

# Staff Bulletin

THE STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX  
16 DECEMBER

## In this issue

- Update on the Strategy 2025 process
- University appoints senior leader for interdisciplinary research
- Philip Harris appointed Head of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- New training course on responding to disclosures of sexual harassment
- Update on Westmarland Report
- Sussex staff presented with three Athena SWAN awards
- Sussex academic wins prestigious national teaching award
- Curling up with a good e-book? Why there's nothing quite like a paper book when it comes to a bedtime story
- How our brains are biologically tuned to be influenced by confident people
- New study tests the delivery of the best asthma treatment based on genetics
- Shadow Brexit minister, Sir Keir Starmer, visits Sussex
- EU Hub: The curious absence of services trade

You can also read this newsletter on the *Bulletin* website.

### UPDATE ON THE STRATEGY 2025 PROCESS

Sussex staff, students and alumni have been actively involved in the first phase of strategy development.

[Read more](#)



### UNIVERSITY APPOINTS SENIOR LEADER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The University of Sussex has appointed Professor Alan Lester to a new role of Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Interdisciplinary Research.

[Read more](#)



### PHILIP HARRIS APPOINTED HEAD OF MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

The Vice-Chancellor, Adam Tickell, has appointed Professor Philip Harris as the Head of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

[Read more](#)



### NEW TRAINING COURSE ON RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The course is designed to equip staff to respond in the appropriate way if someone discloses information to them about having experienced abuse.

[Read more](#)



### UPDATE ON WESTMARLAND REPORT

We remain committed to publishing this report as soon as possible.

[Read more](#)



### SUSSEX STAFF PRESENTED WITH THREE ATHENA SWAN AWARDS

The awards were presented in recognition of the University's efforts to tackle gender inequalities and improve career progression for female academics.

[Read more](#)



### SUSSEX ACADEMIC WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD

Dr Simon Thompson is one of 55 university teachers nationwide to receive the prestigious National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) award this year.

[Read more](#)



### CURLING UP WITH A GOOD E-BOOK? WHY THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE A PAPER BOOK WHEN IT COMES TO A BEDTIME STORY

University of Sussex research finds that reading together from paper or a screen affects emotional interaction and warmth between parents and children.

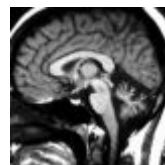
[Read more](#)



### HOW OUR BRAINS ARE BIOLOGICALLY TUNED TO BE INFLUENCED BY CONFIDENT PEOPLE

New research from the University of Sussex has shown for the first time why confident people are able to shift their beliefs so effectively.

[Read more](#)



### NEW STUDY TESTS THE DELIVERY OF THE BEST ASTHMA TREATMENT BASED ON GENETICS

A UK research study is aiming to discover whether treating asthmatic children according to their genetic status can improve their quality of life.

[Read more](#)



### SHADOW BREXIT MINISTER, SIR KEIR STARMER, VISITS SUSSEX

Sir Keir met with experts from the UKTPO to look at options for how the UK might trade with the rest of the world following our exit from the EU.

[Read more](#)



### EU HUB: THE CURIOUS ABSENCE OF SERVICES TRADE

With exports of services worth £220 billion to the UK economy, we need to make sure that Brexit discussions don't ignore this vital component of the UK's trading environment.

[Read more](#)



### OTHER NEWS STORIES FROM THE WEEK

Christmas opening times for campus services

Extra marathon and 10k places available for staff

Inclusive Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Sussex Teaching and Learning Conference 2017

Deadline nears to apply for new Asa Briggs Visiting Fellowships

Update on rail services to and from campus

Would you like to play a part in the upcoming participatory disability access assessment?



### SUSSEX STAFF IN SOCIETY

Estates & Maintenance Services Manager, Jayne Townsend, chaired the Higher Education and Further Education Estate Management Conference in Salford last week.

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK: OUR TOP PICKS FOR STAFF

University Challenge: Sussex alumni v Kent alumni  
Tuesday 20 December - 19:30 - BBC Two

[View all Sussex events.](#)

### ABOUT THE STAFF BULLETIN

The weekly *Staff Bulletin* is produced by the Internal Communications team and is intended for all current staff and postgraduate researchers at the University of Sussex. The next issue will be out on 6 January.

For advice on ways to tell people about your news or story ideas, please E [internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk).

Please have a merry Christmas and happy New Year.



[SussexUniStaff on Twitter](#)

---

Internal Communications team  
Communications and External Affairs  
Sussex House  
T (01273) (67)8888  
E [internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk)