PERSONAL ACADEMIC TUTOR POLICY RE-WRITTEN

The Personal Academic Tutoring Policy (PAT) has been re-written and was presented at the Education and Student Experience Committee (ESEC) on 14th November. When approved, the revised policy will be published in due course on the LTE web pages. There was a clear recognition that PATs needed guidance to fulfil the role and a guidance document alongside the policy will also be published shortly. ESEC recognised that personal academic tutoring should be resourced effectively and time is to be allocated to PATs within their workload plan to accommodate this activity, and this is highlighted in the policy. The guidance document will address issues such as referral to central services, expectations and good practice as well as provide the links for these areas alongside opportunities for staff development.

AN ONLINE CHRISTMAS TREAT – PRESENTING PADLET

Join the Learning Technology team for an online webinar where we will introduce you to Padlet. Padlet is a well-known online collaboration tool that many educators use to engage their students both online and in the classroom. Every member of staff, and every student, can now access a fully functional Padlet “Pro” account through our new CCCU Padlet Backpack service.

Please book your place at this event via StaffSpace.

SUBJECT TEF UPDATE

In the past month, the Office for Students (OfS) has published new information with regards to the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF). A key update is that the University will have an additional year to prepare for the next submission (our new deadline will be towards the end of 2020). Ali Eyden and Ken Powell have explained these changes in their TEF roadshows across our campuses; thanks to those who attended. Their presentation is going to be available on the LTE website soon, please watch this space.
INTRODUCING DIGITAL LEARNING CAPTURE AT CCCU

From January 2019, CCCU will be rolling out a new Digital Learning Capture service. This will give academic colleagues the ability to record content for their students to play back online via Blackboard. This will include the ability to record lectures, capture content outside the classroom (including off-site recording), and give their students the option to record their own learning content.

How will this affect you, and how could you use this technology to enhance your learning and teaching? A number of events will be taking place across our campuses to discuss this new service and its impact, starting with our next Canterbury TELs event:

If you record it, they’ll still come – introducing Digital Learning Capture at CCCU
Wednesday 28th November, 12.00 - 13.00  Rf35
Friday 30th November, 13.00 -14.00  Rf33
Medway: Thursday 13th December, 11.00 - 12.00  RWg19

Hot drinks and cakes will be available. Please book your place via StaffSpace, and keep an eye on StaffNet messages for information about further events.

STUDENT DIGITAL EXPERIENCE INSIGHTS SURVEY 2018/19

Last November we ran the Jisc Student Digital Experience Tracker, a sector-wide standard survey to gauge our students’ opinions on and experiences with our digital environment. The results of this survey provided substantial data to inform decision making and improve the student digital experience. Full information about last year’s survey can be found on the LTE website at https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/learning-and-teaching-enhancement/digital-initiatives/Digital-Experience-Insights.aspx

Re-branded as the Digital Experience Insights survey, we are once again undertaking this in the run-up to Christmas. Launching on Monday 26th November, all undergraduate and postgraduate students will be sent a unique access link via email to enable them to complete the survey. We would appreciate your support in promoting this to your students.

NEW PRISM CASE STUDIES

New case studies have recently been added to our PRISM repository of good practice at https://blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/prism/ (please open using Chrome): an example of collaborative work with the reminiscence café presented by Andrew Southgate and his colleagues; and the presentation of a strategy to help and support students with their assessments and feedback presented by Jim Wiles from Sport and Exercise Sciences. We would welcome more case studies, some of which can be taken from the good practice section of your annual programme monitoring reports. You can submit your ideas, following some guidance, at https://blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/prism/submit-a-case-study/. PRISM is an excellent platform to showcase your work and learn from others, so do check it regularly.
Partners in Learning Conference 2019

We are delighted to confirm that Tom Chatfield, author of *Critical Thinking* (Sage, 2018) will be our keynote speaker at our Partners in Learning Conference on 24th January 2019. His presentation will explore the ways in which critical thinking is a vital skillset for engaging with 21st-century work, life and study: what’s required for clear thought and learning in an age of fake news and information overload; what it means to take control of your time, attention and ideas; and how to engage critically with the biases built into both technology and human cognition.

The submission date for students and staff to submit proposals to present is Tuesday 4th December. All proposals should be submitted to lte-admin@canterbury.ac.uk.

For more information about the conference, or to download a proposal form, please go to the LTE webpages at https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/learning-and-teaching-enhancement/excellence-scholarship-and-research/Partners-in-Learning-Conference.aspx

NEW STUDENT LEARNING DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH SUPPORT STRUCTURE CONFIRMED

The new staffing structure and ‘hub and spoke’ model that will replace the Academic Learning Development and Academic English Services has now been confirmed (click here for link to the associated paper). The hub and spoke model of learning development aims to transform the delivery of academic support, and develop a more sustainable, inclusive and embedded model of Learning Development. The transition will bring an overall increase in staffing FTE (e.g. from 3.2 FTE Academic Learning Advisers to 6 FTE practitioners that will be aligned to and support student learning within each Faculty). In addition, a specialist Learning Developer role focused on the coordination and development of English for Academic Purposes (EAP) activity is developed.

Hub & Spoke Model

Following a period of recruitment, appointed staff will take up their new posts from January and will, under the management of Liam Greenslade as Senior Learning Developer, seek to develop relationships and become more visible within the Faculties prior to a full implementation of the new model in 2019-20. Discussion with students and staff regarding the delivery model and initial offer will take place throughout Semester 2. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact Kristy Widdicombe, Head of Student Learning Development & Research Support, at kristy.widdicombe@canterbury.ac.uk.

STUDENT ACADEMIC JOURNEY PROJECT EVALUATION

The Academic Journey Project is evaluating the change in assessment regulations and the move to semesters delivered during 2017-2018. You are invited to take part in an online survey and to encourage your undergraduate students to do so as well. The survey for students has been designed so that they only need to answer questions about the specific changes relevant to them. You can access the staff survey here. You’ll find a link to the student survey on the Student Blog.

The Academic Journey project is also supporting a review of procedures related to extenuating circumstances. As a part of this, the Education and Student Experience Committee has approved a consultation on some proposed changes to Self-Certification. A brief consultation survey will be launched w/b 26th November for both staff and students.