



University of
Nottingham

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Supporters of student aspiration

Issue 2 | 2021

AMBITION

One year on from the first
UK lockdown, how has the
student experience changed?

On Air

Discover how your support has given University Radio Nottingham a new home. **Page 10**

What's new on campus

Revisit University Park and discover how it is continually evolving. **Page 26**



“

The scholarship has given me a lot of freedom which I wouldn't have had. It's the thing I'm most grateful for as it's helped me to participate and grow both personally and professionally.”

Max Johnson
Final year Law student



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Editor's note

Welcome to the second issue of *Ambition* - the magazine that celebrates your support for our students.

You are receiving this magazine because your generosity is helping to create an outstanding student experience at the University of Nottingham.

When we sent the first issue of *Ambition* in Spring 2020, the UK was a few weeks into its first lockdown and the university's campuses had fallen eerily quiet. The last 12 months have been universally challenging yet despite all the difficulties, students at Nottingham have found ways to navigate the uncertainty thanks in no small part to your support.

The pages of this magazine provide a window into the world of some of the students touched by the generosity of our donor community. In this issue we hear how students have thrived in the face of adversity; from helping keep University Radio Nottingham going through the pandemic (page 10), to helping others in need through Foodprint, the student-run ethical supermarket (page 24). In our special report we discover how the student experience has changed as a result of Covid-19 and how your support has helped make a difference (pages 13-20).

Putting this magazine together has been one of my highlights of the year. It is inspirational to speak to the students featured and hear how they have taken on a challenging year, found the positives and uncovered opportunities. From all our conversations, one comment was made time and time again - they have only been able to achieve what they have thanks to your dedicated support.

We would love to hear your feedback on this issue of *Ambition*. Please do get in touch and I hope you enjoy the magazine.

TOM HILLS
EDITOR

Here's to you!

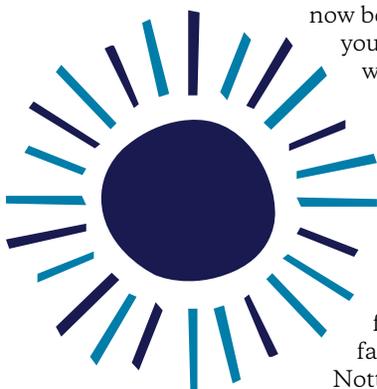
We are lucky to have alumni and friends who support many different parts of the university - and in times of difficulty, this belief and backing in our work, mission and student community has been invaluable.

You can find our Donor Roll of Honour on our website at nott.ac.uk/rollofhonour

Here is a brief snapshot of just some of many things that we have achieved together this past year.

Bringing light in dark times

Over 290 people answered our call for help last Summer, raising £60,028 for emergency student support and Covid-19 research through our Covid-19 emergency appeal. Our researchers and students are now benefitting from your generosity and we thank you for responding so quickly.



More scholarships for undergraduate students

147 new students from low-income families received a Nottingham Potential scholarship thanks to the support of 1,271 alumni, who gave an incredible £147,091 to our 2020 scholarships appeal. Generous donations from alumni like you means that our students have the financial support they need to start university with confidence.



PhD support helps students to progress

Our university is a world-renowned research institution but conducting this life-changing work is a significant and costly part of our operations. The financial implications of Covid-19 means that our ability to focus our resources on developing solutions which help save lives and advance knowledge has been compromised, so we are grateful to people like Dr Paul Walker (Economics PhD, 1998), who choose to support our PhD research programmes. He says; "To paraphrase the American academic and science-fiction author Isaac Asimov, for every student who fails to do a PhD for lack of funding, we lose important thought and research. The opportunity cost of not supporting fundamental research is incalculable." With so much talent here at Nottingham focused on addressing global challenges, who knows where the next discovery may lead.

Even though we couldn't meet in person...

We were delighted that so many of you were able to join Vice-Chancellor Shearer West,

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience Sarah Speight and Engineering student and scholarship recipient Kundai Vurayayi, for our first-ever virtual Supporter Reception on 26 November 2020.



Our next chance to get together virtually is on 30 June 2021, with invitations being sent out by email. Please check your inbox for yours. If we don't normally correspond by e-mail, you can still register by contacting us at supportus@nottingham.ac.uk

Celebrating 20 years of giving

We offer our thanks and gratitude to Mr Doug Ash (Industrial Economics, 1969), who has generously supported the university for over 20 years. Alongside gifts to support students with sports bursaries and enhance coaching of the university rugby club, Doug has been a valuable member of our Sports Board, sharing his professional skills and expertise with our staff.



Sadly Covid-19 has meant that we have had to pause our commemorative donor bookplates, created to celebrate 5, 10, 15 and 20 year anniversaries of consecutive giving. We are extremely grateful to everyone who supports us year on year - and hope that we can have even more books signed by donors in our libraries again soon.



With our own Winter Survey projected to show worrying statistics on wellbeing issues around happiness and loneliness within our student body, the grant from the James Tudor Foundation in support of student mental health is more vital than ever."

Janette Alvarado-Cruz
Students' Union Director
of Student Influence



Supporting student mental health

With a surge in requests for mental health and wellbeing support during the pandemic, we are grateful to the James Tudor Foundation for their contributions towards our Student Union Mental Health and Wellbeing project. Thanks to support like this, we are proud to have a strong, student-led Welfare Network, fully trained Welfare Officers across our student groups and one of the largest Nightline teams in the country - a student listening service which is open at night and run by students for students.

The Social Impact Game: Everyone's a winner

Words: Giselle Kennedy

The Social Impact Game is back by popular demand, with students lining up to take part in the award-winning Nottingham Advantage Award module. The aim of the game is for students to team up with alumni and employer 'Business Partners' and 'Project Advisors' to co-create projects that have a measurable social impact. They've all kindly volunteered to take part and have been hard at work over the last few months, developing innovative solutions to tackle real world problems. And it's thanks to donations to Cascade, our grant fund for student-led projects, that we were able to fund collaboration tools that helped to make the module possible.

We caught up with Physics student Polly Mitchell to find out how she's using the experience to help others and develop her skills.

Taking the plunge

"I wanted to get involved in the Social Impact Game as I've had trouble in the past with my communication skills, particularly with public speaking. I thought that the programme would give me a chance to gain confidence in that area by forcing me out of my comfort zone."

The project

"My project is called the Small Business Social Impact Assessment and it involves creating a toolkit to help small businesses maximise their social impact.

"We've shared tasks in our team and I've been in charge of research. I interviewed small business owners to assess what they were already doing and find out how we could help them to make a

social impact. They were often extremely busy, so persuading them to give 45 minutes of their time was tricky! You have to really focus on what benefits they will get out of it."



It was an insight into the world outside university."

Working with employers

"Our Business Partner was Paul Corcoran from Interimconsult and he was invaluable. Without him we would have never had the opportunity to do the project in the first place and certainly wouldn't have made it to the finish line. Throughout the project we had weekly meetings and he gave really useful feedback and provided a lot of small business contacts for us to interview. I would normally never have had the chance to talk to business owners, it was an insight into the world outside university."

A toolkit with a difference

"We found that small businesses are already doing a lot to make a social impact in their own communities and elsewhere without realising it. They have introduced social impact schemes like volunteer hours for employees, charity events, recycling or hiring more apprentices. Our toolkit will help them to understand the importance of that impact, show it off to customers and prospective employees, and give them tips and tricks to optimise the impact they're making."

Developing new skills

“At the start of the project, I was daunted by the sheer amount of work needed. I surprised myself with how much my team achieved. Learning to have confidence in myself and my team was a big thing.

“My confidence has increased so much since starting the game. The final stage of our project will be hosting a webinar. If you had asked me to do something like this a few months ago I would have been sent straight into a spiral of fear and panic and would have refused point blank. Now I have more faith in my own abilities, I am not so nervous and I’m even looking forward to it!”

You can play the Social Impact Game too

Thank you to our incredible volunteers who kindly give their time to support students like Polly. If you’re interested in volunteering with the university or you would like to take part in the next Social Impact Game, we would love to hear from you.

✉ [Email givingtime@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:givingtime@nottingham.ac.uk) to register your interest.

“

If you had asked me to do something like this a few months ago I would have been sent straight into a spiral of fear and panic and would have refused point blank. Now I have more faith in my own abilities, I am not so nervous, and I’m even looking forward to it!”



On Air

New home for University Radio Nottingham thanks to your donations.

Words: Tom Hills

Thanks to the support of donors like you and years of hard work and planning, University Radio Nottingham (URN) has moved out of its former home in the basement to a shiny new studio in the Portland Building. But in a cruel twist, the week after holding an opening party, the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, leaving the new studio empty.

We caught up with Station Editor Flora Wordie to find out how URN has kept the station alive with remote broadcasts and what's next for this much-loved student society.

How did you get into URN?

Flora Wordie: I joined when I was a fresher. My friend wanted to demo but she didn't want to do it by herself, so we ended up doing it together and I just fell in love from then.

Over time, I've taken on more responsibility at URN and am now Head of the Station. I wasn't sure about going for the role initially as it's a lot of extra work alongside my Masters in Product Design and Engineering. But when I first joined URN, I remembered how supportive the Head of the Station had been to me, so I wanted to give that same experience to the new students joining us today. The Deputy Head of the Station and I were both part of URN when we were based in the basement and now we've got this amazing brand new studio – so we were both passionate about bringing the ethos and community feel from the old location into the new one.

How have you kept the station going throughout the last year?

FW: All the new equipment was delivered and installed into the new studio space in March

2020. We had a studio opening party with alumni from the last few years who had worked so hard to make it all happen – and then the next week we were all told to go home because of the pandemic, which was very frustrating. We managed to get set up to broadcast remotely in April 2020 and we did remote interviews for the SU elections. It was a bit hit-and-miss initially because sometimes you need to be on campus to manage the equipment. We don't usually broadcast over the summer, so when we came back in September we were really keen to properly get going. We were a bit worried about getting new members because there wasn't an in-person Fresher's Fair this year, but fortunately people were blown away by the new studio space. It really looks so professional and we're all so passionate about what we do that recruitment actually went really well.

In September and October the restrictions were more relaxed so we managed to do training on the new equipment through a combination of videos and weekend of training in small groups. Luckily, we were able to broadcast during the lockdown in November. We had to restrict to just one person in the studio at a time but we set up Skype so we could do a combination of solo presenters and panel shows.

The start of this year has been a bit trickier because we're remote once again. We can't go out live but we can pre-record shows which keeps us on air. We're lucky that we can keep going. A lot of societies just can't run remotely and they try and put on online quizzes, but everyone is a little bored of doing a Zoom quiz now. We still have people that are wanting to



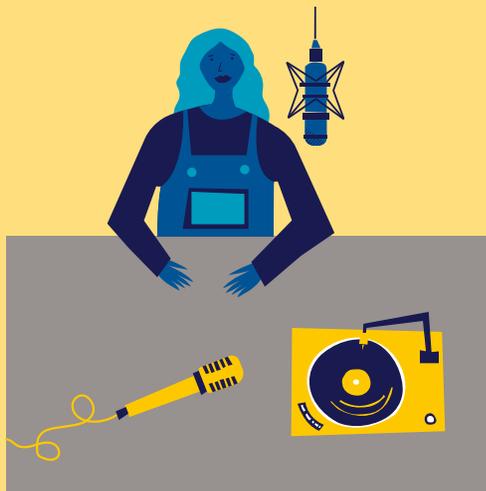


put in time to do their shows and a lot of people have found some really good interviews as well.

URN always does very well at the Student Radio Awards, why do you think that is?

FW: We do win a lot of awards, which is amazing, but we're not really sure what our magic trick is. I think it comes down to the fact that we all join URN because we love to do it. Some other student radio stations are connected to their courses so maybe they're more consumed in the broadcasting bubble. It's the opposite for us because Nottingham doesn't do a broadcast journalism course - URN is an escape from writing your English essay or trying to get your head around a really hard mathematical question.

URN has been going for 42 years and I think the success that has been built over the years is based on a shared passion that we all have for it. I still get that feeling of excitement when I go



on air for my show. It's such a buzz and I think we're so lucky to have amazing equipment that makes it feel so professional.

The student radio awards can also help if you want a professional career within radio, because they are judged by people in the industry. It's a great opportunity to network and obviously, if your name is nominated for anything, it's great because there are so many radio stations there. One of our presenters, Nikki, won at the student radio awards and got to do a show on New Year's Eve for Radio One which was amazing. Some URN alumni have gone on to work in radio and have found success producing and presenting top shows at top stations. Whether it leads to a career or not, URN is a great experience and a real joy to be part of.



What have been your personal highlights of your involvement in URN?

FW: I will never ever forget my first show in the new studio. I felt like all the hard work of the last four years of URN had finally come to this moment. It was first thing on a Monday morning, the first-ever show from the studio, and it is a feeling that I will treasure. Even though I would have loved to do so much more with it this year, we did all we could in difficult circumstances. We're all so grateful to everyone who has donated to the university which has made our studio possible. Without you, we would not be in this position.

Can you describe URN in three words?

FW: I would say, life-changing (that's hyphenated so it's one word), exhilarating and incredible. Incredible in every way.

Will you be a Guiding Light for future generations at Nottingham through a gift in your Will?

Each generation at Nottingham is connected to the next by an unbroken thread. Through your Will, you can be a light to guide future generations of students, who otherwise could not afford to study here.

450 alumni like you have already left a gift in their Will to become a Guiding Light for those who will follow in their footsteps one day.

We would like to invite you to become one of our next 100 Guiding Lights by pledging to remember the University of Nottingham in your Will.

If you have or are intending to remember the university in your Will, we would like to express our thanks. Your gift will spread the light of learning and knowledge for generations to come.

Please use the enclosed form or visit nott.ac.uk/guidinglight to share your thoughts about pledging a gift to the university in your Will.



Peter Kingsbury

“

Three years as an undergraduate at Nottingham gave me the confidence and knowledge to take advantage of the opportunities which otherwise would have passed me by. Today's students face real challenges to fund their period of study. I wish to play a small part in helping young people from similar backgrounds so they can benefit as I did.”

Peter Kingsbury, Geography 1976

Be a
**Guiding
Light**

Special report: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the student experience at Nottingham

We take a look at how the pandemic has changed life for our current students and the class of 2020 and how your support has made a difference.



Introduction

Words: Professor Andy Long



Professor Andy Long
Provost and Deputy
Vice-Chancellor

Covid-19 has had a seismic impact across all our university community. Students and staff have had a very different experience to the one they were expecting. As we entered the first lockdown in March 2020, we had no choice but to move all our teaching, assessments and graduations online but even as we did this, we also started planning for the recovery.

We are lucky to have experts on-hand within the university, so we were able to quickly bring virologists, immunologists, behavioural experts, other academics and support staff together to help us protect the health and wellbeing of our community. We introduced extensive measures - re-purposing spaces to allow for social distancing, providing cleaning equipment and hand sanitisers, and changing schedules so any necessary in-person laboratory or technical teaching could be delivered in small groups. Whenever we have been allowed to do so within the constraints, we've kept libraries, sports and leisure facilities open. We also invested in our own asymptomatic testing system. It is measures like these that are helping us to safely maximise the amount of face-to-face contact that students can have with our staff.

It certainly hasn't been easy though, especially at the start of term when the number of student cases increased significantly. Student communities are diverse - some live here on campus while many others are in shared privately rented houses - so trying to create support systems that met all the different needs was a huge logistical challenge. We asked students how they were feeling and coping, then evolved our policies and measures based on their feedback. Yet none of this takes away from the reality that it has been a difficult year for everyone - social contact is a major part of university life and its loss has been felt keenly in all quarters.

But challenge also brings opportunity and while we were working towards providing more online learning experiences, this pandemic has dramatically accelerated our progress. Now all our teaching staff have expertise in this area, meaning that we can continue to engage with students in new and exciting digital ways alongside our traditional in-person approach. And while I am undoubtedly excited for the day when we can fully welcome all staff and students back to our campuses, this experience has made me more proud than ever of the university community and all that we have achieved in difficult circumstances. We are weathering this storm together and know that we will be back stronger than ever.

How your support has helped students shine through the pandemic

Words: Tom Hills



A scholarship makes real difference to our students, giving them the confidence to throw themselves into their studies and take opportunities that might otherwise have been out of reach.

For many, student life is as much about the people you meet as it is about your studies, though sadly the Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically changed both. Your support for scholarships this year has been a real lifeline for many students, helping them to make the most of their university experience in difficult circumstances.

We asked two students to tell us how they have dealt with the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

**Melissa Jarvis -
Law student, second year**

“I can’t sit still, I think that’s the problem,” says Melissa, and I believe her. She’s just spent half

an hour explaining what she’s been up to since starting at Nottingham and I can barely keep up.

A second year Law student, Melissa is the first of her family to go to university. She calls Stockport home, but Melissa is in Nottingham in her student house in Lenton studying online: “I came back to Nottingham in January. At home, I share a room with my little sister. She’s home-schooling so it was never going to work. Even though there aren’t many students here, it’s been so good to come back to Nottingham – I feel like I can concentrate better.”

Thanks to the support of a scholarship, Melissa has been able to take almost every opportunity that has come her way as she works towards her dream job as a barrister. From societies, careers events, competitions, legal debates and advocacy – she fills every spare moment. While many have struggled with the realities of a remote

life, Melissa has been busier than ever. “When I was at college, I used to work 30 hours a week alongside my studies and I thought that was normal. All my friends did too, so it was a surprise when I came to university and realised that it isn’t what everyone does. Having the scholarship meant that I could really focus on getting involved in all the volunteering projects, talks and events that you need to do to become a barrister. If I was working a part-time job like before, I’d be away most evenings and I would miss out on these crucial experiences.

“At the moment, I can do more because I’m at home. I can do a meeting, then a talk, then a competition all in one day. There’s been so many opportunities and I’m one of those people that feels guilty if I don’t take them all. This year I took part in the National Speed Mooting competition online and ended up being a finalist.”



Melissa's days are busy by any standards. Getting up at 7am and working through to 7pm isn't unusual. And then there are evening events. Although Melissa is making the most of the situation created by the pandemic, she admits that there are challenges.

"I think everything being online has been a big culture shock. Although I've not had the opportunity to meet people in person, I've been quite lucky that I've still been able to participate in activities. I think it's helped me to stay sane during the pandemic! My housemates and I try to go for daily walks and that's our excitement for the day. Sometimes we'll treat ourselves and go to big Tesco!"

"It's easy to forget how valuable the interactions are when you're going to lectures and sitting with your friends. If someone doesn't understand something, then you can chat and explain it to

each other afterwards. It's so much harder to continually concentrate on your laptop. I don't think online learning will ever replace in-person teaching, but I think it has shown where things could improve and evolve."

Next year Melissa plans to go on a year abroad to study in Texas to follow her interest in representing those facing capital punishment.

"I don't think I ever would have applied for the placement in Texas if I hadn't had my scholarship. I wouldn't have felt confident enough or been able to afford the tuition fees. This year I became a student rep for Amicus which is charity that helps provide representation for those facing the death penalty in the United States. Without the scholarship I don't think I would have ever discovered this interest or had the opportunity to participate in vital advocacy work like this."

“

At the moment, I can do more because I'm at home. I can do a meeting, then a talk, then a competition all in one day.”



Max Johnson-
Law student, final year

“Right after my lecture, I received an email saying that the university was closing. If I didn’t leave the country straight away, I could end up stuck in Rome,” said Max. When the pandemic hit Italy in March 2020, he was on a year abroad studying at Roma Tre University. A few days after being told the news, Max was continuing his year abroad but studying remotely from his family home in Milton Keynes.

“I was still paying my rent in Rome and had my belongings in the house because I had to leave so quickly. It was a stressful ending but my time abroad was really good. I joined the international human rights pro-bono legal clinic, where I was helping local judges in their decisions about migration and asylum seekers by compiling contextual reports. I’m now a research assistant for the same legal clinic. I want to go into international corporate law so the experience is invaluable.”

Studying abroad can be a life changing experience and for Max, it has made a

real difference to his career prospects. “I don’t come from a particularly affluent family or anything like that so the support I get through the scholarship really helps. I knew a year abroad would be expensive but the scholarship, combined with support from Erasmus and student finance, made it all possible.” Max and his siblings are the first generation of his family to go to university. His parents moved from Sri Lanka as refugees from the civil war to Germany where Max was born. A few years later the family moved to the UK.

“I think my parents are very proud. They just didn’t have the same opportunities that they helped to give us, and they’ve watched me and my siblings grow and really challenge ourselves. When they left Sri Lanka, I’m not sure they would have thought that any of this was possible.”

Thanks to the support Max receives, he’s been able to embrace every opportunity that university life offers.

“Law is competitive and there’s an expectation that you’re taking part in activities to improve your skills and

show that you’re well-rounded. If I didn’t have the scholarship most of my time would have been spent on academic work and a part-time job so I can pay my bills. The scholarship has given me a lot of freedom, which I wouldn’t have had. It’s the thing I’m most grateful for as it’s helped me to participate and grow both personally and professionally.”

While Max edges closer to the end of his time at the university he has an eye on what’s next.

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If I didn’t leave the country straight away I could end up stuck in Rome.”

“At the moment my real aim is to graduate with a good degree and keep up with my extracurriculars. I’ve secured a training contract with a law firm, so I’ll be doing my legal practitioner course in September for one year - before starting my training contract. Following that I will qualify as a solicitor and see where it takes me next.”



Graduating to the frontline: How one medicine scholar has been fast-tracked to the fight against Covid-19

“It’s fair to say most of us would have taken a little bit of a breather upon graduation, but for the Medicine and Nursing Class of 2020 it has been an experience unlike any other”.

Abbey Bracken (Medicine, 2020), a Nottingham Potential scholarship recipient, was one of 6,000 medical students across the UK fast-tracked into service last summer to help tackle the Covid-19 outbreak. She has spent the first few months of her medical career working at Royal Liverpool Hospital amid a life-changing pandemic.

“Nottingham is somewhere that will always be close to my heart. I was in Rutland Hall in my first year and I always loved sitting out on the Downs - revising for summer exams, sledging, listening to music - we did everything there.

Even in my fifth year on campus, I’d be walking over the link bridge between the university and Queens Medical Centre and I’d see the sign and think to myself “Oh my word, I can’t believe I actually got into Medical School.” It’s the same now when I go into work and think “I can’t believe this is actually my job.” I feel so lucky to have been given this opportunity and I want to make the most of it.

I’m from Burnley originally. The school I went to was OK but it wasn’t particularly high performing. I was the first one in my family to go to university and move away from the area.

When I got to university, I really had to come out of my shell. I’ve met so many wonderful people from across the world. Even though it’s a big campus, it’s such a nice tight-knit community at Nottingham and we really grew together as students. I did find it very difficult at times, especially compared to my friends who did non-medical courses - there was a big difference in the amount of time spent in university and the number of hours I had to make up. Trying to hold a part-time job as well was challenging, so my scholarship came in really handy as it helped to take the edge off the pressure.

I went on placement at the end of my paediatric rotation at Nottingham Children’s Hospital and just loved it. The enthusiasm of the staff was completely infectious. Trying to get a history from a four year-old who is wheeling themselves on a tractor up and down the admissions unit is great fun! It’s not for everyone but it is for me.

8 March 2020 was the first day of my elective on paediatric intensive care at Great Ormond



Street Hospital in London. I'd saved up my scholarship money for a couple of years to help cover the tuition fees there.

I arrived for 8am, got my ID badge and went on some ward rounds, but by 3pm someone came in and said: "We've got a case, everybody get out!" I returned to Nottingham and we were in the first national lockdown a week later!

Then one day soon after, we heard Matt Hancock on the news saying "We're graduating 6,000 medical students next week so they can all come and start work." This was the first we'd heard of it and I think the first the university had heard of it as well!

We graduated in April over Zoom, on BBC One's *The One Show*, which was really, really special. I'm so grateful that they put that on as it meant all my family still got to see my graduation!

My interim job was at a hospital on the Wirral called Arrowe Park - an infectious diseases ward that was turned into acute Covid-19 ward. I had a brilliant team of consultants, junior doctors and nurses who really took me under their wing. But it was bizarre being there trying to help treat an illness that I had no idea about.

We didn't learn about Covid-19 in Medical School so I felt a bit out of my depth for a while. I had to get used to looking after dying patients

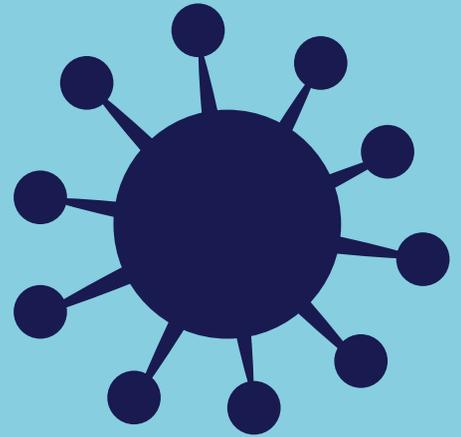
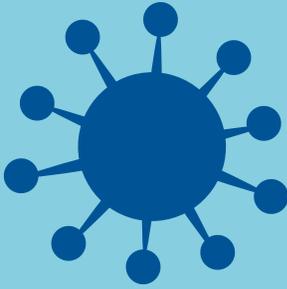
very quickly. Pre-pandemic, we would always try to have difficult discussions face to face with people, but suddenly we were having to do so over the phone. Unfortunately it's now something that I am getting used to. Role-playing while at university was one thing but it's very different when it's real life.

“

We graduated in April over Zoom, on BBC One's *The One Show*, which was really, really special.”

I do feel that Nottingham prepared me for work brilliantly. The educators and clinicians who worked in the Medical School were just great. They are so passionate about what they do - it's one of the nice things about somewhere like Nottingham, where it is so research focused. I never felt like I couldn't ask for help and I was able to throw myself into everything.

When you get to spend your time with such inspirational and supportive people, it spurs you on to work hard and to find out where your enthusiasm and passion lies as well.”



New Covid-19 vaccine in development

Just over a year on from the first lockdown in the UK and over 451 million people have received their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccination globally. However, mutations to the virus could leave vaccinated populations vulnerable once again. Thanks to a collaboration between cancer researchers and virologists at the University of Nottingham, a new vaccine is in the works which potentially has greater chances of success against a mutating virus.



Professor Lindy Durrant

“When Covid-19 first arrived, my first thought was to let the people with expertise in infectious disease vaccines get on with it,” said Professor Lindy Durrant, a specialist in Immunotherapy at the University of Nottingham, “Then I thought I know a lot about T-cells and most people aren’t concentrating on this aspect so it might be worth a conversation. And when I spoke to Professor Jonathan Ball and Janet Daly here at the university they got very excited! There was a lot of focus on the spike protein in the early vaccines so we thought that this could be a good avenue for us to explore.”

The current vaccines in use around the world work by targeting the spike protein of the virus which latches on to the human cells. Mutations to the spike protein have already been found in the new variants that have spread across the UK, South Africa and Brazil.

The human immune system uses two approaches to fight a virus; one is antibodies which attach themselves to the spike protein and bring in other cells to kill the virus, the other is ‘T-cells’ which recognise cells infected with a virus and then kill these cells.

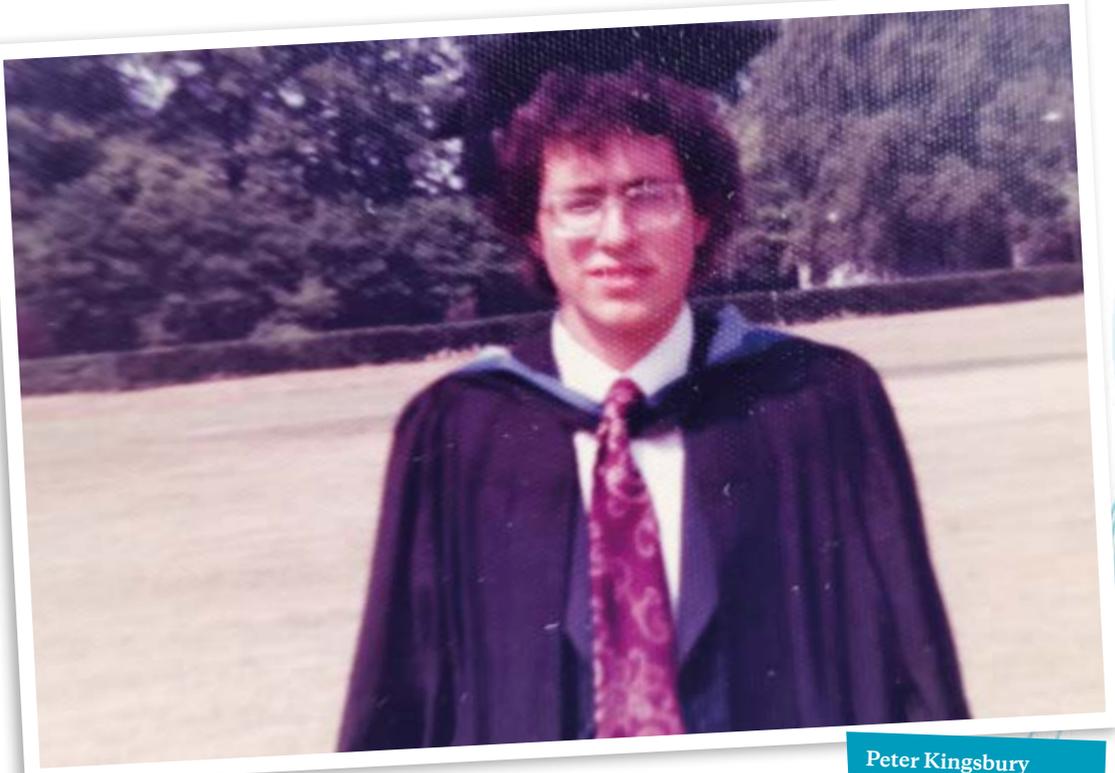
By developing a vaccine which stimulates T-cells as well as antibodies, the chances of success could be increased, even against a mutating virus.

“By targeting both the spike protein and nucleocapsid protein, which triggers a strong T-cell response, we effectively double the chances we have to defeat the virus. In animal studies we are getting good, if not better, antibody levels than other vaccines, and increased T-cell responses. We’re due to start early-stage clinical trials this spring and hope that we see more positive results. I thank everyone who has supported our research financially. It would be fantastic for us to contribute to the global vaccine response and know that our work is helping to save lives.”

Thank you

In a year of uncertainty and challenge, your belief and backing in our community continues to turn aspirations into reality at Nottingham.





Peter Kingsbury
Graduation 1976

**If Nottingham unlocked a door to your future.
If your course challenged you.
If your lecturers inspired you.
If your life was changed forever.
If Nottingham was a guiding light in your life.
Now it's your turn.**

"I never dreamt that I would come to Nottingham and cannot thank people enough for making it possible. I'm passionate about languages, particularly Russian. You are helping me achieve everything I was hoping for."

Kathryn Moore
(Third year History and Russian student)

Please use the enclosed form or visit nott.ac.uk/guidinglight to share your thoughts about pledging a gift to the university in your Will.

Be a
**Guiding
Light**

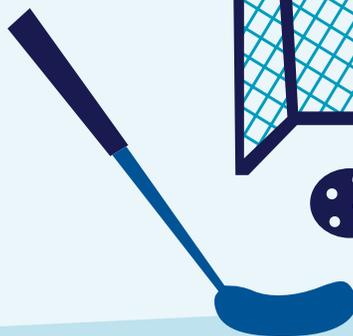
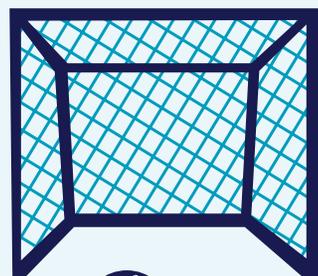
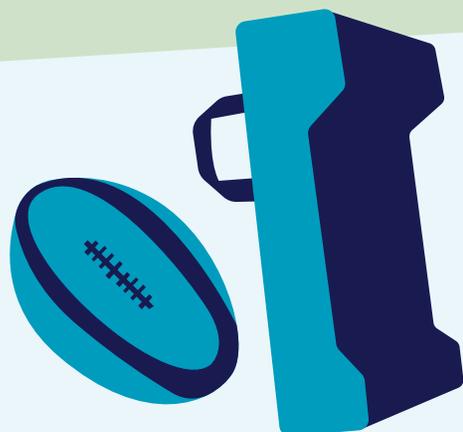
From grassroots to greatness

Sport is a pillar stone of the student experience at Nottingham, catering to all abilities from elite athletes to complete beginners. Your support helps ensure that many more students can count on sport being an important part of their university experience. However, the last academic year was a tale of two halves with six months of activity as usual followed by a global pandemic which put much of the world on hold. Prior to the pandemic, Nottingham was sat atop the national BUCS league tables and 20,000 students were regularly taking part in sport. In September 2020, we were named Sports University of the Year in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021*.

As lockdown restrictions ease and sporting action returns to our campuses, we take a look at how your support for our student-project fund Cascade is helping make sport accessible to all.

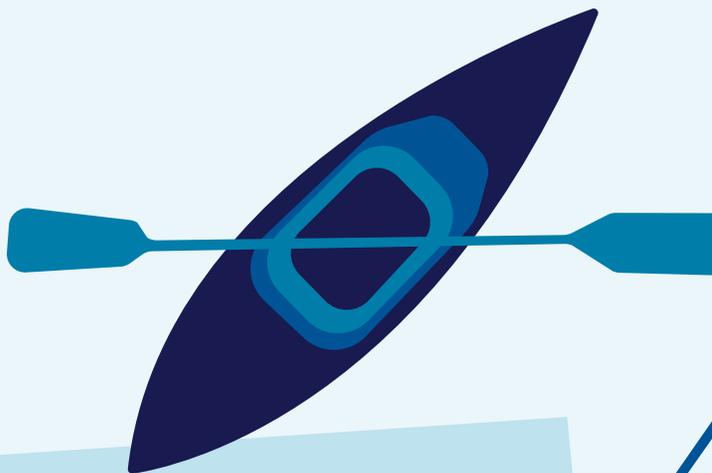
Rugby

New rucking shields for the rugby club allow more students to experience the highest level of training. Thanks to your support, the best equipment will be available at all levels.



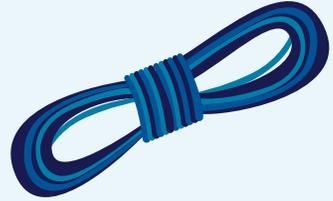
Floorball

Your gifts to Cascade mean the floorball club now have goals and goalkeeping helmets, allowing more people to take part in each of the club's weekly sessions.

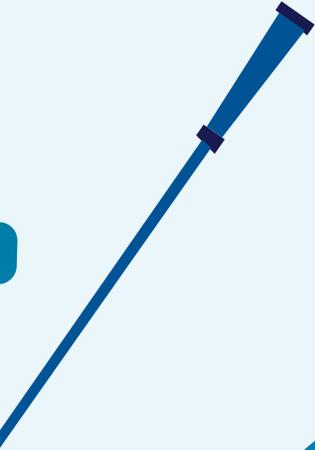


Canoe polo and kayaking

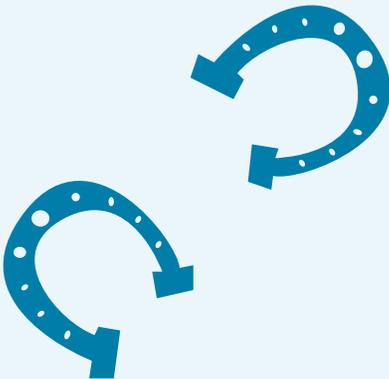
Leaky spray decks take vital time out of training when kayaks need to be continually emptied mid-session. With alumni gifts helping to fund new spray decks, the canoe polo and kayak clubs will have more training time, benefiting over 80 students each week.



Caving
Helmets, lights and ropes are essential bits of kit for caving. Thanks to your support, the university's caving club has been able to make more spaces on trips available to their rapidly growing membership.



Equestrian
Alumni gifts are helping the equestrian club to set up and run projects that give more disabled people and school children the chance to experience the joy of horse-riding - as well as giving student members a chance to gain valuable new skills through volunteering.



We believe everyone should have the chance to play sport at university and be the best they can. Thanks to your support, we can provide a bright sporting future for generations of students to come.

Waste not, want Notts

Words: Giselle Kennedy

Many of us strive to live and eat more sustainably, but it's not always easy and for millions of people across the UK, something as simple as putting food on the table can be a challenge. But thanks to a group of entrepreneurial students at the University of Nottingham and generous donations to Cascade, eating ethically just got easier.

Just a stone's throw from Nottingham city centre, in the suburb of Sneinton is Foodprint, a social supermarket run by students. Over the last three years, they've volunteered their time to develop an award-winning social enterprise which tackles food waste and provides sustainable food that is affordable and safe to eat.

We spoke to Foodprint's marketing team, second year Industrial Economics student, Zareena Kapadia, and third year Human Geography student, Izzy Corlett, to find out how the team have been helping their local community during the pandemic.

Zareena explained how Foodprint got started, "Nottingham, and in particular, Sneinton is one of the most income deprived areas in the UK so we wanted to do our best to help the community. Foodprint started as a redistribution project where we would collect surplus food from supermarkets who would

otherwise throw it away. From there, the supermarket started."

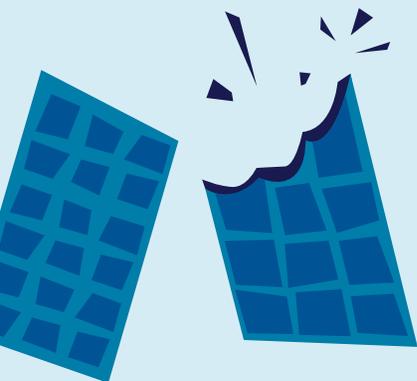
Foodprint stocks items that you would normally find in a supermarket. Their reduced prices and environmentally friendly approach makes healthy eating sustainable and affordable.



For Izzy, who is writing her dissertation on food waste, Foodprint has been an opportunity to help reduce the gap between food waste and food poverty.

"It's silly to have a gap where food is being wasted and people are struggling to eat. There's so much waste, whether it's in food growing, manufacturing or packaging. It's ridiculous to waste food especially in the amounts we do as a society."

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, the university switched to online learning and many of Foodprint's student volunteers returned home. Although the team were scattered across the globe, they were determined to keep their service running.



Foodprint's 2020 highlights

500

Created 500 isolation parcels and 25 care packages for hospice staff through Foodprint on Wheels

9 tonnes

Redistributed 9 tonnes of surplus food

37 tonnes

Saved 37 tonnes of surplus food from landfill

126

Saved 126 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted

70

Inducted 70 volunteers

“We decided that we were going to open the store under the new lockdown rules. We adjusted the layout to make it safe and served customers at the door. Volunteers would then pick things from the shelves for the customers.”

“With the help of the university’s student project fund Cascade, we renovated our Foodprint on Wheels van and redistributed food to local retirement villages. We wanted to provide food during the pandemic because people couldn’t access anything or go out. It was quite scary at first but we wanted to help, so we delivered free care packages containing treats and PPE to care homes and support staff. They were working hard to help others, so we wanted to help them.”

If you’re interested in tackling food waste, try Foodprint’s tasty risotto recipe. This sustainable dish will keep your carbon footprint low and your taste buds tingling!



Risotto with a Foodprint twist!

Ingredients

- 1 Onion
- 1 Garlic Clove
- 1 Stock Cube
- Risotto Rice
- Lemon
- Chopped Tomatoes
- Mushrooms
- Baby Tomatoes
- Sweetcorn
- Other veg of your choice!

Method

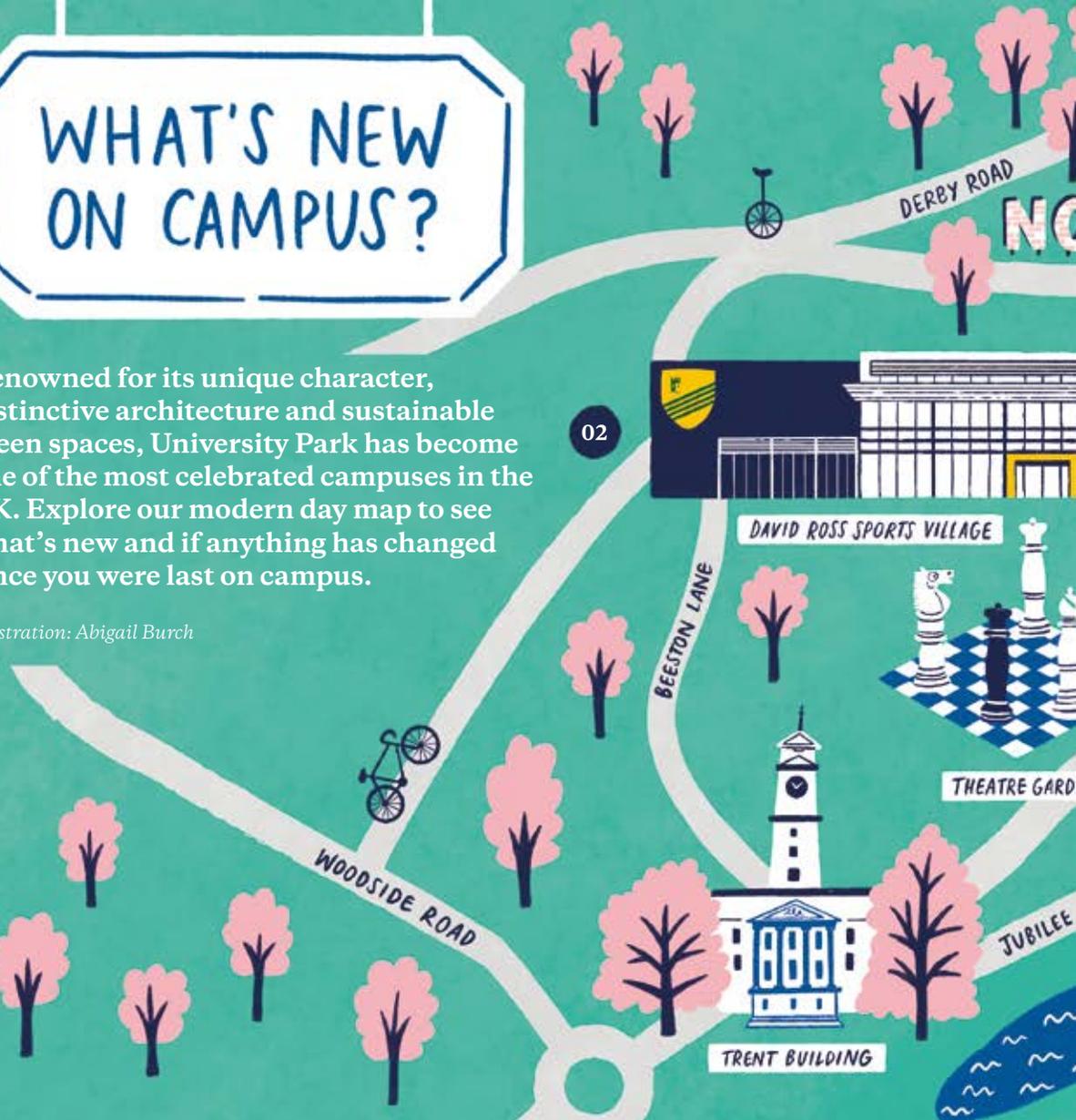
1. Fry the chopped onions and cherry tomatoes on a medium heat in oil until soft.
2. Chop up the mushroom and any extra veg, and add with crushed garlic. Cook for approx. 3 mins.
3. Add in the risotto rice and mix.
4. Stir in the tin of chopped tomatoes.
5. On the side, prepare a jug of stock; with boiling water and the stock cube.
6. Slowly add the stock to the risotto bit by bit, until the rice has cooked.
7. Add the sweetcorn and some lemon juice.
8. Finish with salt & pepper and serve!



WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS?

Renowned for its unique character, distinctive architecture and sustainable green spaces, University Park has become one of the most celebrated campuses in the UK. Explore our modern day map to see what's new and if anything has changed since you were last on campus.

Illustration: Abigail Burch



01

Nottingham sign

High up on the hill by Lenton Firs is a student art installation that gives the Hollywood sign a run for its money. Each letter stands at two metres high and is made of images of student life. It's thanks to generous Cascade supporters that this popular picture spot was made possible.

02

The David Ross Sports Village

The state of the art sports village replaced the sports hall in 2016 thanks to the support of the David Ross Foundation. It has hosted a number of international sporting events and helped us secure The Times' 2021 Sports University of the Year.

03

Djanogly Terrace and Portland Hill

Developed thanks to the support of Sir Harry and Lady Djanogly, this modern day amphitheatre sits opposite the Portland Building and is the perfect place to meet with friends, have a picnic, or cheer your favourite UoN BUCS team on the huge cinema screen.



04

The Theatre Gardens

Adjacent to the New Theatre you'll find an interactive garden, equipped with a supersized chess board, petanque and a table tennis table. Whether you want to watch an outdoor theatre performance or challenge your friends to a game, this is the place.

05

Portland Building

Made of Portland stone, this neo-classical beauty has long been a popular hot spot for students, staff and campus visitors. Thanks to a makeover in 2017, it's been transformed into a student hub with cafes, shops and hang-out areas.

06

Cripps Health Centre

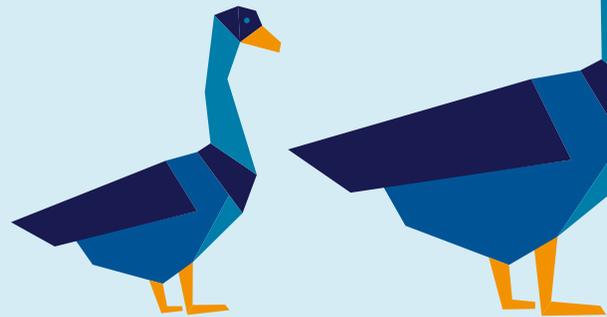
When you're feeling under the weather, the new Cripps Health Centre is here to help. Thanks to the Cripps family's generous donation, the new building opened in 2018, giving students, locals and alumni access to a wide variety of medical support.

Goosey's Games: Created in Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire has been a great place for inventions over the years. Crack our cryptic crossword to discover Nottinghamshire's incredible creations.

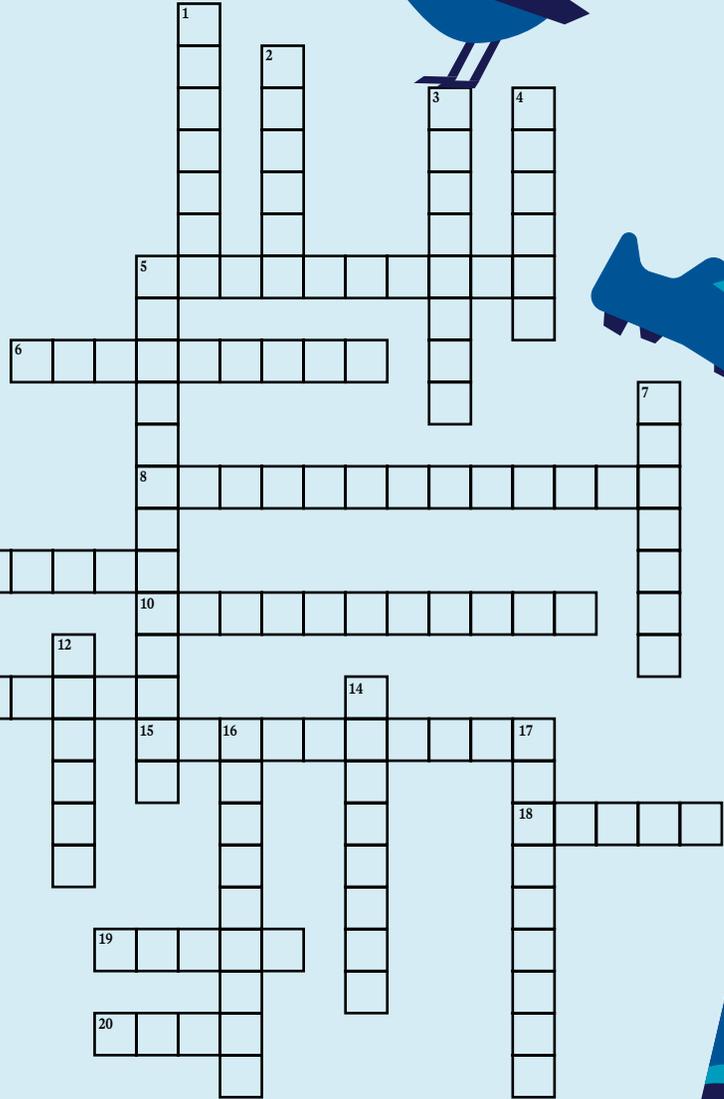
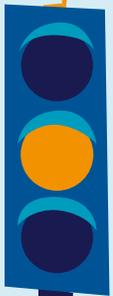
Down

- 1 A Walter on a bicycle (7)
- 2 Feisty forest maid (6)
- 3 Resides in Neverland (5,3)
- 4 Club, managed by Brian Clough (6)
- 5 Brainchild of William Booth (9, 4)
- 7 Condiment for bacon sandwich (2, 5)
- 11 Poet's daughter, invented the analytical engine (8)
- 12 Road surface (6)
- 14 Risqué writer (8)
- 16 A cure for aches and pains (9)
- 17 Famous bird with cap (5, 4)



Across

- 5 Protective armour in ball sports (4, 6)
- 6 Designer, known for stripes (4, 5)
- 8 I'm red, yellow and green (7, 6)
- 9 Perfect score for this icy dance (6)
- 10 Oldest professional football club (5, 6)
- 13 Travelling fair, involving a gander (5, 4)
- 15 Medical diagnostic tool (3, 7)
- 18 Pharmacy, Muddy footwear (5)
- 19 Poet, said to be 'Mad, bad and dangerous to know' (5)
- 20 Fabric full of holes (4)



Discover the answers
and play more games:
nott.ac.uk/goosey

“

We're all so grateful to everyone who has donated to the University which has made our studio possible. Without you, we would not be in this position.”

Flora Wordie
Station Editor, University Radio Nottingham





University of
Nottingham

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Thank you

Your belief and backing
turns aspirations into
reality at Nottingham.

