

Hello <STUDENT>

I hope you are settling into your studies well and are being challenged and supported in equal measures to develop your skills and knowledge. I just wanted to write to you to highlight some key activities that are going on and to update you on some changes to regulations.

### **Merger and identity**

Following our merger of Grimsby Institute Group and East Riding College in 2020 we have the adopted legal name of TEC Partnership. Most of your information and dealings with us will be under the trading names of your college either University Centre Grimsby, East Riding College or Scarborough TEC however you should be aware of this other legal name so that it does not surprise you if you see it anywhere.

### **Voter Registration**

It is one of our duties to remind you that registering to vote is a really important thing. It is a hard fought for democratic right and allows each individual to have a say in regional and national matters. More information about registering to vote can be found here [Register to vote - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). If you would like any support with this please contact your Success Coach.

### **Regulation Changes**

All of our Academic Regulations and our Codes of Practice are available on our website. Either through clicking through from your college's website or [here](#). We have recently updated the codes of Practice for HE08 Retention and Engagement of Students and HE10 Mitigation Circumstances and Short Extensions. Changes to these have been minimal for students at Grimsby and Scarborough but are significant for student at East Riding College. During the summer we separated out Accreditation of Prior Learning from its previous policy and have given it its own policy HE21. We have also created a TEC Partnership wide HE22 Student Engagement Framework which describes how engagement is done across all of TEC Partnership. In September we have rewritten our Academic Regulations to enable us to deliver different sorts of courses. This will allow us to develop short courses and micro courses alongside our full degrees. We have done this in response to the expectations of government. This will have no impact on your current courses.

### **Teaching and Learning and the pandemic**

We continue to follow current government guidance about teaching and learning and have had a successful start to the year with delivery face to face with students. We hope that this will continue but of course reserve to the right to move to different models where the government advises TEC Partnership that it is not safe to open campuses or there is limited access due to social distancing

measures. If the campus is closed TEC Partnership will deliver your sessions online and offer you the necessary support and resources remotely. If there is limited access due to social distancing measures a blended model will be adopted with some lessons happening in small groups and others happening using online sessions and support.

### **Student Senate**

The Student Senate is a body of HE students made up of group representatives from across our degree and HN programmes, they meet about once a month with the aims of; improving the learning experience in HE, bring forward ideas from HE students, raise the profile of issues important to students through better communication with staff, and promoting student engagement in the Quality of their provision. The Senate members are Vice Presidents led by a Student Senate President, who is elected by Senate members and also sits as the HE Student Governor.

We are relaunching the Student Senate this year to incorporate higher education students from across TEC Partnership, as the TEC Partnership Student Senate. Student representatives from all sites where higher education is being delivered will be invited to send a representative to sit as Vice Presidents and be elected as Student Senate President.

### **Access and Participation Plan**

One of the ways in which all higher education providers contribute to national policy is through our Access and Participation Plan. This is an agreement with the Office for Students about the ways in which we will support people from all backgrounds, but especially those from backgrounds who do not historically participate in higher education to access HE, to succeed in HE and to progress to work after HE. Our latest agreement covers 2021-2026 and is published [here](#).

### **Complaints and Appeals**

We have an excellent record of dealing with any concern's students have through dialogue and searching for solutions before they become more formal complaints about our service or appeals about our decisions. We strongly encourage you to raise any issues directly with staff but if you need to raise a formal complaint about us you can do so by filling in our online complaints [form](#) and it will be investigated by following our [HE20 Complaints and Concerns](#) policy. If you would like to appeal a decision you can do so using [HE16A Academic Appeal form](#) and it will be investigated following our [HE16 Academic Appeals and Student Case Requests](#) policy.

### **Student Reps and Meet with SMT**

Student representatives are currently being elected across all courses and names are being collated by Success Coaches (or equivalents) within Learner Services. This is an important role that needs fulfilling for each course, as the student rep is your link back to the college for letting us know how your course is going and what can be improved. For those who have been selected, Learner Services will be in contact shortly regarding Student Rep training.

Our annual series of 'HE Student Reps Meet with SMT' has been launched and the first meeting will be occurring on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 12-1pm via Teams. Student Reps have already received the link to this via email. Please contact your student rep with any campus wide issues that you want addressing to the management team, whether that is praise for your experience or feedback for improvement. We are always listening.

## **Support**

Should you require any support during your studies a wide range of services are available. Drop in to HE Reception, The Library Reception or speak to your Success Coach or tutor and they will be happy to offer support in this area. You have an allocated success coach who will be able to help with any query. They are allocated as follows:

Daniel Huntley

Education, Criminology, Psychology, Access to HE and PGCE

01472 311222 ext 2054

huntleyd@grimsby.ac.uk

Theresa Cole

Health Care Industries

01472 311222 ext 2055

colet@grimsby.ac.uk

James Hannah

Commercial Enterprise, Engineering, Construction, Animal Management

01472 311222 ext 2052

hannahj@grimsby.ac.uk

Shelina Ahmed

Digital and Creative Industries

01472 311222 ext 1610

ahmeds@grimsby.ac.uk

I hope you continue to have a fantastic year.

Kind Regards

Nathan Michael

Group Academic Registrar

TEC Partnership

University Centre Grimsby