brings, we feel confident that our students will continue to be kind, be supportive, and above all else, thrive in what has truly been a unique time. We hope you join us in thanking them for their continued dedication to their education and through sheer determination, their ability to rise and succeed at University, within the community, and beyond.

With best wishes,
Christ Church Students' Union

VICE-CHANCELLOR SERVES OUR COMMUNITY AS A DEPUTY LIEUTENANT OF KENT

We're proud to announce that our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.

Rama joins a network of Deputy Lieutenants supporting Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, The Lady Colgrain, in representing the Crown, and helping to serve the needs of communities across Kent.

Deputy Lieutenants come from all walks of life and all parts of the County. Their local and specialist knowledge and experience is used to positive effect in key areas ranging from education to youth services, and from the Volunteer Reserve Forces to business and the rural economy.

Rama is a strong advocate for the power of education to improve the lives and prosperity of the whole community. He is a Non-Executive Director on the Medway NHS Foundation Trust Board and a Kent Ambassador. He is also the chair of MillionPlus, the Association for Modern Universities in the UK, which works to support a successful and flourishing UK higher education system in rising to meet the challenges of the 21st century, as well as a Board member of Universities UK (UUK).

Rama was also a member of the advisory group for UUK's Fair Admissions Review, published in 2020, which aims to build greater levels of transparency, increase trust, and improve public understanding in university admissions practices.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Student nurses and midwives are among the first to use the new Science, Technology, Health, Engineering and Medicine building, which opened this month.

Our students are using the hi-tech health simulation suites as part of their degree course, giving them invaluable access to facilities key to their development as critical health care professionals for the future.

This new £65million facility, part funded by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Office for Students, hosts a wide range of courses, including Health, Law, Life Sciences, Medicine, Psychology and Sports Science, as well as our new suite of Engineering courses.

The building also provides laboratory and learning spaces for the County's first trainee doctors at the Kent and Medway Medical School, creating a uniquely collaborative learning environment that will nurture a new generation of talent.

Offering state-of-the-art facilities and spaces, this specialist centre will provide an innovative educational experience, developing diverse graduate skills much needed for the growing STEM industries in the region.

It will open to all students and staff when the current national lockdown restrictions ease and face-to-face teaching can resume.

Our Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise (EDGE) Hub, is key to the new building and is an example of how we are working with employers and industry leaders to produce highly skilled, work-ready graduates to strengthen our economy and make a lasting difference in society.

The EDGE Hub will be worth up to an estimated £11m a year to the local economy, adding an additional 1,250 graduates with higher-level engineering and technology skills into the labour market by 2024.

To find out more about our new building, go to canterbury.ac.uk/estate-master-plan, or to learn more about EDGE Hub visit canterbury.ac.uk/edgehub

In honour of our local nursing heroes

Canterbury Christ Church University and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust are honouring the memory of two local nurses who tragically lost their lives to Covid-19 by awarding two new nursing bursaries. The awards, created in summer 2020 and funded by the Trust, will give extra support to students through their nursing programme studies at the University.

The Aimee O'Rourke Bursary, this year awarded to Caroline Rogers, recognises the achievement and dedication towards nursing shown by Aimee during her career.

Aimee studied as a mature student at Christ Church and later nursed at the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. Sadly, Aimee became one of the first healthcare professionals to die of Covid-19 in April 2020.

The second bursary, awarded to Leonora Cinco, is in recognition of the success and dedication shown by Adekunle Enitan to his work as a nurse in intensive care at William Harvey Hospital. Adekunle died after contracting Covid-19 at the end of April 2020 and the bursary will be for students from a BAME background.

Susan Acott, chief executive of East Kent Hospitals, said the Trust was delighted to fund the bursaries in memory of Aimee and Adekunle.

She said: "Aimee and Adekunle were much-loved members of our Trust family and I know they are still greatly missed by their many friends and colleagues at our hospitals. These bursaries are another way for us to honour their memory and to inspire the nurses of the future to follow in their footsteps."



CHRIST CHURCH STUDENT WINS TWICE AT KENT CRICKET AWARDS

A student and Sports Scholar at the University won two gongs at the 2020 Kent Cricket Awards, receiving 'Bowler of the Year' and 'Player's Player of the Year'.

Megan Belt, who studies Physical Education and Physical Activity and also works full-time as a PE teacher at Kent College, thanked the University for its support at the virtual awards in October.

Megan said: "After just one year being a Sports Scholar at Christ Church, I have already signed my first-ever professional cricket contract and couldn't have done this without the support of the University.

"I would also like to thank Christ Church for all their support in sponsoring the Kent Women's team. Without them we wouldn't be where we are now, and I am very proud to say that I go to the University."

Paul Carney, Director of Sport at Christ Church, said: "As long-time sponsors of the Kent Women's team, the awards were a great opportunity to promote the women's game and acknowledge the successes of some outstanding individuals and a wonderful team.

"Megan is a fantastic example of the young talent we develop through our Sports Scholarship programme at the University, and we couldn't be prouder of her achievements during this challenging season."



A virtual Canterbury Anifest

This spring, we're thrilled to bring you Canterbury Anifest – an award-winning animation festival and the largest annual event of its kind in the South East. Due to the pandemic, the festival will take place online, but you and your family will still be able to experience the magic of animation with a range of workshops, masterclasses, films and talks from industry experts.

Canterbury Anifest has attracted some of the biggest names in animation over the years, including the likes of Aardman, Double Negative, DreamWorks, LAIKA, Pixar, and The Ray and Diana Harryhausen Foundation.

The Canterbury Anifest international animation competition offers animators the opportunity to submit their own short films and share their work with the world. Shortlisted entries will be screened online across the weekend.

The festival will run from 25 – 27 February, with the main talks on Saturday 27 February. For more information, go to canterburyanifest.com

UNIVERSITY DONATES 150 PACKED LUNCHES TO LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRES



During half term in the autumn lockdown, the University donated 150 packed lunches to local community centres to support children who would normally have access to free school meals.

The Catering team put together the packed lunch bags, which were delivered to Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre and Hersden Community Centre.

The sandwiches for the packed lunches were purchased and delivered by the Catering team, with suppliers Bidfood donating nine boxes of crisps and Lansdell donating five cases of bottled water. All other items were taken from the Catering team's stock.

The team said: "This was a real team effort from colleagues across the Estates and Facilities department to support our local community. It was great to be able to give something that will help so many children."