

This email is being sent to all University of Sussex staff and postgraduate researchers



Monday 18 December 2023



Winter wellness

[Find out key information for the winter break](#), including wellbeing support, free

flu vaccinations and Covid-19 lateral flow tests for staff, and opening times on campus.



VC Reflections: TEF announcement

[The Vice-Chancellor emailed all staff earlier today](#) to share the news that Sussex has been awarded Silver in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework.



Centres of Excellence: driving progress

[Watch the latest video to discover how we are driving progress](#) for the planet and its people in neuroscience, sustainability research and rare disease treatment.



Student update

The most recent student update includes information about choosing which charity will receive our National Student Survey donation, a t-shirt design competition and festive events on and off campus.

Better campus

West Slope update

The University has finalised a partnership agreement with Balfour Beatty for building and operating West Slope – a redevelopment of a significant part of our campus to deliver nearly 1,900 student bedrooms and other key facilities.



Strategy spotlight: why do we need a strategy?

Kay Jones, Director of University Operations and Strategic Planning, explains why having a strategy is so important for the University.

Update on the Student Information System

The implementation of the Student Information System, which will replace our existing outdated system with a modern cloud-based and sector-standard alternative, has progressed in 2023.

New ‘no contact’ store to be UK university first

The new Atrium Market in the Student Centre will allow shoppers to pay for their items by scanning their payment card on entering the store. Work starts on 12 January and the store will open in March 2024.

This week on campus

Experiment with light meditation

Online | Tuesday 19 December | 1pm-1.30pm

Join this guided meditation run by Jason Evans, the University's Quaker Chaplain.

Our community



Inclusive Sussex

[Read the recent roundup](#) from our Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Culture, Equality and Inclusion. David talks about the upcoming community dialogue event, BSMS's Gold Athena Swan award, and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion annual report.



University Council update

[Read the latest update from Rosemary Martin](#), Chair of Council, on the meeting held on Friday 24 November.

Sussex recognised among most vegan-friendly universities in the UK

[The University has been listed among the top 30](#) universities in the UK by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) for our efforts to make meat-free food accessible for everyone on campus.

Sussex Neuroscience wins award for public engagement

Sussex Neuroscience, one of our Centres of Excellence, has won an award from the British Neuroscience Association for the delivery of 18 different public events at 'Bring Your Own Brain (BYOB) Brighton.'

VC visit to South Africa

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sasha Roseneil and Professor Robin Banerjee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global and Civic Engagement) recently visited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mandela Scholarships, and to explore future research and capacity-building partnerships.

Coming up

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass

Chapel, Meeting House | Sunday 24 and Monday 25 December

There will be Christmas Mass at the Chapel at the Meeting House on Sunday 24 December at 6pm, and Monday 25 December at 11am.

Christmas Day drop-in

Meeting House | Monday 25 December | 12 noon-3pm

Come along to the Meeting House for an afternoon of board games, music and refreshments.

Sussex in the media

Key stories from the past week

- [Professor Julia Simner \(Psychology\) was interviewed](#) on the *BBC Science Focus Instant Genius* podcast about aphantasia – the inability to visualise while thinking. Monday 11 December.
- [Professor Sambit Bhattacharyya \(Business School\) is quoted](#) in the *Daily Express* about the health of the global economy, explaining that public debt burden sits dangerously above 90% of global GDP. Tuesday 12 December.
- [Jemma Forman \(Psychology\), was interviewed by several media outlets,](#) including *BBC Radio Sussex*, about her research which shows that cats fetch objects, normally without having been trained. Thursday 14 December.

Sussex on social



Deck the halls

[A corridor Christmas party in full swing in Lancaster House, December 1985.](#)

If you have any throwback photos from your time at Sussex please upload your snaps to our [Sussex Scrapbook Flickr album.](#)

Community conversations

Did you know you can join a number of University social networks on Viva Engage, and find out more about what interests you?

- [Take a look at the latest photos](#), including spectacular aerial views of West Slope - in the Transforming Sussex community.
- [Check out our handy guide to campus cafe opening hours](#) over the winter break - in the Food at Sussex community.
- [Take our poll and let us know how much you know about the Capital Programme](#) - in the Transforming Sussex community.

Why not join a community and make your first post?

Other important news

Donate to your preferred charity or good cause through the Payroll Giving scheme

[The Payroll Giving Scheme](#), which is also tax-effective, allows staff to support their preferred charity or recognised good cause such as places of worship, schools and scout groups, through their salary.





Obituary: Geoff Lockwood

Geoff Lockwood, a former Registrar and Secretary of the University of Sussex, has died. Geoff was one of the founding fathers of the University of Sussex, holding various senior posts before becoming the institution's senior administrative officer.

Transport update

Find out about roadworks on campus as part of the Network Replacement Programme, and a reminder not to ride mopeds or electric scooters in pedestrian areas.

Contact us

This week at Sussex is issued at the start of every working week – [view an infographic about the types of content featured.](#)

If you would like to include something in the newsletter please submit this to internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk by 2pm the preceding Thursday.

Our next edition will be on Monday 8 January 2024. Best wishes for the holiday season and happy New Year.

[Visit the Staff Hub for more news, events and useful information](#)



Sent by

Internal Communications, University of Sussex ..