



PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

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Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the lighter mornings and evenings, and the first hints of Spring. Before I move on to some updates I wanted to thank you all for your hard work so far this year. We are going through a period of transformational change, and I am aware that this is often unsettling.

Change of this nature does not happen quickly and probably is best represented as a journey, one to enable us to deliver our ambition. I am confident we will achieve the objectives we have set ourselves, built on my belief in your talent, passion for the University and commitment.

Please email me at principal@napier.ac.uk with your views on the University (no matter how small or large!), I value discussion and appreciate your feedback.

University Leadership Team update

I am progressing with the search for an interim Director of Human Resources & Development to lead a number of key projects in the short term. I will let you know about the appointment as soon as possible. We will also be recruiting to the post permanently in the next few months.

In the meantime **Iain McIntosh**, who took up his post of Assistant Principal Organisational, Corporate & Partnership Development in February (alongside his role as Dean), has now taken up the direct line management of Human Resources & Development and External Relations & Communications.

Student hub

In mid-January I spent the afternoon working with colleagues in the Student Hub at Merchiston as part of the ULTs commitment to working in different parts of the University; we want to build our understanding and appreciation of diverse roles and functions. It was a very enjoyable afternoon – staff on the frontline dealt so efficiently with a range of different enquiries. It was great to see their patience and support for our students.

My thanks to **Linzi, Linda** and **Kinga** for their patience and time, I hope I didn't slow things down too much!

Strategic Change Board

The ULT recently approved the establishment of a Strategic Change Board which will be chaired by **Iain McIntosh** as part of his new Assistant Principal role. The Board will drive and support the organisational and cultural change required to deliver Strategy 2020, by providing a platform for the oversight of strategic projects and work-streams, with a focus on prioritisation, monitoring, gap analysis, evaluation and sharing lessons learned.

Student success

Edinburgh Napier students are doing exceptionally well in a range of sports. The *Edinburgh Napier Knights* American Football team won their varsity game against Edinburgh University earlier this month. Warm congratulations to **Pete Laird** and all of the team, we are delighted to have the trophy back with the NSA at Merchiston – pop in to have a look.



Meanwhile, in Japan, **Robyn Love**, Vice President of Sports and Societies at the NSA, represented team GB at the senior women's wheelchair basketball Osaka Cup. Despite having played wheelchair basketball for only a year Robyn scored her first points and helped the team to come second in the cup. Huge congratulations to Robyn on this great achievement.

Some other great news that we received this week is that **Professor Bill Buchanan** and a team of students from the School of Computing have won the 2015 University Cipher Challenge. The competition is open to every university in the UK, and involves teams creating cipher codes, which the other universities try and crack. The assessment team included security experts from the Government Communications Headquarters GCHQ, (GCHQ recently accredited our **MSc in Advanced Security and Digital Forensics**).



Congratulations to **Bill, Charley, Christina, Peter** and other students who supported the team on the award. The award continues to showcase the real excellence that the University has in cyber security and helps build our academic reputation.

Grant news

Susan Brown (School of Life, Sports & Social Sciences) was recently awarded a Medical Research Scotland grant in conjunction with Point One Clinic. The £120,000 funding is to be used for a PhD programme which will evaluate the benefits of innovative physiotherapy techniques for treating people who suffer with multiple sclerosis.

This was the first award of a PhD studentship from MRS to a 'modern University'. Congratulations to all of those involved.

International reach

I joined staff from the People's Friendship University (PFU), Moscow for their 55th anniversary in the Kremlin. We have a strong partnership with their business school, collaborating on the undergraduate Business and Management and MBA and MBM, and hosting a summer school each year for 35-40 students from Moscow.

George Stonehouse, Sandra Watson and I had very positive discussions about extending this relationship beyond the Business School and hopefully this initial discussion will bear fruit in due course.



PFU is a highly regarded broad based comprehensive University that is very international in its reach.

And finally...

As part of our October and January Campus Conversations we made one session available online. This appeared to be very popular with staff and so I am thinking of ways in which we can have conversations / discussions about key topics using an online forum. This would allow more staff to engage with shaping the University. Please email me with your thoughts at principal@napier.ac.uk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew".

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