

10 September 2016

Dear Neighbours,

**Re: Student Arrivals and the start of a new academic year at the University of York**

As you probably know, the University of York academic year will be starting shortly. We are writing to inform you about the welcome arrangements and events that will be held within the College. We would like to reassure you that Halifax College and the University are doing everything practicable to minimise the impact of these events on our neighbours. However, we hope you will appreciate that with nearly one thousand students moving into the College and with the first few weeks being so crucial for new students there are limitations on what we can do especially with respect to noise and traffic on key dates.

The expected key dates and events in Halifax College are as follows:

**Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September**

- New postgraduate students and residents of Garrowby Way family housing start moving in. This year we expect about 175 postgraduate students to move into the College. They are predominantly international students and, whilst there will be a larger number of taxis and occasional coaches arriving to the College, we do not expect heavy traffic. Given the high proportion of overseas students within our postgraduate population, there are often a high number of students walking on the roadside around the University and College. Although we are making every effort this year to educate overseas students on road safety, there may still be some walking in the non-pedestrian parts of the road, so please be aware when driving.

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September**

- A temporary marquee will be installed next to the "22 Acres" sports field at the bottom of Garrowby Way. While the marquee will be used for evening events during arrivals week, all events will end by 24:00. Contractors' vehicles will be entering and exiting the field.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

- International undergraduate students will start arriving, but we expect this to be a quiet day overall.

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September**

- This is the main arrival date for our students and we expect up to seven hundred students to arrive on the day. These will be mostly British students and many will be driven to the University by their families. During the day, the University Security will operate a one way drive system through the College car parks: cars will be entering via Garrowby Way and leaving via West Moor Lane; the sports field next to Holmefield Lane will be used for overflow / longer term parking.

Heavy traffic is expected on Holmefield Lane between 10:00 and 17:00. To minimise the impact on our neighbours we have arranged for the UB1 shuttle service and airport shuttles **not** to enter the college.

- The marquee will be used during the day as a lounge area and the college is exploring options for a street food cart close to the marquee at the same time. Our neighbours are very welcome to visit this space during the day. The field will also be used for longer-term parking.
- The evening events will start around 19:00 with courtyard parties. Music will be played in two courts (St. Lawrence and Wood) either acoustically or with low levels of amplification; other courts will host inflatables, games, face painting and shisha pipes. Our objective is to draw students away from their kitchens and, thus, to avoid perceived peer pressure for excessive alcohol consumption. Although there

may be higher levels of noise, these events will be gradually wrapped up between 23:00 and 24:00 in St. Lawrence Court and between 24.00 and 01.00 in Wood Court, and we hope that reduced levels of alcohol consumption will result in lower levels of noise late at night. To facilitate effective crowd control and to minimise noise disturbance that can be associated with end of an event, some entertainment (table games, indoor bar, shisha pipes, etc.) that is less likely to generate high level of noise may continue until 02:00.

We hope you will understand that some disturbance is inevitable given the sheer number of new students and the proximity of the college to your residence. Overall, we feel that a proactively managed event is likely to produce much less noise than a thousand students venturing into- and returning from- campus and city centre bars throughout the night.

### **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September**

- We expect a few students to arrive on this day before 14:00. However, we expect little impact on traffic in the area.
- Heavy pedestrian traffic between the college and the main campus is expected at about 13:30 and 16:30 as all college residents will be attending a Welcome Talk in the University's Central Hall; however we will attempt to minimise the delays by chaperoning the large group via the footpath on the 22 Acres field.
- A late night event will be held in the city centre and we expect heavy taxi traffic between about 22:30 and 23:30. To avoid traffic deadlock the one-way system will continue operating throughout that night.

### **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> September-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

- The marquee will be hosting evening events Monday-Friday. All of these events will be wrapped up by 24:00 and, where recorded music will be provided, amplification levels will be very low.
- In the afternoon between 2-6pm Wednesday friendly matches in football and rugby will be held between two colleges on the 22 Acres sports field with all new students encouraged to attend and support their teams. Again, although elevated levels of noise are inevitable for this event, we hope that it will help us to encourage constructive recreational activity amongst the student population in the longer term.
- On Tuesday September 27 and Thursday September 29, the college will be holding events in the Roger Kirk Centre at neighbouring James College. We anticipate elevated noise levels as students leave for, and return from, these events between the hours of 22:00 and 02:00. In order to minimise the impact on our neighbours, students will be walked out of the College grounds in groups led by Second and Third Year student volunteers (STYCs). Students will be regularly reminded about the local residents, asked to keep quiet and walked down the recommended route on the edge of the sports field running along Holmefield Lane.
- We will adopt the same STYC protocol for all late evening / night events held on Campus and in the city centre.

Once again, we would like to reassure you that the College and the University will be doing everything practicable to reduce the impact of these and other events on our neighbours. We would also like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience to you and your families and to thank you for your understanding.

If Halifax College can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. If you would like to report any incident (including excessive noise) please contact University Security on 01904 324444 who will respond themselves or contact a member of our college team as appropriate.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Oleg Lisagor  
Head of Halifax College



Shai Danmole-Ellis  
Assistant Head, Halifax College