New Centres for Doctoral Training

Loughborough is to lead a new Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) and will partner in a further six which will help to train the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The new Centres will benefit from a £350million fund announced by Universities and Science Minister David Willets, and allocated by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Loughborough will lead the CDT in Embedded Intelligence and will partner in six Centres focussing on: Energy Demand (Lula), Fuel Cells and their Fuels – Desiged by the 21st Century, Gas Turbine Aerosodynamics, New and Sustainable Photovoltaics, Additive Manufacturing, and Carbon Capture and Storage and Cleaner Fossil Energy.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research Professor Myra Nimmo said: “Our role in seven EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training reinforces Loughborough’s position as a leading research intensive university, where we pride ourselves on our strong collaborations with Industry. Through these Centres, Loughborough University will be home to the very best training programmes for the next generation of engineers and scientists.”

FutureLearn

First FutureLearn courses unveiled

The courses Loughborough will offer as part of FutureLearn, the first UK-led provider of massive open online courses (MOOCs), have been revealed.

Loughborough will provide courses in mathematical, enterprise and innovation – areas in which the University already has a well-established reputation for excellence.

The enterprise and innovation course enables students to learn how an innovative idea becomes a reality. The course lasts for six weeks and is a stepping stone for further study at the University. It is being led by the School of Business and Economics.

The University is also offering a three-week mini-MOOC in mathematics, aimed at those who aspire to study science or engineering foundation courses.

Both courses are open for enrolment now and begin in April. View the course trailers and sign up online at www.futurelearn.com/partners/loughborough-university

Santander visit marks five-year partnership

Santander chief executive Ana Botín visited Loughborough in October to celebrate her company’s five-year partnership with the University.

During her visit Ms Botín gave a special lecture on the UK economy, met with some of Loughborough’s entrepreneurial graduates, and visited the Sports Technology Institute where experts analysed her golf swing.

Since the partnership began in 2008, more than £1 million of philanthropic funding has been drawn down to support activities and initiatives including scholarships, research and enterprise awards, volunteer schemes, internships and internationalisation projects.

Loughborough awarded seventh Queen’s Anniversary Prize

The University has been awarded its seventh Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education – an achievement bettered only by the University of Oxford.

The Prize recognises Loughborough’s impact through research and skills development in High Value Manufacturing (HVM) to create economic growth.

Loughborough is an acknowledged leader in the field of HVM with the Wolfson School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering making an important contribution to the health of manufacturing in the UK, helping to support economic growth and create new jobs.

Over 500 national and international organisations work in partnership with the University on projects and ideas that enable the rapid development of better products. Recent collaborative initiatives include the development of personalised shoes for athletes, new applications for recycling, 3D imaging of complex components and research into automotive assembly machine behaviour.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Allison said: “We are delighted to have been awarded this highly coveted honour and are proud that Loughborough has now achieved the Magnificent Seven”.

“The Queen’s Anniversary Prize is testament to the impact our research, innovation and teaching have on the manufacturing industry.”

The award, which was announced in November, will be officially presented at the University on 6 December.

Finalists have their say

The 2014 National Student Survey (NSS) is now underway. Now in its tenth year, the NSS takes place annually and sees final year students provide feedback on the quality of their courses. The results help prospective students make informed choices about what and what not to study. They also have a significant influence on the UK’s national newspaper league tables.

“The NSS is extremely important – in fact, it’s perhaps the most important externally-driven initiative for the University in terms,” says Professor Monag Bell, Pro Vice Chancellor for Teaching.

“Loughborough did exceptionally well initially, but our position has remained relatively static since and other universities have overtaken us. All universities are tightly bunched in results and small changes can produce major shifts in the overall position.

“Thanks for all we need to work really hard to entice finalists to take part in the survey. It will only take them a few minutes and it will make a real difference to our feedback for Loughborough students, both now and in the future.”

Finalists have until 30 April to complete the NSS but they should do it as early as possible, otherwise post-MOD, the independent organisation who manage the survey, will contact them with reminders.

A briefing to support Schools’ communication with their students has been sent to all Deans, Associate Deans for Teaching and Operations Managers. A set of resources, including key messages, PowerPoint slides for use in surgeries, and Students’ Union video, are also available on the Marketing and Communications Website at www.lboro.ac.uk/marketing for Schools to use.

London teaching themes unveiled

Teaching themes for Loughborough University in London (LUL) are taking shape, and subject to Senate approval, will include Postgraduate and Executive Education courses under six broad themes: Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Digital Technologies; Media and Creative Industries; Sports Management; Design Management; and Virtual Engineering.

Dean of Loughborough University in London, Prof Mike Caine said: “I’m delighted we have arrived at such an exciting and complementary set of teaching themes. “Many colleagues, spanning the whole University, have come together to shape the teaching offer, and it is hugely rewarding to see subject areas spanning six of the University’s Schools represented.

“Moreover, the response from our external partners, and the wider community, has been immensely positive. Early feedback suggests prospective students regard this mix of subject disciplines as both distinctive and well-targeted in terms of the prevailing national and international premier jobs market.”

A new LUL website has been launched at www.lboro.ac.uk/london

The first wave of courses is set to be announced this summer.
Athena SWAN takes off

Athena SWAN activities are gaining momentum with the recent appointment of Dr Katryna Kalawsky as project officer, supporting Professor Steve Rothberg who has been the chair of the institutional self-assessment team since 2011.

Athena SWAN is a national scheme that recognises success in developing employment practices to further support the careers of women in STEM subjects.

Katryna was previously Athena SWAN Co-Champion in the SEHE5 where she played a pivotal role in helping the School achieve the University’s first Silver Department Award, and she has been an active member of the University’s Athena SWAN working group since 2011.

In her new part-time role, Katryna will support the preparation of applications for Athena SWAN awards, with particular emphasis on the collection and analysis of data, and subsequent reporting.

Katryna is available in an Athena SWAN capacity on Mondays and Tuesdays and can be contacted via K.ea.kalawsky@lboro.ac.uk. Alternatively, contact University equality & diversity adviser Abida Akram on a.p.akram@lboro.ac.uk

A dedicated webpage for Athena SWAN activities and information has been set up at www.lboro.ac.uk/athena-swan and a series of lectures and events is being planned for 2014 (see the website for details).

This April the University is applying to renew its Athena SWAN bronze award. The submission team is calling on ideas and suggestions from colleagues across campus. Anyone who would like to contribute should contact Katryna or Abida via the details above, or Steve Rothberg on s.j.rothberg@lboro.ac.uk by end of March.

Loughborough-based trio among fastest growing tech firms

The University’s Innovation Centre is behind three of the companies announced in The Deloitte Technology Fast 50 – a ranking of the 50 fastest-growing technology companies in the UK.

Evance Wind Turbines (ranked 11th), Intelligent Energy (ranked 15th) and CommAgility (ranked 32nd) were originally developed as part of the University’s Innovation Centre. Intelligent Energy and CommAgility are still working with the University.

Evance Wind Turbines (ranked 11th), Intelligent Energy (ranked 15th) and CommAgility were amongst only five tech firms in the top 50 from the midlands.

The Deloitte Technology Fast 50 bases its results on revenue growth over the last five years, and is one of the UK’s foremost technology award programmes. The Loughborough three were amongst only five tech firms in the top 50 from the midlands.

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Reunion Weekend
SUCCESS

More than 130 alumni and guests returned to campus last September for the annual Reunion Weekend.

The classes of 1988 & 89, 1983 & 84 and 1973 & 74 celebrated their 25th, 30th and 40th anniversaries since leaving Loughborough.

Guests, who came from as far afield as Africa, Australia and Singapore, enjoyed a packed weekend of events and activities including a quiz night organised by the Students’ Union, live sports fixtures, campus, department and student halls tours as well as a tour of the campus observatory, the Alumni Association AGM, a gala dinner and dance, and a farewell Sunday lunch.

This year’s Reunion Weekend takes place from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September and is a 50-year celebration for all those who graduated in 1964 and earlier. For more information email the alumni team on alumnievents@lboro.ac.uk

More courses move to my.HR

Courses offered by departments including the Teaching Centre, Facilities Management, and Health & Safety are now available to book via myHR. This latest group of courses joins those already offered on the system by Staff Development and brings the total number of courses on myHR to over 280.

The myHR team has been collecting feedback on the system and would like to thank all staff who have contributed so far. Many of the comments and suggestions should be addressed by a new improved and streamlined system due to be launched later this year. Anyone who would like to provide further feedback can do so via the link on the myHR homepage.

Technicians’ conference

A special event is being held for technicians from across the University to meet, share ideas and talk about issues specific to their roles.

The first ever Loughborough University Technicians Conference will be hosted at Burleigh Court on Wednesday 26 February from 12.30-4.30pm. The event opens with lunch and a welcome from VC Professor Robert Allison, and attendees will split up into the afternoon into smaller working groups to explore specific areas relevant to technicians.

To register for this free event, log onto my.HR and search for Loughborough University Technicians Conference.

Staff briefings

Open meetings with the VC will be held on Wednesday 5 March at 3.30pm in S Building and Friday 7 March at 5.30pm in the Hadzegui Council Chamber.

To register visit: www.lboro.ac.uk/publicrelations/vco/register.html

Poetry competition honours Loughborough Professor

The Department of English and Drama has launched an international poetry competition in memory of Professor Bill Overton who died in 2012.

Organisers are calling on poets worldwide to take part in this inaugural competition, the proceeds of which will go towards funding an early-career poet in residence at the University.

Entires are asked to submit a sequence of poems (up to 300 lines) on a subject of their choice. The winning sequence will be published in chapbook form, and two runners-up will receive cash prizes of £50 each.

Entries cost £10 per sequence and can be submitted online at www.lboro.ac.uk/store/english or in hard copy to the department. Entries must be received by Monday 31 March and winners will be announced on Friday 30 May 2014. The competition is open to anyone aged 16 or over.

Bill was Professor of Literary Studies and a former head of the Department of English and Drama, originally joining the University in the 1970s. Much of his teaching and writing was on poetry, so this competition is a fitting tribute.
When many of us are still enjoying the summer sun, staff in Facilities Management are already thinking about the cold, snow and ice. Keeping the University going during the colder months can be a year-round project. newsatlboro finds out how FM keeps us working through the winter...

**SEASONAL SUMS**

On average, around 100 tonnes of road salt are used on campus each year.

There are more than 18 grit bins spread across the estate.

Snow clearing machines include two demountable gritters, two small trailed path gritters and an 8ft snowplough.

3 members of staff are on call at any one time throughout the winter to clear snow and ice.

A team of 80 plumbers, fitters, electricians and building teams are employed by FM to maintain the campus throughout the year.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Help prevent winter breakdowns by reporting any leaks, damaged or exposed external pipework, or uninsulated external taps to the FM HELPDESK ON 222121 as soon as you see it.

Make sure fume cupboards and ventilation not required is turned off.

200

**200**

With around 200 individual buildings to manage on campus, maintaining the extensive stock of different heating and cooling systems – some of which are up to 50 years old – is no easy task.

**...end of summer**

Towards the end of the summer all systems and pipework insulation are checked, and injected with antifreeze where needed to minimise breakdowns during the winter.

**...end of September**

At the end of September the University’s heating system kicks in across all office buildings, on a timed basis when the weather is milder, then moving to full time between November and January when temperatures are likely to hit their lowest.

**BIG FREEZE OF 2010**

Many staff will remember the big freeze of 2010 when temperatures dropped to -1.4°C and burst pipes resulted in floods in around 20 buildings. Since then, a lot of refurbishment work has taken place and the maintenance protocol has improved, making the University much more prepared for lower temperatures.

**Gritter**

The University’s own gritter is used for the roads, and paths are cleared by hand and by a small trailed gritter. A close watch is kept on the weather so pre-empulsive salting can be carried out if temperatures drop below freezing.

**TEAM**

A big thanks to the FM team who work in all weathers and some atrocious conditions to make the campus safe for staff and students.

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**24/7**

A second team is on 24/7 standby for emergency faults that could affect daily operations or pose a health and safety risk.

**UNSONG HEROES**

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**ONLINE MAP UPDATED**

Loughborough’s online map has been updated to be easier to navigate and update and to be fully accessible on smartphones and tablets.

The revised version uses the OpenStreetMap platform and clearly highlights all buildings, facilities and services. All buildings are searchable and mobile users can view their current location to help them navigate through campus easier.

www.lboro.ac.uk/campus-map

**ALCOHOL FREE ZONE**

The majority of the University estate has been dedicated an alcohol free zone. Drinking alcohol outdoors is no longer permitted anywhere on campus except within 20 metres of student halls, the Students’ Union and other licensed premises.

**WORK STARTS ON NEW SPORT AND FITNESS FACILITY**

Work is now underway on our latest sports facility being built adjacent to the Loughborough University Stadium near the west entrance.

The new building combines a sports hall and state of the art health and fitness centre. The fitness centre will be nearly four times bigger than the existing LUPS with a large, spacious gym, two studios for exercise and dance classes and a social/relaxation area. The sports hall is a replacement for the now demolished Victory Hall.

The purpose-built facility will significantly improve options for students who want to be active, keep fit and stay healthy but may not be involved in organised or competitive sport. It will be a major contributor to getting 75% of the student population participating in sport and physical activity at least twice a week.

Building work is scheduled for completion in time for the autumn term.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Careers and Employability Centre, the Counselling and Disability Service and the Student Support Centre moved into the Bridgeman Building (formerly Admin 2) at the start of 2014. The move provides students with one central location they can visit to get support and information from Student Services. It should also make it easier for colleagues to identify the services provided by Student Services and to contact its relevant teams.

For more information about the Student Services team visit www.lboro.ac.uk/student-services
The Young Ones

Close to 100 Loughborough students have benefited from the University’s internship programme since it began in 2010.

TYPICALLY LASTING UP TO A YEAR, INTERNSHIPS ALLOW Loughborough graduates to gain valuable experience and training in a professional paid role at the University, boosting their chances of employment when they leave.

A wide range of academic and professional service departments including Human Resources, the Sports Development Centre, and School of Social, Political and Geographical Sciences have all appointed interns through the scheme.

Although from 2014 the central funding to kick start the programme will cease, HR and Staff Development will continue to provide central support and training. Individual schools and departments will be encouraged to establish new intern posts as well as continue established ones.

Alistair Exworthy

Alistair Exworthy is an intern lab technician in the Loughborough Materials Characterisation Centre (LMCC) in the Department of Materials. He works on a variety of materials analysis machines to support student projects and to run tests for commercial partners. Ali, who is on the placement year of his two-year Materials Engineering with Design course, believes his internship will help him stand out to future employers.

"By spending a year in employment and gaining my Diploma in Industrial Studies (DIP) with these employers I’m more than just a straight student," he said. "I’m working on a range of projects for engineering firms, and by the end of the year I’ll be trained to use more specialist machines. This experience will be invaluable for the first two years of my degree and should boost my employment prospects when I graduate."

Each internship runs for a maximum of six weeks.

Lauren Collier

Lauren’s decision to apply for an internship in 2012 gave her the stepping stone to a career in HR. She is now on Mitchells & Butlers’ corporate graduate scheme, specialising in HR. Mitchells & Butlers is the UK’s largest operator of restaurants, pubs and bars.

“When I applied for the Loughborough post I didn’t know much about HR, but my previous experiences were a good fit with the position and I knew I wanted to work with people."

“During the year I worked across as many different functions within the company, from a wide range of people them across the University including senior management, and studied for a professional qualification. My experience really set me apart when applying for the role with Mitchells & Butlers – they were really impressed by how much responsibility I’d been given and the wide range of experience I’d had during the year."

Morayo Olumide-Diyani

Chemical engineering graduate Morayo works in the Planning Office as strategy and planning intern. Her role sees her analyse a wide variety of data to help inform University strategy and decisions.

“I really enjoyed the data aspects of my degree, so when the internship came up in the Planning Office I was eager for the opportunity to develop and to learn more about the area,” she said. “I’ve already been exposed to a broad range of tasks that will be applicable to a variety of jobs, but this role has definitely opened my eyes to pursuing a career in data analysis and management.”

Appoint an intern in 2014

It’s not too late to appoint an intern for the next academic year. Jobs are typically advertised up until April, with appointments made late May ready to start in August.

For more information, support documents and comprehensive manager guidelines visit the graduate internship website or call HR advisor on 228029 or 228021.
Every year the Teaching Centre offers teaching and learning support staff grants of up to £3,000 for new initiatives and research projects to improve quality of teaching at Loughborough.

Since 2005, the Teaching Innovation Awards (TIAs) have supported 75 projects from initiatives exploring the use of new technologies in teaching to those involving students as active participants in learning.

This year, a fund of £20,000 is available for new projects that directly benefit students or provide support to staff who teach students or support their broader learning experience.

Lego-based learning

Thomas Jun and Tom Page from the Loughborough Design School were successful in their application for funding in 2012 to support a Lego-based learning initiative for ergonomics and design students. TIA funding enabled the duo to develop and pilot a Lego Mindstorms programmable robotics kit-based curriculum. Second-year ergonomics and design students who participated in the piloting found the sessions engaging and very helpful for better understanding the principles of team-based integrated system design. The Loughborough Design School is now looking at rolling it out as a regular feature of the teaching calendar.

The principles of team-based integrated system design.

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Research informed teaching AWARDS

Last year the Teaching Centre introduced the Research-informed Teaching Awards – the RI-TAs to celebrate academics who have demonstrated excellence in research-informed teaching.

Up to four RI-TAs are available each year, and recipients are chosen via a University selection process.

Applicants should have been involved in teaching and research at Loughborough for at least four years and must be able to demonstrate how their research-informed teaching practice has impacted positively on the quality of the student learning experience.

Making the most of feedback

In 2011 LSU Student Voice received funding to develop and test a resource to help students make the most of feedback. Earlier research carried out by Student Voice showed many students were dissatisfied with the feedback they received on their work, and the service was keen to help students recognise different forms of feedback and use it to inform and improve future work.

Head of Student Voice Emma Dresser (pictured) teamed up with Robert Harland from School of the Arts to design and test a resource to help students make the most of feedback.

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The road to review

The strategy has evolved over the last 12 months and Fidelma Hannah, the director of planning, has been part of the team at the core of its development. “We began by looking at the progress we’ve made since 2006, when the previous strategy was introduced, and assessed where the university is now,” explains Fidelma. “We also considered how the rapidly-changing higher education environment might have an impact on us both now and in the future.” Extensive consultation also allowed staff, students and alumni, external organisations and University partners to have their say about what they think the University’s priorities and goals should be for the next phase of its development. “We talked to over 400 staff and more than 200 students and got some great feedback,” says Fidelma. “This strategy has really been shaped by those who’ll play an important part in delivering it.”

What’s in the strategy?

The strategy outlines what the University aims to achieve in the coming years and how it will work. It will shape decisions and the day-to-day activity of all its Schools and Professional Services sections. Building Excellence lies at the heart of the strategy. Supporting this are four central pillars: investing in our staff; Educating for success; Growing capacity and influence; and Raising standards and aspiration, which will guide the University’s activity for the next ten years. The University’s core functions of research, teaching, enterprise and sport are embedded in each of these themes. The strategy also includes five ambitions for the University by 2020:

- A distinctive international reputation for excellence
- A life-shaping student experience
- Outstanding partnerships to deliver social, economic and cultural prosperity
- A culture of delivering excellence in all that we do
- One outstanding university: two vibrant campuses

To read the full strategy, go to lboro.ac.uk/university-strategy

What the strategy means to me

Yinghui Gilbert, Senior International Officer in the International Office, took part in one of the focus groups, held in February last year. Raising the University’s profile overseas, enhancing its links with global universities and organisations, and recruiting high quality international students are key elements of the new strategy.

“As a staff member working at the forefront of international student recruitment, the new strategy assures me that internationalisation is regarded as one of our key priorities,” says Yinghui. “I have already felt the benefit, as the Vice Chancellor’s recent visit to China generated some fantastic publicity, which helped to improve awareness of Loughborough in the country. “The challenge for me and my colleagues who are engaged in recruitment activities overseas is how best to capitalise on such momentum in order to realise the University’s international aspirations.”

The Vice Chancellor explains:

Loughborough’s been quite successful over the last 10 years, so why did we need to review our strategy?

We have made outstanding progress, and we should be proud of the University’s many achievements, but as we move into the future, we can’t afford to be complacent.

Over the last five years, the higher education sector has experienced some major changes. For instance, the Government has reduced the amount of funding it allocates to universities. Student fees have been increased, and research funding is being increasingly concentrated in areas that are world-leading.

We can’t afford to ignore these changes. The higher education environment is becoming more and more competitive and this means we’ve been able to take stock of where we are and ask ourselves which directions we now need to be travelling in if we’re to stay ahead of the pack.

The four key pillars of the strategy are interesting. Why have we chosen to focus on those rather than the more traditional research, teaching and enterprise?

I think one of the great things about Loughborough is the fact that our research, teaching and enterprise are so closely interlinked. Lectures, for instance, are informed by cutting-edge research, and our research leads to pioneering innovation.

We wanted to capture that direct interaction, and if we’re going to have two key pillars I don’t think we’d have been able to do that as effectively.

We’ve also included sport alongside research, teaching and enterprise because it’s part of the fabric of Loughborough and one of the things that makes us distinct from other universities. That’s something that our students value, and it’s something that’s repeatedly been highlighted to us in feedback.

The ten-year ambitions are quite ambitious. Are we going to achieve them?

They’re certainly challenging, but I think they’re achievable. We’re going to keep our strategy under constant review. That’s why we’ve developed it as an online publication, so it gives us the flexibility to keep developing it and when we need to. To keep developing it and when we need to, it will be a living document rather than a snapshot in time that becomes rapidly out of date.

Overall, I think the strategy provides us with an exciting framework that will guide us through the next years of our development.

So how will we translate the strategy into action?

We’re developing a new planning process to support the delivery of our strategy and, as part of this, we’ll be working with Schools and Professional Services to outline how they will contribute.
Dr Camilla Gilmore was awarded her five-year Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellowship in July. Her research (which got underway at the start of the year) aims to understand what affects children’s early mathematics learning, which is important as many young people fail to learn the numeracy skills they need in primary school.

She will be working with preschool children, following them as they start school to try to understand what skills and experiences provide the best foundation for learning maths in school.

“Previous work that we have done at the MEC has identified several factors that are related to children’s mathematics learning, for example children’s understanding of quantity, how much they notice numbers in the world around them, their general thinking and reasoning skills and their attitudes to mathematics.”

Dr Gilmore explains.

“I will be looking at how these factors combine and play a role in the preschool period and how children’s experiences, such as time in formal childcare, also affect later mathematics learning.”

Once Dr Gilmore has established how these factors influence mathematics learning in the early years she will explore whether simple games and activities can help children and improve early mathematics learning. Throughout the project she will be working closely with nurseries, preschools, schools and parents.

The University’s Mathematics Education Centre (MEC) is at the forefront of national and international developments in the teaching, learning and support of mathematics and statistics in Higher Education. Its ground breaking research has established the Centre as a world leader in its field and resulted in the award of Royal Society Research Fellowships to three of its staff – a big achievement for a relatively small research group.

news@atboro went to meet the Research Fellows and find out more about their research interests.

Dr Ian Jones started his Royal Society Shuttleworth Educational Research Fellowship in 2008. He is a member of the Royal Society Vision Committee for Science and Mathematics Education, and Secretary of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics.

Dr Matthew Inglis started his five-year Royal Society Worshipful Company of Actuaries Educational Fellowship in 2010. The Fellowship has enabled him to undertake detailed research into the provision of mathematics education in secondary schools, and look at ways of boosting young people’s level of understanding of mathematics.

One of his flagship projects is to examine the theory that studying mathematics helps to develop your general thinking skills. It is a belief supported by many education experts who argue that studying mathematics should be compulsory until the age of 18.

Dr Inglis conducted the first ever direct test of the idea that studying mathematics develops reasoning skills useful both in and outside the classroom, by comparing groups of mathematics and non-mathematics students from across England. They were tracked across their sixth form studies on a series of reasoning measures to determine whether the two groups’ development in this area diverged. To investigate whether different mathematics curricula impact upon reasoning skills in different ways, the project team also conducted a similar study in Cyprus. Here, in contrast to England, all students continue with some form of maths study until they are 18 – either at a ‘low intensity’ level or a ‘high intensity’ level.

“Initial findings for the research do suggest that studying mathematics develops reasoning skills beyond those directly taught in the classroom,” Dr Inglis explains.

“However the exact nature and extent of these skills is not well understood and my work in this area is continuing.”

Dr Jones is currently researching how expert judgment can be used to improve the educational assessment of mathematical thinking and learning. His focus is on the highly-valued but difficult to define aspects of learning mathematics, such as problem solving, sustained reasoning and deep understanding that evade traditional assessment approaches.

“My results so far show that an approach called comparative judgement, which is based on experts choosing between pairs of student work rather than marking them according to traditional methods, offers promise in this direction, and we are continuing to examine this further,” Dr Jones explains.

Other projects Dr Jones is involved in include: applying the comparative judgement approach to the comparability of different GCSE exams; investigating A level standards over time; assessing problem solving in GCSE mathematics; measuring understanding of mathematical concepts including derivatives, fractions and significance testing; and new approaches to assessing practical work in science.
Kiwi coaches mark new era for Loughborough Lightning

Loughborough Lightning have appointed Marg Foster and Shelley Norns as their new coaching team for the 2014 26th Netball SuperLeague season.

Head coach Marg and her assistant Shelley have been recruited from New Zealand, where they have coached at the highest level including in the highly regarded ANZ Netball Championship. The coaching appointments, and plans to bring in players from New Zealand, mark the beginning of a new era for Lightning who are hoping to bounce back after a disappointing campaign in 2013.

Lightning began their 2014 26th Netball SuperLeague season with a home fixture against Yorkshire Jets on 1 February. Tickets for all home matches are available via the Loughborough Lightning website www.loughboroughlightning.com.

Loughborough athletes selected for Glasgow 2014

To coincide with 300 days to go until the start of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, Scotland selected a number of Loughborough-based athletes to represent their team.

On the track, Sports Management student Guy Learmonth has been selected for the 800 metres alongside Information Science graduate Laura Whittle (5000m) and Loughborough-based athlete Eilish McColgan (3000m steeplechase).

Also selected is London 2012 Paralympic Games silver medallist Libby Clegg. The former Loughborough College student will compete in the T12 100m.

In the field hammer thrower Mark Dry and high jumper Jayne Nisbet, both Loughborough-based, have also been selected.

The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games will commence on Wednesday 23 July, featuring 17 sports over 11 days of competition.

Euro hockey comes to Loughborough

The University has been announced as host venue of hockey’s Women’s European Club Trophy.

The event will run from 6-9 June and will feature teams from Belgium, Ireland, Spain, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, as well as local hosts Leicester Ladies.

Ben Abene, Business Development Manager at Loughborough Sport, said:

“We are excited to welcome Europe’s eight leading ladies teams to our campus. The competition will utilise our hockey playing facility which has identical properties to the surfaces used for hockey in London 2012. It will be a great opportunity for supporters across Leicestershire to watch first class ladies hockey and show their support for Leicester Ladies Hockey.”

Ticket and schedule details will be available from mid-February.

Loughborough named University of the Year for Sport

Loughborough has been named University of the Year for Sport by The Times Good University Guide 2014.

Loughborough topped the league in a special supplement focusing on the best universities for sport, and recognising success achieved in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) championship.

Director of Sport Peter Keen said:

“Sport is in the DNA of this University and it is what we have built our reputation on. So for me this award validates all that we do to ensure that our students have a life shaping experience through sport.”

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For the University, having the England team choosing Loughborough as their World Cup base builds on the momentum generated from hosting Team GB last year prior to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Ben Abene, Business Development Manager at Loughborough Sport said:

“We were delighted to attract the England team to Loughborough, and support them with their preparations throughout Rugby League World Cup 2013.

‘By hosting our national team for such a significant global sporting event further highlights how we are becoming the perfect choice as a training centre and preparation base for elite sport.”

English’s Rugby League World Cup 2013 campaign ends in heartbeat

There was heartache for England in a thrilling Rugby League World Cup 2013 semi-final, when Shaun Johnson’s conversion with the last kick of the match gave New Zealand a 20-18 victory.

The England team were based at Loughborough during the World Cup, staying at Burghley Court and using sports facilities on campus, including the Powerbase gym and Holmewell Park pitches.

James Roby, St. Helens and England rugby league player, said:

“The facilities here are fantastic and world class, I can safely say the gym that we use is the best one I’ve ever been in. We’ve got the pitch right outside the hotel and the food is always good. Everything we needed as a player to prepare as best we can for a big tournament is here.”

During their stay on campus the England team hosted an open training session and a coaching master class attended by staff, students and the wider Rugby League community in the region.

Philippine national football squad trains at Loughborough

Loughborough has played host to the Philippine Under 11 boys’ football team, and supported their long-term goal of qualifying for the 2019 FIFA Under 17 World Cup.

The British Council, in partnership with the Philippine Football Federation, sponsored the three-week education and sports training camp which included coaching from the University’s football programme and sports education classes based at Loughborough College.

During their visit the squad also played matches against local teams from Quorn JFC, Loughborough Dynamo Juniors, Frizington Athletic, Burton Albion Academy and Leicester City Academy.

Student duo play for legendary Baa-Baas

Current Loughborough Students’ Rugby Union players Alex Davis and James Freeman were selected to play for the legendary Barbarians team this autumn.

The pair were the club’s iconic back and white jersey in the annual Remembrance Day rugby match against a Combined Services XV, who were the victors by 34-28.

“It’s pretty good to say that I’ve played for the Barbarians, and I’m very proud to have accomplished it at such a young age”, said James, who also captained the Loughborough Students’ Rugby Union side. “It was a great experience, a really good three days spent with other players from all over the country.

“The Combined Services were a good team who had a lot of Fijian and international players, so it was a good test and it was a big match played in the right way.

“Being at Loughborough certainly paved the way for the call-up. Being here helps to showcase yourself and open up such opportunities.”

The players were also joined by the Students’ backs coach Scott Berrnad, who was part of the Barbarians coaching team for the match.

The Barbarians call up for the Loughborough trio is the latest accolade for the club, who are having a fine season in their second year of playing in National League One, the third tier of English rugby.
February
12 February, 7.30pm
Heath Quartet in concert
Martin Hall
www.arts.lboro.ac.uk

19 February, 5pm
Inaugural lecture –
Professor Uwe Thiele
(Maths)
Stewart Mason Building
www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

26 February,
12.30-4.30pm
Technicians’ Conference
Burleigh Court
Book via my.HR

26 February, 3pm
EDEN Flix: Objectified
www.flix.org.uk/eden-flix

March
2 March, 9.30am
Loughborough Campus
5K Run

5 March, 3.30pm
VC’s staff briefing
S Building

7 March, 9.30am
VC’s staff briefing
Hazlerigg Council Chamber

April
9 April, 5pm
Inaugural lecture –
Professor Sergey Saveliev
(Physics)
Wolfson (T003)
www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

30 April, 5pm
Inaugural lecture –
Professor Karen O’Reilly
(Social Sciences)
Stewart Mason Building
www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

May
7 May, 1pm
Lunchtime Concert –
The Sterling Trio
Cope Auditorium FREE
www.arts.lboro.ac.uk

in the NEWS...

Air crash comment
Aviation expert David Gleaves (Civil and Building
Engineering) provides expert comment on the Glasgow
helicopter crash which killed 10 people.

Sky News, ITN, Channel 4 News, BBC News, ITV
Daybreak, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5, BBC Radio
Scotland

Driving down phone use
Dr Andrew Morris and colleagues from the Loughborough
Design School help a BBC journalist find out just how
distracting a mobile phone can be when driving, in
response to a national call to ban mobile use in cars
altogether.

BBC East Midlands Today

A life-saving antenna
Prof Yiannis Vardaxoglou (Electronic, Electrical and
Systems Engineering) is working with researchers at
Nottingham Trent to develop an antenna that can be
embroidered into safety clothes and tracked by rescue
teams.

BBC East Midlands Today, Loughborough Echo, The
Engineer, New Electronics, Electronics Weekly

Rising cost of living
Research led by Donald Hirsch in the Centre for Research
in Social Policy (CRSP) has resulted in the annual Living
Wage rate increasing by around £400 per year.

Daily Mail, The Independent, Times Higher
Education, BBC East Midlands Today, ITV Central

Kicking out hooliganism
Dr Jamie O’Leland (Social Sciences) is interviewed as part
of a 5 Live Investigates feature looking at the prevalence
of bullying and abuse by adults at youth football
matches.

BBC Radio 5 Live

Too many men drive tired
A report from road safety charity Brake has revealed
almost half of men surveyed admitted to head-nodding
at the wheel. Dr Louise Reyner and Prof Jim Horne
(School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences) provided
expert comment on the dangers of driving tired and how
to avoid it.

Sky News, BBC Online, BBC Radio 5, BBC Radio 4,
ITV Central, BBC Three Counties Radio, yahoo.com,
local radio stations and various online news sites

For more events and further details see:
www.lboro.ac.uk/events