



University of
Nottingham

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Community Newsletter

Winter 2021



Universities for
Nottingham

Respect Your
Community campaign

Students supporting
good causes

Welcome

to the latest edition of our Community Newsletter, our opportunity to share with you the many ways in which our students are making a positive contribution both on and off-campus.



What a difference a year can make – this time in 2020 we were cautiously optimistic that the roll-out of the vaccination programme might pave the way out of the lockdowns and tough restrictions which kept many of us apart from our loved ones at the height of the pandemic.

Although not without significant challenges, it does feel that 2021 has been a far more positive 12 months than the last and I hope that this has been the same for you and your families. The hard work of our staff in implementing Covid-safety measures to ensure the continued wellbeing of everyone on- and off- campus and the response from our wider University community has helped to make this a success.

The vast majority of our students have ensured they are fully vaccinated and have responded well to our request to undertake weekly tests through our in-house asymptomatic testing service. This recently surpassed the milestone of processing 100,000 tests and is the first university service in the UK to be awarded government accreditation. As a result, it has been heartening to see that cases among the staff and student community have remained low and that areas with high student populations have had some of the lowest infection rates anywhere in the city.

However, with the arrival in the UK of the new Omicron variant and the re-introduction of greater government restrictions, we are taking nothing for granted – we are redoubling our efforts to support our community and ensure that students continue to comply with the rules.

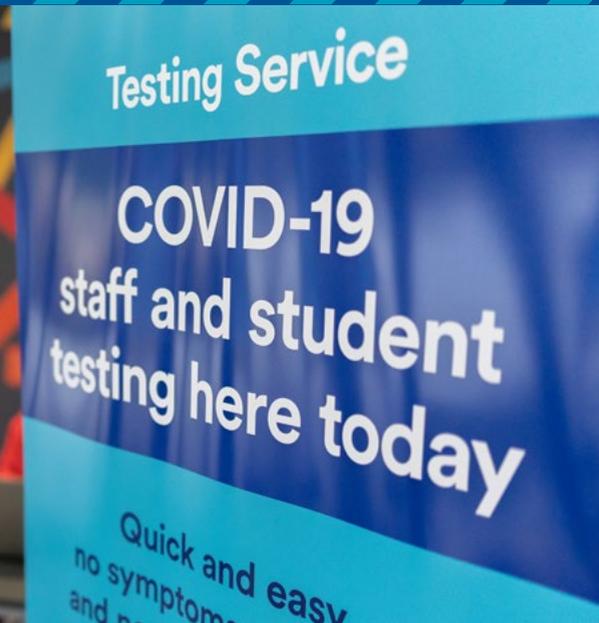
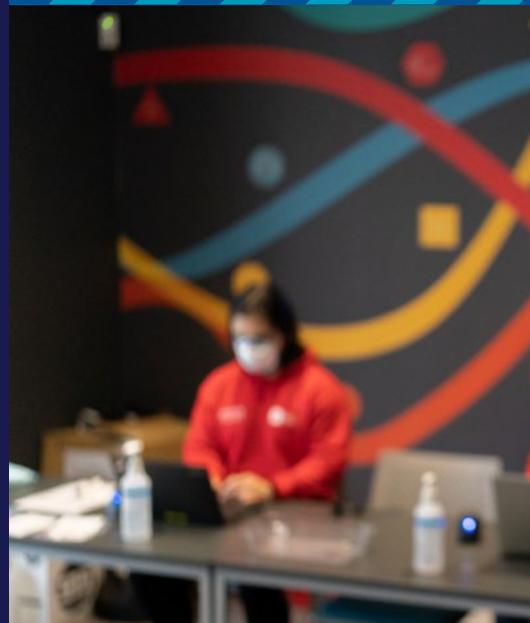
2022 promises to be an exciting year. Our purchase of the Castle Meadow site will see us accelerating ambitious plans for a Nottingham city centre campus. It will provide a new location for Nottingham University Business School and will be home to the new *Digital Nottingham* innovation hub which among other things will be aiming to create innovations and new opportunities in artificial intelligence, data science and financial technologies in partnership with the city's businesses. It will also provide a space for many of our final-year and postgraduate students to work with employers, preparing them for life after university.

The development sits at the heart of our wider civic mission, to support economic activity, attract investment and boost skills in the city and wider region, using expertise in research to help solve local challenges and create opportunities for growth and regeneration. Our unique Universities for Nottingham partnership with Nottingham Trent University is already delivering significant benefits for local businesses and communities, about which you can read more in this issue of the Community Newsletter.

We are always keen to hear from our local communities so please do contact us with any feedback at offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Dr Paul Greatrix
Registrar
University of Nottingham



Test to protect

The university has once again been urging all its students to 'test to protect' – and help reduce the transmission of Covid-19 over the festive period.

Students have been strongly encouraged to take a test through the university's in-house Asymptomatic Testing Service before leaving Nottingham at the end of term on Friday 17 December to help reduce the risk of spreading infection to friends and family during the holidays.

Since the initial pilot of the testing service in halls of residence in September 2020, the service has grown to have 25 testing stations across the university's three campuses and has moved into the local community with a testing station in Lenton and pop-up sites to support students and staff at City hospital, QMC and Derby Medical School.

Last month the service, which uses a unique non-invasive saliva PCR test developed by scientists at the university, hit the significant milestone of completing 100,000 tests.

Professor Chris Denning, Director of the University's Biodiscovery Institute has led the creation and running of the service, he said: "Reaching the 100,000 milestone is a huge achievement for the whole team behind the testing service and is testament to their ongoing hard work and dedication. It's incredible how much has been achieved in just over a year and I am really proud that we have managed to get to a point where we can also support the most vulnerable in our community.

"The service has proved to be an invaluable tool in reducing the spread of Covid-19 amongst staff and students by breaking the chains of virus transmission and minimising spread of infection."

In the summer, the service became the only university testing service in the country to be recommended for Government accreditation. Those staff and students who receive a positive result now only need to test once and no longer need to take a confirmatory NHS test and can self-isolate at an earlier stage.

Nottingham's universities working in partnership for Nottingham

The Universities for Nottingham collaboration between the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University brings Nottingham's universities together to tackle local issues and challenges where there are clear benefits and impacts for local communities and businesses. In partnership with the City and County Councils and local NHS partners, the universities have committed to improve local economic prosperity, opportunity, sustainability, health and wellbeing for residents. Since its launch in 2020, this partnership-working has delivered:

A joint response to the challenges of Covid-19: at the height of the first wave of the pandemic, the universities joined forces to supply PCR machinery to enable an additional 20,000 tests per day. We worked together with healthcare partners to support efforts to develop a Covid-19 vaccine and collaborated on a ground-breaking asymptomatic testing programme for staff and students that has identified cases earlier and faster than the national scheme. This additional tool has helped prevent and control outbreaks among our university community.

Support for our businesses: the universities run a range of business support schemes for around 700 local SMEs which enable them to find ways to be more efficient, try out new and ground-breaking technologies, explore ideas to innovate their business model, get technical support to develop new products or provide access to targeted financial support or investment.



Universities for
Nottingham

More information on the Universities for Nottingham initiative is available on the website universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk

Almost **400,000kg of CO₂ emissions saved by our staff and students** through rewarding and logging sustainable choices with our Green Rewards app. The first collaborative sustainability engagement programme of its kind in the UK, the app allows users to log and monitor simple carbon-reduction activities and offers incentives (such as monthly prize draws for the most actions recorded) to keep users engaged. As part of our partnership working, the app has now also been rolled out to local authorities and residents across Nottinghamshire, with local healthcare partners keen to follow in their footsteps. Residents can sign up at notts.greenrewards.co.uk

Approximately **80 additional training places have been made available for nurses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**, focusing on adult, mental health and learning disability qualified nurses. We listened to our healthcare partners about where the shortages of trained healthcare professionals were most acute and have increased our provision in these areas for this academic year, with further increases to follow in future intakes.



Football club helps to feed hungry kids with free school dinners initiative

The university's Men's Football Club has once again stepped up to support Nottingham families in need by providing free lunches to city children during the school holidays.

Volunteers from the club were on hand at Fat Cat restaurant in the city centre during the half term week in October, ensuring that children who needed it had access to a meal of a sandwich, a drink and a piece of fruit, with the aim of handing out around 150 lunches per day.

It follows on from the success of their venture last year when they teamed up with St Paul's RC Church to offer more than 200 free lunches to eligible children.

The volunteers have been inspired by the work of England and Manchester United player Marcus Rashford and his campaign to tackle child food poverty, which has seen him back a cross-parliamentary bill to fund free breakfast provision and talk about his own family's reliance on free school meals when he was growing up.

Speaking about the student-led initiative, Max Swanson, charity secretary for the team, said: "We're so thankful that we have managed to partner with Fat Cat to build upon our efforts last year and reach out to an even larger audience. This is an exciting opportunity to use our privilege to help others."

Welcome to the community

In September, at the start of the current academic year, the Off Campus Student Affairs Department worked closely with the Students' Union to publish, print and deliver a new 'Welcome back to Nottingham' handy guide to living in the community.

This printed booklet includes information, advice and guidance on a host of subjects including:

- Your role as a housemate
- Your role as a good neighbour
- Your role as a respectful member of the community
- 'Binformation' and recycling advice
- Volunteering and fundraising locally
- Sustainable travel
- Safety and security

In the biggest campaign of its kind to date, the handy new guide was delivered by a team of Student Ambassadors to more than 1,500 homes across Lenton, Dunkirk and Radford. In addition to the guide, Ambassadors were on hand to further reinforce the importance of living in a mixed community with respect and consideration as well as answering any moving in related questions.

This doorstep activity was well received by student and non-student residents alike. Students were all sent an email with the guide attached and anyone can download a copy by visiting: nottingham.ac.uk/yourcommunity



Supporting the homeless over the winter months

The university is helping to reduce the number of homeless people sleeping rough this winter by hosting a shelter on campus, working in partnership with local charity Emmanuel House.

Accommodation is being offered for up to 22 people per night until March next year, with staff and students volunteering at the shelter between 8am and 10pm, helping with meal services, cleaning, and supporting residents. The residents can also access the university's in-house testing service.

Muhammad Ali, Community Officer at University of Nottingham Students' Union said: "This is a fantastic initiative from the university, and really reaffirms their commitment to being a valued part of the local community. I'm really excited about the opportunity this gives to students to get involved in a great cause by helping some of the least fortunate members of our society."

At the peak of the pandemic, as part of the Government's 'Everyone In' initiative, winter shelters were then moved to single rooms in hotels. That provision came to an end earlier this year after successfully moving 179 people into accommodation arrangements but Covid regulations and restricted numbers meant a return to previous locations were no longer feasible.

The charity approached the university which has been able to offer accommodation at a cost-neutral rate. It will also allow support work to continue during the day as residents are helped to find work, permanent accommodation and access other services.

Denis Tully, CEO at Emmanuel House added: "I am very grateful to the University for all its support for this vital service as without its collaboration it is likely the service would not have happened this year. It's an exciting time for the project."

Campaign encourages good neighbours

The University of Nottingham, working closely with Nottingham Trent University and Nottingham City Council, has responded to concerns raised by local residents related to potential antisocial behaviour by launching a brand-new awareness campaign for 2021/22.

Bright and thought-provoking imagery, accompanied with a variety of important respect-based messages, are integral to the new Respect Your Community campaign, which was launched at the start of the academic year.

Flyers of the campaign have been distributed across the city in areas where students choose to live, and this has been further reinforced with social media and digital communications.

The opportunity to have this campaign displayed in physical locations in neighbourhoods is being actively explored by partners. If you or your community group would like any hard copies of the campaign printed as flyers or posters, then please email the university's Off Campus team at offcampus@Nottingham.ac.uk who can supply materials for your own distribution. The same email address can be used for feedback on any of our community campaigns, which is always welcome.



Respect your local community

Please remember I have school in the morning



Speak to your Student Union to find out how you can support your community



Bin it right and recycle

A new look campaign to raise awareness of the issue of recycle bin contamination has been launched to reduce the amount of waste unnecessarily being sent to landfill and to help support students' green credentials.

Students moving off campus and into the community for the first time are often faced with having to learn a new recycling system which can be totally different to one they are familiar with from their family home.

This can occasionally lead to confusion within a shared student house and lead to items being put in the wrong bin. This 'recycle bin contamination' causes problems for the household, the environment and the wider community as a contaminated bin gets all contents diverted away from the recycling centre and instead is processed as general surplus waste.

Building on the University's strong campus sustainability imagery, the go! Recycle Right campaign sees a new recycling hero helping students to avoid binning the top contamination culprits - plastic bags and greasy takeaway containers - along with a QR code to the City Council website for more information.

Student Ambassadors made more than 1,700 individual house visits across Lenton, Dunkirk and Radford to engage with residents on the importance of recycling and how to avoid costly contamination. As part of the campaign, Ambassadors placed an eye-catching vinyl information sticker on nearly 2,000 separate recycling wheelie bins to act as a handy visual reminder. Ambassadors were also kept busy with litter picking duties on roads that needed a tidy up.

The campaign has also included an audit of all waste facilities and more than 200 waste facility issues have been reported to the Nottingham City Council Housing Licence and Compliance team for potential follow up action by the landlord or managing agent.

Helping residents recycle more effectively is an important step in ensuring Nottingham City Council achieve its ambitious Carbon Neutral city status by 2028.

To find out more, please visit: nottingham.ac.uk/go/recycling



Making a difference – the students giving back to their communities

Did you know that every year on average students from both universities in Nottingham contribute an incredible 150,000 hours volunteering to local communities and good causes across the city?

Here's a round-up of how some University of Nottingham students have been giving up their time and raising cash for local charities:

- For the second year running, University of Nottingham students have raised the second highest amount of money of any university in the country for the national charity initiative, Movember. Sports clubs, societies and individuals all put in hard work and raised an incredible £64,130 which will support men's health issues including prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health and suicide prevention.
- BlowSoc – the university's wind instrument society – has raised almost £150 for Student Minds, the student mental health charity, through a lunchtime concert series. They have also been busy providing outreach performances in local primary schools and the Beeston Memory Café, as well as organising a Christmas Extravaganza event to raise money for the Nottingham Hospitals Charity on 8 December.
- Souprunners (pictured) are an amazing society who have been feeding the homeless community in Nottingham city centre twice a week – even during the summer break when most students return home for the holidays. They fund their activities by organising charitable events like a recent pub quiz and raffle at the Rose and Crown in Lenton on 6 December.

- Karnival, the Student Fundraising and Volunteering Society, has teamed up with the Fashion Society to hold a charity catwalk event, raising around £1,800 for charities including the Friary, a local homelessness charity. They've also been advertising local volunteering opportunities to students via their Instagram page.
- NUDance Society has been getting involved in a number of great Xmas appeals including:
 - The Salvation Army Presents Appeal, collecting Christmas presents for children around Nottingham who may not receive anything this Christmas; Age UK's Dear Christmas Friend appeal, writing a Christmas Card to an older person who may otherwise not receive many; Post Pals, which delivers smiles to sick children by sending them letters and cards; and foodbank collections, collecting non-perishable food items at each of their sessions.





Love Your Stuff – or lose it

Figures provided by Nottinghamshire Police have revealed that in 51% of burglaries that take place in areas where students choose to live, offenders gain access via an open, unlocked or insecure window or door.

The University of Nottingham has been working in close partnership with the Students' Union and Nottinghamshire Police to raise awareness of this issue and encourage residents to 'love your stuff' by keeping windows and doors securely locked at all times.

Burglars are often attracted to student homes because they know they are likely to be houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) with a number of high-value items such as bikes, laptops, phones, games consoles and other electronic items. Opportunistic offenders will target insecure properties for an easy entry and escape.

During November and December Student Ambassadors were teamed up with dedicated police burglary officers and took to the streets proactively searching for insecure properties. They engaged with residents, highlighting the risks and encouraging them to keep their property and contents safe with the simple message of keeping windows and doors locked.

Some campaign areas visited were also able to benefit from the £432k grant from the Home Office as part of the new 'Nottingham Safer Streets' initiative. Properties in these specific streets are eligible for a risk assessment which could result in free security upgrades.

Residents are also encouraged to register their valuables through immobilise the national property register. Immobilise helps Police identify the owners of recovered property thousands of times a day. Protect it and register it today at immobilise.com

Love your neighbour? Tell us about it!

Has an individual student, student group, society or student household made a real positive difference in your neighbourhood? Then don't keep it to yourself – make sure they get the recognition they deserve as shining examples in their community.

The university is looking to recognise, celebrate and reward students that go above and beyond to contribute positively to the area in which they live and study through its Nottingham Neighbour Award.

Perhaps you have had exceptionally considerate and helpful student neighbours, or you have witnessed an individual act of selflessness, bravery or kindness. Maybe a student group or society has supported residents to make a difference where you live.

Whether it's a single student, household or student group that deserve recognition for their positive impact on you, your family or on your community as a whole, please do take the time to nominate them. A panel of judges will shortlist nominations and decide on a winner.

The university welcomes nominations from students, non-student residents, charities and community groups.

For more information, please visit: nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamneighbouraward

Students recognised for their support of Cerebral Palsy Sport

The University of Nottingham has been recognised for its collaboration with Cerebral Palsy Sport, the disability sports organisation improving the health and emotional wellbeing of people with cerebral palsy through physical activity.

The university has been named one of three finalists in the charity's Partner of the Year Award, highlighting work that CP Sport did in partnership with Nottingham students as part of three separate initiatives run by the university's Careers and Employability Service.

In the Nottingham Consultancy Challenge, three groups of five students collaborated with CP Sport on projects including the development of a calendar of virtual sports events for people with Cerebral Palsy to maintain fitness and mental wellbeing during the pandemic and a system for people to hire frames for taking part in race-running and football at home.

Through the service's Digital Marketing Academy, five students researched the best use of digital marketing to widen the charity's reach and profile and to encourage take up of sport by more palsy groups and organisations.

SP Sport also recruited four students over the spring and summer through the Nottingham Internship Scheme to support their events programme and develop a range of social media and marketing materials.

The winner was due to be announced on 11 December, after the newsletter had gone to press - visit the charity's website cpsport.org for more information.

Curry in the Park

In line with the easing of restrictions, Nottingham City Council Radford ward councillors hosted the return of the annual Curry in the Park event outside at Radford Recreation Ground on Saturday 16 October.

Following a successful bid to the University of Nottingham Community Chest Fund, the event was part-funded and able to host a jazz band along with providing delicious authentic curry free of charge for all attendees.

The local Radford community joined together to enjoy their curry feast, toe tap to the jazz band and had the opportunity to meet with local organisations such as Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Community Protection, Nottingham City Homes and speak with staff from the University of Nottingham Off Campus Student Affairs Team for any information, advice and guidance.



Would you like to promote social responsibility and community engagement to students and long-term residents? If so, you can apply to the Community Chest Fund and receive a grant of up to £500 to make your project a reality and your community an even better place to live. For more information, please visit: nottingham.ac.uk/yourcommunity



Catch The Gingerbread Man this Christmas at Lakeside Arts



Run, run, as fast as you can, to catch a performance of Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company's production of The Gingerbread Man, running at Lakeside's Djanogly Theatre until Thursday 30 December.

Imagine being born in an oven and the first person you meet wants to dunk you in their tea!

Up and down and into town our Gingerbread Man must use his wits to escape anyone who finds him tasty. Is he faster than a Goose? Can he cross a river using a Fox as a raft? Come and join the bravest biscuit of all on his quest for survival.

Stuff and Nonsense apply their usual brilliance with a mix of puppetry, live action, great music, humour and stunning staging in this exciting and pacy retelling of the much-loved classic tale. Suitable for families of all ages. No scary bits – just don't turn up hungry!

To find out more and book tickets, visit lakesidearts.org.uk

Stay in touch

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- [UniofNottingham](https://www.facebook.com/UniofNottingham)
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Season's Greetings

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The University closes for the holidays on Thursday 23 December and re-opens on Tuesday 4 January 2022, with the spring term starting on Monday 10 January.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This publication is available in alternative formats: +44 (0)115 951 5559

University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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