



St Mary's University Student Newsletter



October 2021

Welcome to the first edition of SIMMIE News

A message from Vice-Chancellor, Anthony McClaran



Dear St Mary's Students,

I hope you are all settling in well to life at St Mary's University.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the first edition of SIMMIE News, which has been created to provide you with key information to ensure you are kept up to date with the latest news from across the University.

The newsletter will be sent to you every other Wednesday afternoon, so please do check your student email for these updates.

As we prepare for the year ahead I encourage you all to look out for, and look after, one another. It is great to have the campus come back to life and the [Student Union](#) has been working tirelessly to make sure there is a varied, fun, and safe programme of social activities during induction and beyond. Some of these activities happen off-campus; [please consider our local community](#) when returning onto campus, whilst we have an open and safe campus we all have to work together to keep it that way. You can also help to look after us all by following our [Student Charter](#).

I hope you have a great start to the new academic year and I look forward to seeing you around campus.

Best wishes
Anthony McClaran
Vice-Chancellor

'Top Tips' for learning successfully at St Mary's



Starting at Uni can seem daunting at first, and sometimes it can be tricky to figure out how to get the most from your studies and maximise your learning. Read our 'Top Tips' for information on accessing Moodle, how the Students Union can help develop your networks, and lots more.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Introducing our student EDI networks

Hello, I'm Nikki Anghileri. I'm responsible for Widening Participation at St Mary's. I also chair the **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) network**. We work with staff and students from across the University to investigate the experiences of students from groups that are traditionally disadvantaged or under-represented in Higher Education, identify inequalities or gaps across the whole student lifecycle and put actions or initiatives in place to address these. We'll be sharing more information about our EDI groups in future newsletters. To find out how you can get involved, contact



- nikki.anghileri@stmarys.ac.uk or,
- elizabeth.parker@stmarys.ac.uk

[Visit our dedicated EDI webpage to learn more.](#)

Reverting to standard Academic Regulations 21/22



As we continue on the route back to greater normality, and face-to-face teaching resumes, the University will also revert to more standard academic practice for assessments. These regulations will be in place for the first semester in September 2021 and continue throughout the academic year. This means that the

- normal rules relating to the capping of marks for resits will apply,
- there will be no continuation of the 48-hour period of grace for late submissions
- period of time for approval of internal approval of extenuating circumstances will again be limited to 10 working days (rather than 15 working days).
- turnaround period for the marking of resit assignments will revert to 15 working days.

[You can read the full article here.](#)

Report & Support at St Mary's

In line with our mission and values to be an inclusive, safe, and supportive University St Mary's is running a pilot scheme aimed at understanding issues around harassment and bullying. The Report and Support pilot offers access to advice and guidance for students who wish to access support or report behaviours without necessarily wanting to raise the matter formally. The information will then be analysed to inform future support and education on matters relating to harassment and bullying.



[Further information can be found here.](#)

Shape St Mary's



St Mary's is in the top 5 in the country for student experience (2022 Good University Guide), and your feedback helps us to continue to make improvements. There are lots of ways you can share your feedback, from online surveys such as the NSS to in-person feedback sessions.

Keep your eyes out around campus to see more from Shape St Mary's and find out about improvements the University is making.

[To find out how to share your feedback click here.](#)

Quick round up of other news



Sport St Mary's

Have you checked out the gym facilities and membership at Sport St Mary's? They've just launched a new partnership with Les Mills which provides a range of in house virtual classes based on research to get you the best results! Classes are available during the week and weekends.

[Find out more here](#)



Time to spare?

Walk a lap of the University Track with 82 year old priest, Father Vlad, as he enters the final 10 of his epic challenge to complete 83 half marathons, so far he's raised over £50,000 towards his goal of replacing the University Chapel Organ.

[Find out more here](#)



Student Heart

We're upgrading a number of areas on campus to provide our students with access to modern, high-quality spaces for learning and socialising. The new space will provide a continuous walk way from the library to the DV Cafe and ground floor of the J Block.

[Find out more here](#)

Key dates for your diary



October 2021

- ADHD Awareness Month
- Black History Month
- 3 - 10 October - Dyspraxia and Dyslexia awareness week
- 10 October – World Mental Health Day
- 11 - 15 October - Student Hub Workshops

November 2021

- 18 November - Pop-up vaccination clinic on campus

Information about these campaigns will be shared on the Student Union and St Mary's University social media channels

St Mary's University 2021

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