



As we head towards the end of the calendar year, I would like to take this opportunity to send you and your families my best wishes for the Christmas holidays. Throughout the past few months, I have been struck by the resilience and positive outlook of our students, particularly as we deal with changes to teaching and learning, the challenges of securing placements within our health and well-being services, and the more socially-distanced world we will be inhabiting until the successful roll-out of an effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Of course, the ability of our nation to bounce-back from the personal and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will depend on our individual and collective resilience. I am confident that our health and care students and graduates will be able to play a full and important role in our national bounce-back.

I realise that many of our students, including our apprentices, engage in part-time work, often within the health and care services over the holiday period. I hope that you will ensure you have sufficient rest, and I would particularly like to thank you in anticipation of your service over the coming weeks.

The School has implemented a number of measures this year to increase the voice of our students, including the School Student Liaison Council. We have also worked in partnership with a smaller group of students to co-design a refreshed strategy which sets out our ambitions for ensuring our students success. This is now ready for consultation. Below, you will find a link which will take you to a brief on-line survey to collect your views about the strategy. Please do help us by taking a few minutes to complete this.

<https://canterbury.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/student-success-strategy-2020>

The Christmas break is always a time for students to reflect on their experiences and learning over the first Semester / Trimester of the academic year. I hope that you feel that your career in health and care is now even more important, and that a promising and rewarding professional career is in sight. Certainly, I know I can represent the whole staff when I write that we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Kind regards

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