New homes for Surrey’s new students

Students joining the University for this academic year have arrived on campus, with 477 undergraduates moving into brand new accommodation blocks.

The barn-style buildings, which are located on the University’s Manor Park campus, bring the University’s total number of campus bed-spaces to 5,647. International Hospitality Management student Blake Fryer, 18, said: “The standard of accommodation, as well as Guildford itself, helped to make Surrey a top choice for me. I wanted to live somewhere really nice if I was going to move out and spend money on rent. I’m pleased with how light and spacious my room is and the whole place has a real sense of community.”

The construction of a further 674 bedrooms on the Manor Park campus is already under way, with plans to open their doors in September 2019.

Once this work is complete the University will have invested more than £150m in student accommodation on its Manor Park campus since construction began in 2005. There are further plans to provide more than 1,000 rooms on the site over the next few years, which means that more than 7,300 students will live across our Stag Hill, Manor Park and Hazel Farm campuses.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Max Lu said: “We offer high-quality accommodation for our students which is a very important part of a positive student experience. We’re also glad to be able to help reduce the housing pressure in Guildford.

“We would like to extend our sincere thanks to MJP Architects and the contractors, O’Hare McGovern Ltd, for creating such lovely new homes for our students.”

Surrey has been ranked in the top 15 in StudentCrowd’s list of ‘Best UK Universities for Accommodation 2018’. Praise was given for value for money, campus Wi-Fi access and 24-hour campus security.
Welcome from our guest editor Dr Jim Glover, the High Sheriff of Surrey

In July I completed my term as Chair of the University Council and it is an honour to be invited to act as guest editor for this edition of Your University.

My year as High Sheriff of Surrey is now well underway, and I am delighted by the excellent advice, encouragement and active support I am receiving from so many friends across campus. There has been considerable activity around my chosen focus on addressing the permanent exclusions of pupils from schools, and on the multitude of impactful outreach projects being undertaken by our universities and colleges. The High Sheriff’s garden party in July provided the perfect opportunity for the institutions across Surrey to showcase their substantial outreach and volunteering activities, targeted at disadvantaged young people facing difficult challenges, and providing inspirational and life-changing opportunities.

The University of Surrey was powerfully represented through the exciting work underway at Kings College (pages 12 and 13) and the activities of the Higher Education Outreach Network, whose eight partners across Surrey and north east Hampshire include our University and Surrey Sports Park. Guildford School of Acting (GSA), which became part of the University of Surrey in 2010, also announced its generous decision to provide free places for six talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend the renowned GSA Summer School. What a commitment to the local community!

An important role for the High Sheriff is to support the quite exceptional efforts of all volunteers working throughout Surrey and Your University provides wonderful examples.

On pages 5 and 6 we learn about activities within the Guildford Community and identify some of the ‘Community Champions’ from the many partner organisations. The Students’ Union proudly states that the ‘local community is the number one priority’ (page 11), with Vice-President Community, Gemma Paine, reporting that there are now some 766 active student volunteers working with 133 partner organisations.

And just look what an impact University research is having in improving lives: from autistic children being helped by their peers (page 9) to technology enabling dementia sufferers to live independently in their own homes (page 8). All of this from an exceptional university leading the way in many areas of research critical to modern living, whether in artificial intelligence or through the largest 5G test bed in the world (page 7).

For me, the most powerful theme throughout this issue is the clear determination of Vice-Chancellor, Max Lu, and the senior leadership team, to play a vital role in supporting the local community, whether encouraging Guildford’s young carers (page 13) or providing exciting opportunities for local young people to explore university life and to keep active during the holidays (page 15).

I have no hesitation in agreeing with the many residents who responded to the Guildford Residents’ Survey 2018 - your University is indeed a force for good!

You can follow Jim’s activities as High Sheriff through: highsherffofsurrey.com
Meet our new students

The University welcomed around 4,000 new faces this September, as students from more than 120 countries came to Guildford to not only study but to enjoy the incredibly diverse and exciting community that we live in.

Here we meet four of our new students to find out more about why they chose to come to Surrey.

**Waruna Ambanpola**
MSc Air Transport Management

Coming to Guildford from Colombo in Sri Lanka, Waruna is studying for a Masters in Air Transport Management and has thoroughly enjoyed his experience so far. Waruna said: “As someone who appreciates a calm environment and enjoys spending time with nature, I’ve already fallen in love with Guildford.”

Waruna is dividing his time between studying, relaxing and getting involved in the local community through volunteering, to continue to learn about our local culture.

**Jonathan King**
BSc Biochemistry

Undergraduate Jonathan from Worthing is looking forward to starting a new chapter in his life by going to University. He hopes to use it as an opportunity to meet new friends, learn more about what he loves and pick up some essential life skills.

He is also enjoying learning more about Guildford’s history, in particular its connections with computer scientist and mathematician Alan Turing.

**Luisa Moura**
BSc International Business Management

Luisa, who has come to Guildford from Vilamoura in Portugal, chose to study at Surrey to meet new people and study a subject that she loves.

While she is somewhat apprehensive about experiencing the extremes of the UK climate (especially snow), she has already come across many kind people who are welcoming and happy to help one and another when in need.

**Nicola Dallimore**
BSc Adult Nursing

Crawley-based Nicola is one of many mature students who commute to campus every day, but still make the most of studying in Guildford and enjoying what our community has to offer.

As well as completing her degree in Adult Nursing, Nicola is enjoying regular retail therapy on Guildford High Street, watching shows at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and taking walks along the River Wey.

Be the first to know

The University is introducing a new ‘What’s On’ email guide to promote its exciting calendar of events.

From magical stargazing evenings to inspiring music recitals, Surrey hosts and takes part in hundreds of events each year. You can now hear about this diverse programme of activities through a new monthly e-newsletter.

Surrey’s ‘What’s On’ guide is designed to make it easier for local residents to get involved with campus life by highlighting upcoming events happening each month.

The guide will feature events ranging from Guildford School of Acting performances to our ever popular ‘Jim Meets...’ in-conversation series, hosted by University of Surrey Professor and Radio 4 star Jim Al-Khalili.

Sam Jones, Events Manager, explains: “Our new ‘What’s On’ guide will showcase the amazing variety of events we have on offer for the general public.

We’d encourage anyone who wants to hear more to sign-up – there really is something for everyone.”

If you are interested in hearing about events at the University of Surrey, you can sign-up to receive the monthly ‘What’s On’ guide by emailing: events@surrey.ac.uk

Never too old to learn

Margaret Cooper, 79, recently became one of Surrey’s oldest graduates, having been awarded her PhD in International Law.

Margaret, who is a strong supporter of life-long learning, left school aged 15 to go to work and studied for her O-levels during evenings and weekends. Margaret later migrated to Canada with her mother, where she served in the Royal Canadian Air Force before moving to New Zealand to train as a nurse.

Inspired by her travels and by working abroad, Margaret returned to the UK to pursue further academic study with a particular interest in international law.

Margaret hopes to encourage others to consider learning later in life. When asked what motivated her, she shared an inspirational quote from Johann Goethe: “The most important thing is to affirm to yourself that you can do it, because from that moment all kinds of things begin to occur to assist you that never would have happened otherwise.”

Interested in studying for a postgraduate course? Find out more and register for one of our postgraduate webinars at: surrey.ac.uk/postgraduate
Let’s get bus-y

The University has increased the number of buses operating between Stoughton and Guildford town centre through its campuses.

The enhanced service for routes one and two is being operated in partnership with Stagecoach and will hopefully encourage more bus travel by local residents, University staff and students.

The introduction of the new service follows the launch of the University’s 50-strong bike-share scheme earlier this summer to encourage eco-friendly travel between its campuses. This was followed by an announcement from Guildford Borough Council that it was backing a proposal to introduce a wider public bike-share scheme in the town.

Car-sharing within the University community is also set to take a leap forward thanks to a new service that allows people to identify each other and arrange to share journeys. If successful, the initiative will help to reduce congestion and pollution while saving time and money and providing safer, more efficient travel.

A night of laughter at the BBC

Researchers from the University performed for a packed house at BBC Surrey’s studios, as part of the 2018 Guildford Fringe Festival.

Bright Club, which is organised by the University, saw eight academics swap the lab for the stage, turning their research into comedy gold. The team were led by professional comedian Dr Steve Cross and award-winning musical comedian and maths communicator Kyle Evans.

Nick Wychna, Guildford Fringe Managing Director, said: “To have Bright Club involved was lovely as it was a very different event in a very unique venue. And of course, they are from our local University, who haven’t been involved before, so that was brilliant. We really hope to do it again in 2019.”

Nick Werren, a PhD student who performed on the night, explained: “Translating research into comedy is a challenge that allows researchers to look at their field in an entirely new way. As a researcher, Bright Club is the only place where I can express how truly absurd the world of quantum physics is to the general public.”

For more information about Bright Club Guildford, find it on Facebook or visit @BrightClubGLD on Twitter.

Surrey talks mental health

In October the University hosted its 2018 ‘Black Men on the Couch’ event, aimed at changing the status quo surrounding counselling and psychotherapy.

This year we welcomed celebrity guests including Olympian Colin Jackson and ex-footballer Clarke Carlisle to discuss their experiences as black men in the UK and their views on the value of talking therapy. The event highlighted the unique challenges that black males face in our society, ways to overcome them, and how beneficial counselling and psychotherapy is for supporting emotional wellbeing.

Rotimi Akinsete, Director of Wellbeing at the University, said: “People from black and minority ethnic groups in the UK are proportionately more likely to be diagnosed with mental health problems. They are also more prone to experiencing a poor outcome from treatment or to disengage from mainstream mental health services altogether. This ultimately leads to social exclusion and a deterioration in the mental health of ethnic minorities.

“The University is actively working towards improving access to psychological support for everyone and to combating mental health stigma. We hope that events such as these will continue to raise awareness and trigger a positive change.”

Student garden blossoms at Guildford in Bloom

A group of students and staff from the University have been awarded a Silver Gilt and Best in Category award at this year’s Guildford in Bloom competition.

Designed by student Ben Harbour in commemoration of the women’s vote centenary, the garden was brought to life at the front of a rented student property in Walnut Tree Close.

While the garden boasted a green, white and purple colour scheme, the planting represented the suffragettes themselves – chained together to depict the movement’s public protests and sense of unity.

The Guildford in Bloom judges described the symbolic design as: “thought-provoking and a great credit to the student volunteers who have worked so hard to delight and intrigue passers-by from their local community”.

Speaking at the awards ceremony on 12 September, Ben said: “We’re absolutely delighted to have won Silver Gilt and Best in Category. Through this project we hoped to show that students really do care about their homes and the communities they live in.”

There was more to celebrate as the Cathedral View Community Garden, a green-space project in north-west Guildford which has been supported by volunteers from across the University, also received a Silver award in the Best Neighbourhood Project category.
A record response

More than 1,300 Guildford Borough residents took part in the University’s fourth annual residents’ survey.

The survey found that the most common, unprompted associations that residents made with the University included ‘research and innovation’, ‘the beautiful campus and lake’, ‘high-ranking/high-quality’ and ‘Surrey Sports Park’.

More than seven out of 10 residents (excluding Surrey students or staff) agreed that the University is ‘a force for good in Guildford’ with only eight per cent disagreeing.

Feedback from residents included requests for the University to provide more student accommodation on campus, encourage better student behaviour, and provide more car parking on its site.

Five lucky respondents each won a £100 cash prize as part of the annual survey’s prize draw.

The University is:
- Advertising and planning more public events
- Building more student accommodation on campus
- Meeting and listening to more residents
- Integrating with the Guildford community through more local projects

Parking project gets moving

Following a consultation carried out by Surrey researchers, a campaign is planned for 2019 to encourage drivers to be more considerate with their parking and consider changing to more sustainable modes of transport.

A partnership has been formed between the University, the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Surrey Police, Guildford Borough Council and the Park Barn and Westborough Community Association.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by residents in north-west Guildford who are struggling with non-local cars parked outside their properties, the project will engage with drivers to better understand their travel behaviour.

An opportunity not to waste!

Students who live off campus are being given a helping hand to manage their refuse.

The University is working on a combination of tactics alongside the Students’ Union, Guildford Borough Council and local residents’ associations to bring about change in areas such as Guildford Park Avenue, where high numbers of students live.

As well as working with council officers to inspect local areas, identify issues and approach individual properties, the University and the Students’ Union are working together to encourage students to take a more proactive role in their waste disposal and follow correct bin etiquette.

Neighbourhood concerns: Surrey steps up

As part of its wider work in the Guildford community, the University’s public engagement team has put together a variety of projects to tackle issues that affect neighbourhoods near campus.

DJ Leroy turns it down

A renowned local DJ is now the face of a thought-provoking University campaign to tackle anti-social street noise in residential roads near the campus. DJ Leroy Wilson has been the resident DJ at popular Students’ Union nightclub Rubix for more than 20 years. The campaign reminds students to respect their neighbours and keep noise to a minimum when travelling to and from the campuses at night, with the message ‘#LetGuildfordSleep’.

We are thrilled for Ella, who demonstrated what a hardworking and committed actor she is during every day of her time at GSA. It’s rare for such a massive opportunity to come so early in an actor’s career. This role will lead to further exciting opportunities for Ella and we wish her every success.

Trevor Rawlinson, Head of Acting and Performance at GSA

GSAs own Charlie’s Angel

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) alumna Ella Balinska will appear in the new Charlie’s Angels movie alongside Kristen Stewart (Twilight) and Naomi Scott (Aladdin).

Since Charlie’s Angels’ original run as a hit TV series from 1976-1981 there have been several iterations of the famous spy trio, including a movie franchise in the early 2000s. Written and directed by Elizabeth Banks, who is best known for her roles in The Hunger Games and Pitch Perfect, the 2019 reboot will pick up where the last film left off, with the Townsend Agency going global as a worldwide security and intelligence service.

Before becoming an Angel, Ella trained in BA Acting at GSA in 2017 and left to pursue multiple, successful TV roles, including appearances in Midsomer Murders and Casualty.

 pest Control

Community news

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Meet our community champions

The University of Surrey works in partnership with local organisations and individuals so that we can make a difference together. Here we celebrate some of our community champions, who make an important contribution to Guildford and the wider area.

Carol Dunnett
Chief Officer, Voluntary Action
South West Surrey

“We help to support a strong, vibrant and thriving voluntary and community sector and encourage people to get involved locally. “I get to work with people from all different types of groups. It’s very rewarding contributing to all the amazing volunteering activity locally. “Our annual conference, which is run in partnership with and hosted by the University of Surrey, brings together many of the groups we work with.”

Alastair Knowles
Chair, Park Barn and Westborough Community Association

“I’m Chairperson for the Ashenden Residents’ Association and The Park Barn and Westborough Community Association. “We work very closely with our partners, including the University of Surrey and Guildford Borough Council, on a number of projects in the area and by supporting countless community events. “We’re always looking for new members who also have time to support their local community.”

Alastair McKenzie
Principal, Kings College secondary school

“Our school holds a very special place in our community. We believe every young person can achieve their goals with hard work and dedication. “We put great onus on personal discipline and supporting each other, alongside more personal drive and aspiration – University of Surrey staff and students have been fantastic in helping with this. “On a personal level, I’ve relished leading the school on such a positive journey.”

Lydia Stockbridge
Team Manager and In-house Booker, The Boileroom

“We’ve been curators of emerging, national and local music, community and creative arts events since 2006. “Today, we continue to create an inclusive space for all walks of life to enjoy the culture of live music and events. “Over the years we’ve had artists from Ed Sheeran to Foals. We also host the University of Surrey Bright Club, which is a great addition to our calendar of events.”

Tracy James and Garry Jones
Community Wardens, Guildford Borough Council

“We work alongside and with wonderful communities across Guildford, including the University of Surrey. We’re passionate about people! “Our offices are in the communities we serve and we welcome drop in visits at our base in the Park Barn Centre. “Our motto is that ‘every person matters’ and we deliver a range of activities including events, fundraising, improving open spaces, signposting, reassuring, empowering, supporting and developing confidence.”

Helen Leech
Senior Manager, Guildford Library Makerspace

“With the University of Surrey’s help, Guildford Library offers a wide range of digital equipment and learning for children and start-ups. “We have robots, microbits, a 3D printer, a film space and a ‘Library of Things’. “We also run a weekly women’s club, a monthly maker club and code clubs all the time. “We’re always looking for new partnerships with businesses locally.”

Amanda Masters
General Manager, Experience Guildford

“Experience Guildford is the town centre’s Business Improvement District, improving the trading and prosperity of the town centre. “With our partners Guildford Borough Council, Pub Watch, Surrey Police and the University of Surrey, Experience Guildford has been instrumental in achieving Purple Flag status for the town. Initiatives like this provide a safe and welcoming environment for the community (including students) to enjoy an evening out.”

Helen Leech
Senior Manager, Guildford Library Makerspace

We’re always looking for new local partnerships. Contact publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk to find out more.

Ian Handy
Community, Volunteering & Events Coordinator, Surrey Students’ Union

“Student volunteering is going from strength to strength. In the last few years, student volunteers have supported the YMCA’s Sleep Easy campaign to raise money and build The Foyer - a 32-bedroom unit by Dapdune Wharf. “Our #GetGivingFood campaign has donated over 17,000 items of food to local foodbanks and our new surreyvolunteering.com website means students can volunteer locally, regionally, nationally or even worldwide!"
Landmark project achieves landmark award

Google’s Landmark Retrieval Challenge is a fiercely competitive race between 217 teams to develop the world’s most accurate artificial intelligence technology. This advanced AI automatically identifies landmarks and retrieves relevant photographs from a database.

Professor Miroslaw Bober, Mikel Bober-Irizar and Dr Sameed Husain from the University of Surrey’s Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing (CVSSP) won this year’s challenge. The team out-performed competitors with the largest dataset for image retrieval, which included more than one million photos with 15,000 different landmarks, including hotels, bridges, statues and more.

Led by Professor Bober, the team from CVSSP developed their advanced visual recognition technology for the iTravel (InnovateUK) project. iTravel is a smartphone-based ‘virtual journey assistant’ that uses the phone’s camera to allow travellers to get a visual fix on their position and see an augmented view of their surroundings. CVSSP is currently testing this technology in Guildford, mapping local landmarks like the castle, the cathedral, Tunsgate Arch and Surrey Sports Park.

This application has numerous real-world uses in mobile commerce, security and surveillance, robotic vision and automotive information among others. Professor Bober said: “Real-time recognition of landmarks, objects and actions in images and video is crucial for many applications, and it will only grow in importance as AI systems develop. We had always suspected that our recognition technology is world-leading, and winning this challenge is the proof.”

Professor Adrian Hilton, Director of CVSSP, said: “I want to thank Miroslaw and his team for their relentless hard work on the iTravel project during the Landmark Retrieval Challenge. This is another example of why CVSSP is a centre for excellence in machine learning and artificial intelligence.”

Surrey shows new 5G future

Margot James, Minister for Digital and Creative Industries, paid a visit to the University’s 5G Innovation Centre (5GIC), the first and largest open innovation centre for 5G technology in the world. Keen to learn more about how 5GIC is preparing the UK for a 5G future and to take the lead in the global 5G race, Ms James was particularly interested in understanding the differences between 4G and 5G and what the new network could support, such as holographic display, connected/autonomous vehicles and augmented reality.

Ms James also took the opportunity to see first-hand demonstrations of 5G technology and the potential it has to transform homes and cities by using artificial intelligence, improve healthcare monitoring, and take the virtual reality experience to another level.

She was also impressed by examples of 5G-controlled wireless robots with high reliability and a low latency of less than two milliseconds, along with unique drones being developed for security purposes.

5G Innovation Centre testbed supports one million users

Surrey’s testbed is now the largest capacity 5G test network in the world for research, innovation and development.

The 5G Innovation Centre’s (5GIC) testbed is now open for business to companies wanting to test the readiness of their advanced applications for 5G usage.

The University of Surrey is also working closely with three projects from the government’s £25m 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme, to cement the UK’s position as a world leader in the development of 5G technology. The testbed is also part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport’s £16million 5GUK project.

Regius Professor Rahim Tafazolli, Founder and Director of 5GIC, said: “It is important to allow our researchers and industrial partners the opportunity to develop innovative apps and tools for the coming 5G revolution in an environment as close to ’in-market’ as possible.”

The testbed focuses on delivering real-world benefits from 5G technology in important sectors of the UK economy, such as increasing industrial productivity using robotics and augmented reality.

£1m gift to significantly strengthen digital innovation

The University’s digital innovation strengths have been bolstered by a generous gift from UCF Group.

The £1m gift will contribute towards a digital innovation laboratory to invigorate the University’s leading research in areas such as big data, distributed ledger technologies (blockchain) and agile innovation models.

The gift will also help fund a number of Vice-Chancellor’s fellowships in digital health, artificial intelligence and blockchain, clean energy and water technologies, and innovation in hospitality and tourism.

Based in Hong Kong, UCF Group’s businesses include financial technology platforms, healthcare (including new drug research and development), fund management (a portfolio of businesses in big data, AI, blockchain, and mobile payments) and travel management solutions.

Professor Max Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor, said: “We’re extremely grateful to UCF Group for its generous gift to the University, which will help us positively influence economies and lives in both the UK and China, using technological innovation to build a better future.”
Help for hepatitis C

The University of Surrey has created a new mathematical model that analyses how the hepatitis C (HCV) infection develops. This new model behaves more accurately than previous models and has the potential to improve treatment for the 215,000 people affected by HCV in the UK.

HCV is a virus that infects the liver and, if left untreated, can be life-threatening. The virus is usually spread through blood to blood contact and often doesn’t have any noticeable symptoms until the liver is significantly damaged. When symptoms surface – such as tiredness, loss of appetite and vomiting – they are regularly mistaken for other conditions.

In a new paper published by the journal *Viruses*, University of Surrey Professor of Mathematics Philip Aston proposes a new mathematical model that may give clinicians and drug manufacturers a better understanding of the effect of drug treatment on the virus. The model was developed by taking account of recent biological insights into the dynamics of the infection and has given rise to three new, significant recommendations for changes in the treatment of HCV.

Around 1.8m new HCV infections occur every year and almost 400,000 people die annually from the infection.

From x-rays to flex-rays

Researchers from Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute have developed new x-ray detector technology, which could revolutionise screening for breast cancer.

At present, x-ray detectors commonly used in mammograms are rigid, meaning they rely on the same settings for every patient, regardless of anatomical differences. This can potentially cause errors in screenings and radiotherapy dose delivery, and has also raised concerns about damaging surrounding tissues.

The team at Surrey has successfully developed an inexpensive x-ray detector with similar properties to those currently available; it’s able to achieve high sensitivity levels while still operating at a low voltage and can detect x-rays across the wave spectrum. The researchers also proved, however, that it is possible to create a detection device that conforms to an individual person – something that was previously unfeasible.

This new technology could lead to mammogram machines that are tailor-made to individual patients. The technology could also lead to more accurate security screenings at airports.

Valuable new insight on deadly Rift Valley fever

A new study from a group including the University of Surrey investigated the effects of environmental factors on Rift Valley fever, a virus native to Africa that is found on animals and spread through mosquito bites.

Using air temperature recordings from weather stations and satellite images, researchers monitored the growth, location and lifespan of mosquito populations in Kenya. Researchers identified average levels of water areas and air temperature that could lead to the permanent eradication of mosquito populations and Rift Valley fever.

This knowledge could help policy makers implement simple preventative measures, such as the improved design of patterns of irrigation.

Technology for dementia care

Local residents are helping to develop new technology that will enable people with dementia to receive round-the-clock observation and live independently in their own homes.

Researchers from the University of Surrey, in partnership with Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, have developed state-of-the-art artificial intelligence to monitor the wellbeing of people with dementia.

The ‘internet of things,’ a network of internet-enabled sensors, monitors and trackers, was used to detect an immediate crisis as well as changes in health and daily routines. Change could indicate a potential health issue and, if identified early, could prevent more serious illness and emergency hospital admission.

The wellbeing of dementia patients can also be monitored using this innovative technology as, powered by machine learning algorithms, it can detect agitation and irritability.

Dr Payam Barnaghi, Reader in Machine Intelligence at the University of Surrey, said: “Technology plays a growing role in our healthcare system and it is crucial we capitalise on this to improve the care people receive.”

Innovative technology like this will help maintain independent living for people with dementia and hopefully slow the decline in their condition.

When buildings become black holes

Vantablack, a pioneering material developed by Surrey Nanosystems, appears to create an astonishing black void in broad daylight.

A University of Surrey spin-off company has developed Vantablack VBx2, used by architect and artist Asif Khan to coat ‘the darkest building on Earth’ at this year’s Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Vantablack VBx2 is the world’s darkest human-made substance, which absorbs more than 99 per cent of all light. When it’s applied to a three-dimensional object it becomes impossible to discern any surface features, and three-dimensional objects appear to become two-dimensional. On a building, the material creates the illusion of a black void in broad daylight.

Hyundai Motor Company commissioned the ‘superblack’ building to advertise its future hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The building’s dark exterior represents the empty universe dotted with stars, which begin as hydrogen, while an internal interactive water droplet display represents individual hydrogen molecules.

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From x-rays to flex-rays

Researchers from Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute have developed new x-ray detector technology, which could revolutionise screening for breast cancer.

At present, x-ray detectors commonly used in mammograms are rigid, meaning they rely on the same settings for every patient, regardless of anatomical differences. This can potentially cause errors in screenings and radiotherapy dose delivery, and has also raised concerns about damaging surrounding tissues.

The team at Surrey has successfully developed an inexpensive x-ray detector with similar properties to those currently available; it’s able to achieve high sensitivity levels while still operating at a low voltage and can detect x-rays across the wave spectrum. The researchers also proved, however, that it is possible to create a detection device that conforms to an individual person – something that was previously unfeasible.

This new technology could lead to mammogram machines that are tailor-made to individual patients. The technology could also lead to more accurate security screenings at airports.

Valuable new insight on deadly Rift Valley fever

A new study from a group including the University of Surrey investigated the effects of environmental factors on Rift Valley fever, a virus native to Africa that is found on animals and spread through mosquito bites.

Using air temperature recordings from weather stations and satellite images, researchers monitored the growth, location and lifespan of mosquito populations in Kenya. Researchers identified average levels of water areas and air temperature that could lead to the permanent eradication of mosquito populations and Rift Valley fever.

This knowledge could help policy makers implement simple preventative measures, such as the improved design of patterns of irrigation.
Children hit the right note supporting autistic peers

Collaborative music lessons in schools improve pupils’ attitudes towards their peers with autism, a new study reports.

Led by Anna Cook, a PhD student at the University of Surrey, the research investigated the impact of school-based music lessons on children aged nine to 11 years old, both with and without autism.

Researchers found that when presented with the scenario of a child with autism being excluded, children who did not have the condition but had been in music classes alongside their autistic peers displayed greater feelings of anger, pity and sadness and a decrease in antisocial emotions (pride, amusement and satisfaction) than those who had been in music classes without any autistic children.

This could potentially lead to more inclusive behaviour, helping to prevent children with autism becoming isolated and more vulnerable to being bullied.

Lead author Anna Cook said: “The majority of children with autism are educated in mainstream schools and often, due to lack of understanding and compassion from their peers, experience bullying. Bullying can have a long-term impact on children, and research has found that those with autism often carry the feelings of depression and anxiety into adult life.”

Nearly 20 per cent of children with autism reported feeling less victimised after classes finished.

Metallic foam - the best a bridge can get

Future bridges and wind turbines will need less regular maintenance and no longer require welded plates to strengthen them, thanks to the development of innovative metallic foam ‘sandwich’ panels by a team at the University of Surrey.

Metallic foam is an ultralight cellular structure that has gas-filled pores and only contains up to 25 per cent metal.

A University team led a £100,000 EU-funded METFOAM project examining the behaviour of these unique foams when placed under severe pressure. The Surrey team discovered that the bubble-filled materials have a range of unique characteristics that are well-suited to structural engineering.

Our researchers found that metallic foam panels can support loads up to 10 times heavier than commonly used steel plates. The usual steel plates also need regular maintenance due to cracking, costing time and money.

Dr Stefan Szymiszewski, Lecturer in Materials and Structures at the University of Surrey, said: “We wanted to understand what the limits of metallic foam are and under what situations the integrity of the foam would fail. We believe that metallic foam could be a vital material in many structures in the very near future.”

Crime? Not on this algorithm’s watch...

A versatile new algorithm developed by the University of Surrey and the Georgia Institute of Technology can quickly process real-time data and predict where illegal activity could reoccur.

Police departments across the world are facing increasing pressures on their resources, fuelling a growing need for predictive policing software. One popular method is the Epidemic Type Aftershock Sequence (ETAS), which has been able to predict twice as much crime as a single dedicated analyst.

Now, researchers have developed an approach similar to that used in weather forecasting. Used to supplement ETAS, the Ensemble Poisson Kalman Filter (EnPKF) is a quick method that can be updated as real-time data is received. EnPKF can also suggest where short-term crime hotspots might appear, and what additional resources will be needed to tackle this.

The algorithm has a wide range of possible uses, including monitoring train delays, earthquake aftershocks and even insurance claims in sub-Saharan Africa.

UK university researchers join forces to free the Galapagos Islands from plastic pollution

Surrey is part of a team working with the Galapagos Conservation Trust to tackle marine plastic pollution in the Galapagos Islands.

Together with UK marine plastic pollution experts, Galapagos agencies and the local community, the team is developing a plan to make the islands a model for the world on managing plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution is one of the world’s greatest threats to marine wildlife and the Galapagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are no exception. Reports show at least 18 Galapagos species have been found entangled by plastic or have ingested the material, including the endangered Galapagos sea lion.

Surrey is working with the Galapagos Conservation Trust to tackle plastic pollution

Credit: Getty Images
Food for thought: meet Dr Jacki Bishop

Long-serving University of Surrey academic Dr Jacki Bishop has worked in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Surrey for 42 years. We asked her to tell us about what inspires her work at the University of Surrey, her greatest achievements and some top tips for a healthy diet.

DID YOU KNOW?

Surrey was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize in 2017 for its achievements in the field of food and nutrition.

Can you tell us a bit about your time at the University of Surrey?
I first joined the University of Surrey as a student 50 years ago! In 1976 I was appointed Lecturer in Dietetics, joining the one dietitian in the department. Promoted to Senior Lecturer, I had several roles, including Programme Director, and I’m now Quality Assurance Co-ordinator for Dietetics - ensuring the quality of our practice placements. There are now 10 dietitians in the team, and seven of us are Surrey graduates.

What do you find most rewarding about working here?
My inspiration and satisfaction come from the students. It’s a privilege to see them develop during their time here and, in many cases, to follow their career when I visit placements where they are working. I’m also lucky to work with such a dedicated and talented team, with Professor Sue Lanham-New as Head of Department.

Why do you think engagement with the local community and other institutions is so important?
I like to get involved in anything that helps familiarise the public with our research and opportunities for study, and I believe the relationship between the University of Surrey and the community is mutually beneficial. The dietetic programme here depends heavily on input from local NHS users, be that to help educate our students on what it is like to live with a long-term health condition or to advise us on what they expect from a dietitian - so that we can ensure our graduates are ‘fit for purpose’.

What has been your greatest career achievement?
In 2006 I was made a British Dietetic Association (BDA) Fellow - the highest accolade for a member of the profession. The following year, I was included in the BDA Roll of Honour in recognition of my leadership in the development of the Manual of Dietetic Practice – a manual that a fellow student and I created over 30 years ago to help bring uniformity to dietetic practice. Little did we know it would become a 900-page textbook selling internationally! It is now into its seventh edition led by a Surrey graduate who was one of my first students.

What are your top three tips for a good diet?
1. It takes about 20 minutes for the brain to register that you’ve eaten and for you to feel satisfied, so wait for this time to pass before going back for seconds.
2. There’s no such thing as a superfood. Our body needs a lot of nutrients from a wide range of foods.
3. Don’t aim for five-a-day - aim higher!

Ramping up research and innovation

Your University caught up with Professor David Sampson, Surrey’s new Vice-Provost, Research and Innovation.

With 25 years’ experience in industry and research, David is an acclaimed expert in photonics, optics and microscopy and their application to communications, sensors and biomedicine.

Please tell us about your previous role at the University of Western Australia?
I headed up an infrastructure facility full of microscopes and analytical instruments. My team worked with more than 500 researchers each year, completing more than 100,000 hours of instrument time to take their research to world-leading levels. I’m a great believer in core facilities and would like to create something similar at Surrey.

I also oversaw the creation of two spin-out companies: one on microscope-in-a-needle technology and the other on micro-imaging of breast cancer.

What attracted you to Surrey?
I really liked what I found at Surrey – quality, the opportunity to make a difference, community, and a like-minded, positive leadership team.

What are your priorities?
I want to grow our research in scale and quality so we can boost our reputation and better support our community. We already do excellent research at Surrey – with strengths in engineering and physical sciences, health and medicine and the arts and social sciences. We’re great at working across these disciplines, especially on the human aspects of technology. Beyond scale, I’d like to see us reinvigorate our research impact by practically connecting our research to innovation and commercial outcomes.

How will you develop Surrey’s research and innovation strategy?
Our strategic hires project, our fellows programmes and our intention to double the number of PhD students will be impactful, as will our focus on distinctive research infrastructure.

What are your thoughts on the future commercialisation of innovation?
We have a big agenda looking at enriching and better integrating our innovation ecosystem through more PhD students, incentivising our academics and getting the “Tech Transfer” system to have the right amount of input from the academic and commercial teams.

How would you like Surrey’s research community to work with tenant companies on the University’s Research Park?
I see a future where the University and our Research Park tenants are highly integrated with a flow of ideas, people and opportunities. There is a lot going on right now but, with renewed focus, we can do so much more.

For more information on research at Surrey, visit: surrey.ac.uk/research
SURREY.AC.UK

Local community is number one priority for Union officer

Surrey business management student Gemma Paine has been elected Vice-President Community for the Students’ Union in 2018-19. This role will see her take a year out of her studies to bring together the student body, integrate it into the local community and provide student volunteering opportunities. We asked Gemma what she is most looking forward to.

“I have always lived in Surrey, so integrating the student and non-student residents into a cohesive community is something that’s very personal to me.

“Fundraising for local charities is one of the best contributions our student body can give to the area and I will be breathing new life into Surrey’s Raising And Giving (RAG) society, including organising a RAG week this spring. This year, our chosen local charities are Oakleaf Enterprise, the only mental health charity in Surrey working as a social enterprise to provide vocational training for those suffering from mental health issues, and Shooting Star Chase, a leading children’s hospice charity caring for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families. I would love to start involving the general public in the Union’s charity work, including joint fundraising projects over the year.

“I will also be working hard to integrate the student population into the local area so that we can all feel proud to live here in Guildford. I’m very excited to be working closely with the Union’s LGBTQI+ Society to establish a local PRIDE later in the year.

“Another of my priorities is to open the campus for major events so that non-student residents can better understand the benefits of having Surrey’s diverse and vibrant student population in Guildford. This will include family-friendly activities organised as part of our new RAG week.

“On a related note, I’ll also be working closely with the University on plans to educate students about local issues so we can build stronger communities. As part of this, we have created a new, informative film that highlights community concerns such as knowing the rules and dates of refuse collection, as well as the importance of excellent neighbour relations. We will now work together with Guildford Borough Council to understand how best to create a harmonious community.”

“I would love to start involving the general public in the Union’s charity work.”

“This year also marks an academic year since we launched surreyvolunteering.com. 766 student volunteers are now working with 133 partner organisations and have already logged 2,384 volunteering hours. I am very excited to see this grow bigger and better in 2018-19, in particular with the re-launch of our Volunteer Festival, which will encourage Surrey’s students to join the growing and committed group already giving back to communities across Guildford.”

To contact Gemma, please email: ussu.vpcommunity@surrey.ac.uk

Students there for students

The University of Surrey’s Students’ Union operates an out-of-office hours listening service, which is run by trained students, for students.

Nightline is a confidential and anonymous student-led listening service that provides emotional support and practical information to those who need someone to talk to. Supported by sensitive and proactive student volunteers, the Nightline team is fully-trained and equipped to talk about problems and issues, from missed deadlines to relationship or mental health struggles.

The Students’ Union set up the service in September 2017, with lines first opening in November 2017. There are now approximately 60 fully-trained listening volunteers.

Gemma Paine, VP Community for the Students’ Union, said: “University is a time of many changes and challenges, so being able to talk to a peer can, and does, make a difference.

“As well as contributing to the wellbeing of the University’s wider student community, our volunteers will also develop crucial listening skills, empathy and patience.”

Surrey students praised at awards night for helping refugees

University of Surrey students were recognised for their contributions to community volunteering at the recent Student and Society Awards Ball held on our Stag Hill campus.

Undergraduate Nour Altounji picked up the John Hoborough Award for Volunteer of the Year following her tireless work supporting local refugees. Explaining why she is incredibly passionate about this cause, Nour said: “From a young age, I was devoted to dedicating my efforts towards those who need it the most. Being Syrian, taking on such a project was very important to me. The University has been nothing but supportive every step of the way, and I am eternally grateful for this recognition.”

The Fundraiser of the Year Award was awarded to the University’s Islamic Society after they raised more than £19,000 for local refugees through a range of events and campaigns. After winning the award, 2017-18 society President Lateefah Dabiri said: “As an Islamic Society, one of the foundations of our faith is giving and helping those in need. We believe in the idea that all mankind is one body and if one part is suffering we all feel the pain. Being recognised by the University for our hard work is an honour.”

Credit: Getty Images

Students in Guildford

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Credit: Getty Images
Surrey’s professional and adult learning courses to stretch the mind and body

If you’ve ever thought about exploring a new interest or continuing your professional development through further education, then we may have the answer. Surrey offers professional development and short courses across a wide range of disciplines to develop your knowledge and skills. Here’s a small selection of what’s on offer.

Evening language classes
Whether you want to improve your language skills for work or learn a new language from scratch, we offer classes in a wide range of languages and levels, taught by skilled and experienced tutors.
For more information and details about the courses, visit: surrey.ac.uk/evening-language-classes

Revenue management in hospitality
Designed for mid-managers and individuals who manage a portfolio of accommodation (hotels, Airbnb, serviced apartments, B&Bs), this two-day short course will help you take a more dynamic approach to your revenue and pricing strategy.
For more information and details of upcoming course dates, contact: cre@surrey.ac.uk

Surrey Business School
Surrey Business School’s executive education works with your organisation to deliver fit-for-purpose education solutions tailored to your requirements.
For more information and to discuss your business requirements, contact: surreyexed@surrey.ac.uk

Surrey placements best in the UK

The QS World Employability Rankings 2019 have ranked the University of Surrey 1st in the UK and 7th in the world for work placements and research partnerships with employers. The rankings focus on successful collaborations with global companies to produce citable, transformative research and also focus on work placement partnerships.
In 2017-18, Surrey sent 1,200 students out on placement across the world. The benefits of student placements are wide-reaching, with 39 per cent of students returning from placement with a job offer, and 92 per cent feeling they are more employable post placement. Placement students also often achieve better grades and on average earn 15 per cent more than those not on placement.

Supporting a wheelie good cause

This September a team from Surrey Business School took on the challenge of cycling 72 miles around the Isle of Wight to raise money for London charity Ebony Horse Club.
Surrey Business School has a long-standing commitment to charitable organisations, but its recent work with Ebony has proved particularly inspirational. Located in one of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the UK, Ebony uses horses to raise the life skills and aspirations of young people.
During a lecture on entrepreneurship, Naomi Howgate, Business Funding Manager at Ebony, explained to Surrey students how dozens of young people are now in college, at university or are building careers because of the work of Ebony.

To find out more about the wide range of courses available, explore: surrey.ac.uk/cpd

Enhancing employability at Kings

The spring term will bring an exciting new challenge for Year 10 students at Kings College. Working together with local businesses and Surrey Business School (SBS), the school will be running a competition aimed at enhancing pupils’ employability, business and enterprise skills.
Student teams will research and design their own apprenticeship schemes, before pitching their ideas to a panel of judges, who will decide the winners. Representatives from SBS and local businesses will visit the students throughout the project to deliver talks and help with planning.

Hannah Trott, Widening Participation and Outreach Coordinator, said: “Highlighting the fantastic opportunities that apprenticeships offer students and employers can only be achieved through a partnership like this. It’s extremely exciting to bring Surrey Business School and Kings College together in order to enhance the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of students at the school.”

The team from Surrey Business School take to their bikes for charity.
Summer school success

This year saw the University run its popular residential summer schools programme across 23 subject areas including media, law, veterinary science and engineering. Across a four-week period, more than 350 students from Year 12 visited Surrey’s campuses from both the local area and other parts of the UK. The schools, which are designed to be subject-focused, gave pupils the opportunity to thoroughly explore a topic they love while getting a taste of life as a university student. The timetable consists of lectures, seminars and practical sessions followed by evening social activities.

Hollie Baker, Widening Participation and Outreach Manager, said: “Many of our academics and teaching staff gave up their time to run fantastic practical sessions, and our amazing team of student ambassadors were on hand to support and guide the pupils through this thrilling but intensive week. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made the 2018 summer school series possible.”

Planning has already started in preparation for next year’s programme and Surrey is looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of students in the summer of 2019. For further information, visit gsauk.org after 1 January 2019.

Guildford’s young carers look to the future

The University welcomed 40 young carers on to campus this summer for Surrey’s very first ‘Discover University Young Carers Summer School’.

Staying in campus accommodation for three action-packed days, attendees got a taste of student life and took part in a number of interactive sessions including lacrosse, computer coding and animal handling. The young carers also had the opportunity to meet with a specially-trained careers advisor, and to learn more about the apprenticeship pathway.

Applications will open this spring for the July 2019 - Discover University Young Carers Summer School. For further information, visit gsauk.org from January 2019.

Local children discover university

This summer, the University welcomed pupils from seven different schools across Surrey for our first ever ‘University Explorers!’ event.

The session aimed to raise aspirations by giving 400 local children the opportunity to discover what it’s like to learn and live at university.

The Year 6 pupils explored a wide range of life skills, subjects and careers through six exciting interactive zones and demonstrations from University clubs and societies.

Joe Bradbury-Walters, Widening Participation and Outreach Manager, said: “At Surrey, we offer a range of primary activities which are designed to spark enthusiasm about higher education. We were delighted to discover that 86 per cent of those who came along said this event helped them to understand what university is, with 81 per cent saying it had helped them to think about going to university.”

Following the success of this year’s event, ‘University Explorers!’ will run again in 2019.

School’s out, acting’s in

As one of the UK’s leading drama schools, Guildford School of Acting (GSA) has been successfully running summer schools for more than two decades. Tailoring dynamic and inspiring summer programmes for eight to 25-year-olds, the school is a popular choice for young people with a wide range of theatre interests and backgrounds.

This year the school offered assisted places to disadvantaged children and young adults within the local community, a scheme that proved incredibly rewarding for both participants and GSA staff.

Sean McNamara, Head of Guildford School of Acting, said: “I’m extremely keen that our world-class training and facilities are available to a wider cross-section of society. We firmly believe in the transformative impact of theatre and the arts.

“We’re committed to widening opportunities and are developing plans with local partners to further encourage entry into the creative arts.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

GSA Saturday School provides world-class training to students aged five to 17+. Covering classes in acting, singing and movement, sessions take place at GSA’s facilities on our Stag Hill campus, between 9:30am and 5:30pm every Saturday over ten-week terms. Visit: gsauk.org
What's on

Astronomy evenings
21 November, 19 December, 16 January, 20 February, 20 March (7pm - 9pm)
Stag Hill campus
Are you curious about astronomy? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to look at the stars, planets or the moon through a telescope? Surrey's free stargazing evenings begin with an exciting research lecture, followed by a visit to Surrey's telescopes for a stargazing session.
Visit surrey.ac.uk/events or email Dr Heather Campbell: h.campbell@surrey.ac.uk

Stargazing
Available online.

Songs from the Shows
9-15 The Musical 21 - 24 November
Ivy Arts Centre, Stag Hill campus
This hilarious story of friendship and feminist revenge is based on the 1980s hit movie. Set to the soundtrack of Dolly Parton's Oscar, Tony and Grammy Award nominated score, this tale of female佩服 is packed with feel-good moments and 30 years on, strikes a chord with the #MeToo generation.
Find out more: gsauk.org/events

Bright Club
6 March
The Boileroom
Combining comedy, science, research and music, comedians and musicians come together with the University's best and brightest academics to spin their specialisms into comedy gold – and hopefully teach something too.
Dive headfirst into Bright Club and enjoy a couple of drinks and a lot of laughs along the way.
Follow @BrightClubGLD on twitter

Betty Blue Eyes
5-8 December
Ivy Arts Centre, Stag Hill campus
Betty is adorable. She is also a pig being illegally reared to ensure the local dignitaries can celebrate the Royal Wedding with a lavish banquet, while the locals make do with Spam.
This utterly British musical is full of eccentric characters and boasts a deliciously infectious, toe-tapping score.
Find out more: gsauk.org/events

Grimm Tales
12-15 December
PATS Studio, Stag Hill campus
Familiar and lesser-known tales, ranging from the scary and macabre to the cheeky and comic. Duffy’s perfect ensemble piece is a feast of storytelling magic. Originally created for the Young Vic in London in 1994, and now presented by final-year GSA students, this production was created with modern children in mind.
Find out more: gsauk.org/events

Innovate Guildford 2019
23 March
G Live
Guildford Borough Council’s free, family-friendly science and arts festival returns to showcase the region’s knowledge, innovation and creativity. The theme for 2019 is 'Future Living', with the University of Surrey and other local pioneers coming together to celebrate Guildford as a true hub of innovation.
Find out more: guildford.gov.uk/innovateguildford

Strictly Come Surrey
3 May
Stag Hill campus
Strictly Come Surrey is an annual fundraiser led by students from the Ballroom and Latin Dance Club (BLDC). University ‘celebrities’ ranging from academic staff to Team Surrey’s sporting stars are paired with members of BLDC to compete to be judged as having the best routine. To date, the show has raised £3,600 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care.
Find out more: surreybldc.com
Surrey Sports Park gets Guildford active

While the University’s £36m sports facility is well-used by the many students living in Guildford, Surrey Sports Park is also open to the public and there’s something there for everyone.

The Sports Park’s 120-station gym is popular with students and non-students alike, with access available on either a membership or pay-as-you-go basis. It’s also home to the only Olympic-sized pool in Surrey. Other facilities include a climbing wall, indoor and outdoor racket courts and award-winning grass pitches, which draw in members of the public all through the year. It also runs courses and classes throughout the day, covering a vast range of fitness and wellbeing activities. Beyond opportunities for exercise, the Bench Sports Bar and large Starbucks coffee lounge have excellent views of the surrounding area. The Sports Park also offers family-friendly entertainment for spectators, with professional sports teams including Surrey Storm (netball) and Surrey Scorchers (basketball) frequently competing in our 1,000-seat arena.

A summer of sport for local children

Over the summer, more than 500 local children visited Surrey Sports Park to take part in the University’s huge range of sporting holiday camps.

With swimming camps in the pool, squash and tennis on the courts and climbing at the Surrey Summit climbing centre, active local youngsters really made the most of the opportunities on offer.

The Sports Park’s resident professional basketball and netball teams - Surrey Scorchers and Surrey Storm - ran specialised summer camps, offering training from pro players and coaches, giving children the unique opportunity to learn from those at the very top of their game.

Newly appointed Director of Netball, Mikki Austin, is delighted to see the impact Surrey Storm has had on young players. She said: “It has been fantastic to see so many young netballers taking to our camps over the summer months. I always love seeing young players with a passion for the sport and I am looking forward to seeing more of that at our camps in the future.”

To find out more about upcoming holiday camps, and how your youngsters can get involved, visit: surreysportspark.co.uk

Inspiring members: Caroline loses weight and gains confidence through ‘Choose to Lose’

Surrey Sports Park offers courses and classes covering everything from yoga and running, to weight loss and walking basketball. Your University asked Caroline Wood, 55, from Effingham why she joined our ‘Choose to Lose’ weight loss course.

“I began my exercise journey very overweight and lacking confidence in my fitness abilities. Being over 50, I was determined to make a change.

“When I first joined Surrey Sports Park’s ‘Choose to Lose’ course, I was impressed by the enthusiasm, understanding and support my trainers gave me, right from the word go. They really inspired the whole group to work hard and achieve their goals. I would regularly receive healthy eating tips and motivational messages from them, which really helped me to keep going when I needed it most. One thing I particularly loved was how every session was different and took place in a fun and supportive environment where you could work within your own personal limits.

“Since signing up, I now have the confidence to use the gym independently and have started other courses at the Park including ‘Couch to 5k’. It’s hard to believe 10k runs are achievable for me these days - I’m even entering races! Although it’s been challenging, I’m delighted with the new, fitter me. I feel stronger and healthier than ever, have made great friends and it’s all thanks to this incredibly rewarding experience.”

Discover more about Surrey Sports Park at: surreysportspark.co.uk

Hoop for the future

Surrey Sports Park’s professional basketball team Surrey Scorchers are involved in a nationwide community programme for young people attending schools in deprived areas, called ‘Hoops 4 Health’.

Topics including internet safety, healthy eating, the importance of exercising and the dangers of smoking are all covered in the programme to address specific areas of concern in local Guildford state schools.

As positive role models in the community, and coming from all walks of life, basketball players can speak to pupils about their own experiences and act as aspirational mentors.

Georgina Agnies, Sports Participation Manager, said: “Getting more local people to take part in sports is at the core of everything the Sports Park does, and helps to promote an active and healthier lifestyle for younger generations. We use the power of sport to engage the wider community and meet local needs, inspiring young people to improve their physical fitness and develop a positive attitude.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Surrey Sports Park has celebratory Christmas lunch and party packages available in The Bench Bar.

For more information, please contact: amungavin@surrey.ac.uk

Surrey Sports Park on the University’s Manor Park campus

Caroline Wood has improved her fitness through Surrey Sports Park’s ‘Choose to Lose’ course

Children take part in Surrey Scorchers’ ‘Hoops 4 Health’ programme
Feature

Best of Instagram: our beautiful hometown

On our official Instagram account, we’re lucky to see so many amazing photographs taken by our students, staff, alumni and visitors to campus. The University of Surrey is proud to call Guildford home, so we wanted to share some of the most inspiring images capturing the beauty of our hometown.

From cathedral views to the rolling Surrey Hills, high street cobbles to autumnal colour – here’s a selection of our favourites, snapped by past and present Surrey students.

You can follow us @uniofsurrey on Instagram to see more and tag us in your own images of Guildford.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Talk to us

If you have any questions, thoughts or suggestions about Your University or any of the articles you’ve read in this edition, please get in touch: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk @UniOfSurreyCPE

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