

BRIDGING THE GAP TO LEADERSHIP

Christ Church has embarked on an innovative new leadership project, working with local healthcare providers to improve the experience of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students while working on placement as part of their degree. Funded by Health Education England, and in collaboration with the University of Brighton, the project will tackle issues around inequalities experienced by students in healthcare settings, and provide new student placement opportunities in local healthcare providers.

The project aims to raise awareness of issues faced by students on placement, provide leadership development opportunities for them, and create a toolkit to support healthcare providers in improving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion practices, and create

a more inclusive environment for local healthcare staff, as well as our placement students.

The first two students from Christ Church started their leadership placements in February 2021. One of the students, Ibrahim, who is studying BSc Physiotherapy, said: "The Bridging the Gap to Leadership project gives me the opportunity to create change. This project helps take the right steps while enhancing opportunities and resources from a University level to develop leaders of tomorrow."

Find out more about how we are supporting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students and staff at canterbury.ac.uk/closingourgap

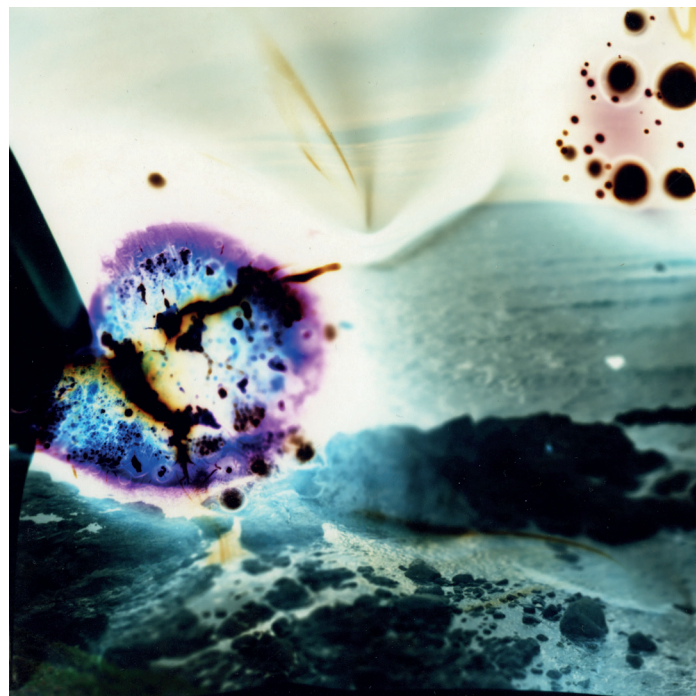


Japheth Rubiato



Emmanuel Alli (left), Ibrahim Fofanah (right)

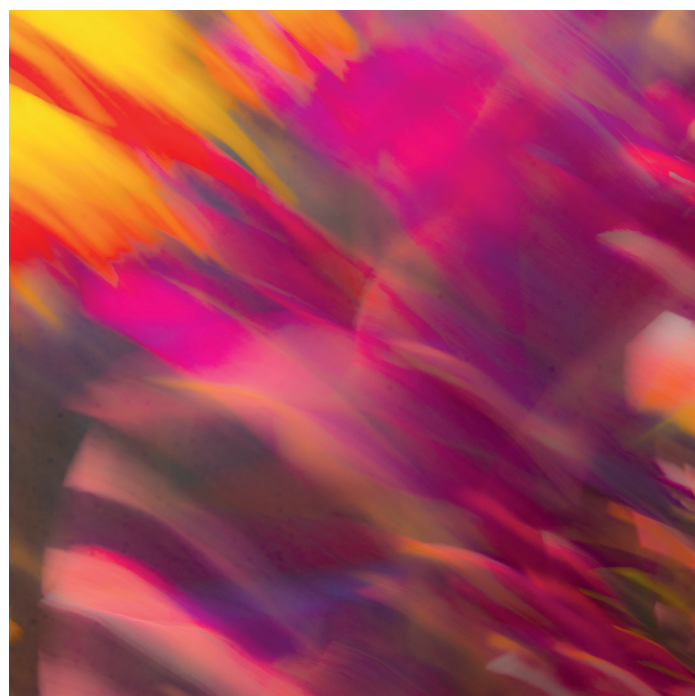
Showcasing student creativity



'Wake-up Call', Rebecca Girdlestone, 2020

Final year students in the School of Creative Arts and Industries are celebrating their degree achievements with an end-of-year showcase, featuring an ambitious range of virtual performances, screenings and exhibitions for all to enjoy.

Over the course of the last year, students have found innovative ways to learn, create, and present their work online, and we're thrilled to share their creations with you.



'Untitled', Laurence Rutt, 2020

Performances from students on Dance, Drama, Performing Arts, Musical Theatre and Music courses will be livestreamed from Monday 24 May to Friday 4 June 2021, and at the beginning of June, we will be launching online exhibitions and screenings of works by students in Photography, Graphic Design, Games Design, Media, Film, TV and Radio.

While we are embracing the opportunities that digital platforms have created over

the past year, we are also starting to plan in-person opportunities to safely bring this work to our local community. We know there is no match for experiencing cultural events live and together.

To explore the student showcase, and for details of our future plans, visit canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture

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: communityliasion@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



A message from the Students' Union

As we come to the end of the semester, we begin to reflect on the year and the challenges our students have overcome. From an uncertain start with a change to blended learning, lack of competitive sport, changing society activity and loss of core events, we are proud to say that our students rose to the challenge and have exceeded any expectations! With resilience, they have overcome changes to tiers and national lockdowns, while continuing to study and succeed.

As a new academic year lies just beyond the horizon, changes to government guidelines and increasingly relaxed rules give us all something to be excited about, not least new and returning students. Those who have missed out on the "traditional" student experience and those who don't know what to expect, coming to University for the first time they are eager to know what we can do to help them build a community and integrate into the wonderful area of Canterbury. We are currently working closely with the University to ensure that our Freshers' events are not only exciting, supportive and provide that much needed sense of normality, but also operate within the

guidelines as set by the government. We are excited to hold socially distanced, in-person events as well as inclusive online formatted occasions - there will be something for everyone! There is also increasing excitement in sport returning at grass roots level, giving all students and staff a much needed physically healthy outlet. As a Students' Union, we are actively supporting all teams in their return to play, following all guidelines set by the affiliated governing bodies.

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate all students on their achievements this year and staff for their continued dedication to the student body and local community. We look forward to a year of continued innovation, compassion, and enterprise at Christ Church. We hope you join us in our gratitude to all who have enabled a safe and successful year for students, and the students themselves for continued determination and optimism in the face of adversity.

The Students' Union

ccsu.co.uk

STUDENTS GO VIRTUAL TO CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY



Events Management students at Christ Church organised and hosted a day of virtual sustainability events and activities to increase awareness of the climate emergency and raise money for charities fighting to protect the natural world. Working together, the students devised a series of innovative events to create a virtual festival across online channels including Zoom and Instagram.

The day of activity, called Code Green, featured talks from sustainability experts, quizzes, craft demonstrations, a litter hunt, and more. All events were free, but attendees were encouraged to learn more

about and donate to charities including City to Sea, The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Woodland Trust, Greenpeace, and Ocean Generation.

Jane Lovell, Senior Lecturer in Christ Church Business School, said: "The event was a very successful, well-attended celebration of all things sustainable, hosted by our Year 2 Events Management students. Students and attendees commented afterwards that they were unaware of many of the facts discussed during the event and they felt their behaviour and approach to green issues had been altered."

Community matters

June / 2021

Canterbury Christ Church University

PROUD TO SUPPORT PRIDE CANTERBURY

We are proud to announce that we are sponsoring Pride Canterbury 2021. We have been supporting Pride Canterbury from its conception in 2016, and we're so excited to be able to once again celebrate this joyful event with our Canterbury community. This year's festivities are planned to take place in-person on Saturday 11 September, with a parade through Canterbury High Street and live entertainment in the Dane John Gardens.

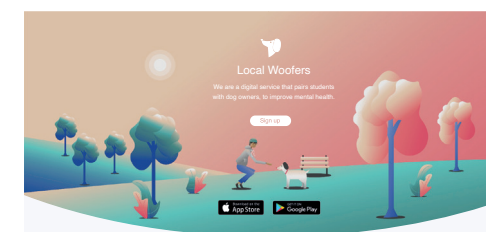
Over the years we have become a key partner of Pride Canterbury and have supported the event in many ways. This year, we are working with Pride Canterbury on a student internship looking at improving the sustainability of the event.

Jonathan Fitter-Harding, from Pride Canterbury, said: "We're delighted that

Canterbury Christ Church University is again sponsoring Pride Canterbury – the ongoing support from Christ Church is vital to our Pride event, and it's great to be able to collaborate with the University in celebrating Canterbury's LGBT+ community."

We have a thriving LGBT+ staff network and LGBT+ student society at Christ Church, and this sponsorship is part of the dynamic range of activities and support we offer to our LGBT+ community and allies.

Pride Canterbury is a wonderful event that allows us to show support for each other without discrimination or prejudice, to bond as a community, and come together to celebrate equality and progress. We look forward to celebrating with you in September.



Visuals by graduating CCCU Graphic Designers: "Local Woofers" by Josh Bassett, "Generation T" by Jack Beaumont, "Saving Southend" by Fran Robinson



ART FOR THE CITY

Christ Church final year Graphic Design students are helping to brighten the city to welcome back shoppers and tourists over the summer with a series of shop window vinyls. The graduating students will present their end-of-year exhibition on large vinyl graphics on 11 shop windows along Sun Yard in the city centre.

This latest community project follows a successful city Christmas selfie trail

designed by our Graphic Design students, in collaboration with Canterbury BID.

Course Director Dr Kate McLean said: "The windows will show the very best of the students' final major project work as they leave University to begin careers in the creative industries.

"The projects range from branding and packaging for millennial tea, a magazine to share understanding about Black hair care and styling, an app to improve mental health by connecting students with local elderly residents through a shared interest in dogs, and place branding for an English coastal resort amongst many others.

"Potential employers might also want to swing by to check out the fabulous work created by this year's hardworking and optimistic Graphic Design graduates."

This street exhibition opens on Friday 28 May, and will remain in place for at least a month, so make the most of the chance to enjoy the work created by our final year students.

Canterbury Christ Church University

A UNIVERSITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

The University's commitment to public and community engagement has been recognised in the recent Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) for UK universities.

KEF results showed that Canterbury Christ Church University is in the top 30% for public and community engagement within its cluster, and for working with the public and third sector. We are also in the top 10% for research partnerships, highlighting our strong and prominent role as a civic university for the region.

Community is at the heart of our work and our commitment is demonstrated in many ways: strengthening our public services with graduate skills and research; volunteering and outreach; and supporting many generations of local students to reach their full potential.

Since 2017, colleagues and students have contributed more than 20,000 volunteering hours and our outreach work includes major projects to support, inspire and raise the aspirations of young people including our Inspiring Minds programme, the collaborative STEM Hub, Community Lab

(in partnership with Pfizer) and Epistemic Insight (in partnership with Templeton World Charity Foundation).

We work across the region through research partnerships, from our collaborations with science and technology SMEs in our Industry Liaison Laboratory at Discovery Park in Sandwich, to the international networks built by our Sidney De Haan Research Centre to deliver creative arts interventions to address long-term chronic health conditions.

To find out more, visit bit.ly/CCCU-KEF



Going the extra mile for young people's mental health

Staff and students across the University took on the Brit 2021 challenge this spring, aiming to 'travel' 2021 miles to raise £2021 for charities providing mental health support for young people, including The British Inspiration Trust (BRIT), Nightline Association, Charlie Waller Trust, Papyrus and Student Minds.

Our community was hugely inspired by the cause, and working in 44 different teams, over 600 staff, students, and alumni jogged, walked, ran and cycled an incredible 57,471 miles, going the equivalent of more than twice around the Earth. The combined fundraising effort also went beyond

expectations, raising a total of over £3000.

Phil Packer (CEO and founder of BRIT) said: "The support from students and staff at Canterbury Christ Church University to embrace and complete the BRIT 2021 Challenge has been overwhelming. On behalf of our charity partners, thank you to the Christ Church family for uniting, raising vital funds and enabling so many students and staff to participate."

Discover more about BRIT at britishinspirationtrust.org.uk



Thank you to our History Weekend guests

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our online Tudors and Stuarts History Weekend. Like many events this year, the History Weekend had to go virtual, but our wonderful community of guests still joined us for a fascinating range of talks, films and lectures.

This year, our speakers were incredibly creative in their approaches to their virtual presentations and navigated this new territory impeccably – though of course no online event would be complete without the appearance of at least one mischievous pet!

Thank you again to everyone who came along and helped make the weekend feel as special and connected as ever before.

GRADFORCE

As we reach the end of the academic year, our final year students are busy planning their next exciting steps, and this is a year unlike any other to be entering the workforce for the first time. We work hard to ensure graduates are empowered with the resources they need to transition into their chosen careers and begin to realise their dreams.

Our innovative graduate employability initiative, GradForce, is one example of how we're helping to support students start their

new professional lives, offering additional employability training to build skills and confidence, and helping graduates connect with roles and opportunities in the local community. GradForce works collaboratively with the local business community, offering a bespoke graduate recruitment service that provides businesses with access to our skilled graduates. GradForce also offers training and development for their workforces, helping to grow and retain skills in the region.

GradForce was recently featured in *Phoenix*, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) journal, and *Thinking Business*, the official magazine for Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

To find out more about how GradForce can help both students and local businesses alike, visit canterbury.ac.uk/gradforce

Supporting local women and girls into STEM

We're delighted to announce that our University now hosts a new hub for the South East to bridge the gap between business, industry and education to help inspire women and girls to take up STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers.

The WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) South East hub is the one of nine regional WISE hubs around the country that are set up to give women and men in STEM a local network with which to get involved. The hubs aim to support women working in STEM and to inspire girls at school about the great

career opportunities available for women in science and engineering, and help forge strong links between local schools, universities and STEM industries in their local areas.

The WISE South East hub will be delivering outreach and engagement work in local schools to change young people's mindsets on what engineers do, inspire students to study STEM subjects and help to remove the institutional barriers to change and inclusion. The hub will also act as a home for the region's STEM businesses and workforce, supporting them with an opportunity to network, connect and share best practice.



Find out more about our STEM work with the community at canterbury.ac.uk/edgehub

Get in touch with us at edgehub@canterbury.ac.uk



LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH AND BEYOND

This year, our usual celebrations of LGBT+ History Month went online with staff and students banding together to celebrate virtually during February, with a huge range of inspiring and thought-provoking events including film screenings, collaborative crafts, mindfulness sessions, quizzes and lectures.

This year's theme was 'Body, Mind and Spirit'. Many people in the LGBT+ community have been severely impacted during the pandemic, and events were focused on keeping our community

connected and supporting wellbeing during these challenging times.

Though we weren't able to come together in person, we are proud to celebrate with our LGBT+ community and shine a light on the significant contributions LGBT+ people make to our society. This year we are extending this activity to run beyond the official LGBT+ History Month, with events planned throughout the year.

INCLUSIVE RESOURCES FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

As part of this year's LGBT+ History Month celebrations, Christ Church hosted a story reading and Q&A with LGBT+ inclusive children's author Olly Pike, and donated 10 copies of Olly's new book, *Kenny Lives with Erica and Martina*, to local primary schools.

Olly Pike is the Director and CEO (Chief Executive Unicorn) of Pop'n'Olly, an LGBT+ equality educational resource used by children, parents, carers and teachers. Pop'n'Olly's videos and books are used in primary schools across the UK to teach about equality, diversity and acceptance.

Pop'n'Olly has created the #KennyLives campaign to help support their goal of combatting prejudice before it can even begin, by making sure every UK primary school has access to a LGBT+ inclusive resources.

Instead of Olly's usual speaker's fee, the University donated the equivalent cost of 10 copies of the *Kenny Lives with Erica and Martina* books to the #KennyLives campaign, which were given to local schools.

Find out more about the LGBT+ resources available at popnolly.com



MBE FOR GRADUATE'S INNOVATIVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT DURING COVID-19



Justine Norris MBE

Christ Church alumna, Justine Norris, has been awarded an MBE for her services to the NHS during Covid-19. A member of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust's mental health crisis team based at St Martin's Hospital in Canterbury, Justine received the award for her work on a resource pack for people with mental health difficulties during isolation.

Prior to the pandemic, Justine was supporting mental health patients at home and, when lockdown was announced, it was apparent that these patients would lose the support groups they depended on. Justine developed a set of holistic resources to support patients in isolation, creating a recovery booklet which included a checklist from Mind, tips to help with goal-setting, an exercise programme and a daily planner,

and a Self Soothe Bag, which was full of items like squeeze balls and colouring packs designed to help people diagnosed with anxiety. The response was overwhelming, with requests to use the materials coming from a range of groups all over the world. The pack was also adapted for use more widely across East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust.

On receiving the award, Justine said: "I can't really believe it. I'm so honoured and when I found out I cried nearly the whole day. I think I should share it with the team because they all helped me do this."

The University is incredibly proud of Justine, and of all our students, staff and alumni who are continuing to work, research, and support others in the fight against Covid-19.