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Loughborough is 11th in latest University Guide

Loughborough has leapt to 11th place in the latest edition of The Sunday Times University Times, confirming its place among the UK’s leading higher education institutions.

The Guide, published in September, is compiled using a number of criteria including student satisfaction, teaching excellence, research quality, students’ degree results and graduate employment levels.

In the individual subject tables, Loughborough was rated top ten in fifteen of its subject areas. They are: Finance and Accounting, Management, Medical Science and Pharmacy, Sports Science (all 2nd); Civil, Chemical and Other Engineering, Architecture, Building and Planning, Human and Social Geography, Electronic and Electrical Engineering (all 4th); Mechanical Engineering (5th); Media Studies, Communication and Information Studies (both 7th); Sociology, Social Policy and Anthropology (8th); Technology (9th); and Art and Design (10th).

“We are delighted to have risen to 11th in the 2012 Sunday Times University Guide,” said Professor Shirley Pearce. “It is recognition of Loughborough’s all-round strength, reflecting the quality of our education, our first-class research and the exceptional student experience we provide at the University.”

FM and imago Services merge

Facilities Management (FM) and Imago Services have merged to bring together management of the University’s land, buildings, accommodation and catering. The new department will be led by Andrew Burgess (Director of Facilities Management), with support from David Fullford (Deputy Director for Projects), Andy Sweeney (Assistant Director for Facilities Services) and Debbie Grant, who will become Assistant Director for Imago Services. The merger will allow for the new service to provide better value for money, improved efficiency and increased flexibility to respond to the needs of students. A Project Management Group will monitor progress towards achieving these benefits, and key customers will be invited to take part in a consultation process on how the services will be offered in future.

“The department has recently relocated to the Old Innovation Centre – now the IM building. See the campus developments feature on pages 7-8 for more details. Imago Limited, the commercial arm of the organisation that also manages the conference centre facilities, is not affected by the merger.”

Staff volunteers claim cash for good causes

This Autumn staff volunteers helped 12 Charnwood groups attract a University grant to fund special projects and equipment.

Just over £5,000 was awarded from the Inside Out Fund – one of four categories that make up the overall Community Donations Fund.

Groups and projects to receive support include Thorpe Acre Pre School, Hurn Hey Hindustani, Haddon Way Residents and Syonan Town FC.

The Donations Fund will be in operation again for the 2011/2012 academic year. Details of the funds and deadlines for submission of bids are available on the University website. See www.lboro.ac.uk/community for details and more information.

Staff rewarded for long service

Volunteering opportunities on campus

30 year anniversary for University Library

LUS’ Value for Money projects

IMCRC completes research programme

Get active with new pilot

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Celebrating the Schofield way

The Vice Chancellor hosted the inaugural Schofield Society dinner in the Council Chamber in October. The Society includes 68 Founding Members comprised of alumni, friends and staff who have made a charitable donation of £1,000 or more to the University.

The Society raised in excess of £961,000 (including Gift Aid) in its first year, providing additional funds for student scholarships and hardship funds, building refurbishment, and G2011. “This first annual dinner enabled us to thank our Founding Members,” said G2011 Director Ron Gray. “We look forward to welcoming others in the future and increasing the charitable funds received by the University.”

To find out more about the Society contact Ron Gray on cs.gray@lboro.ac.uk

Recruitment fair success

The Careers and Employability Centre hosted the UK’s largest one day university careers fair in October. 140 exhibitors and over 5,000 students turned out for Loughborough’s annual Graduate Recruitment and Placement Fair. Additional attractions included four high performance cars from Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin, and a pair of construction vehicles from Caterpillar Engines. Imago also provided a BBQ and mini shop.

“Exhibitors were so impressed by the high volume of quality students attending the event that many reported this was the best careers fair they had ever attended, and it added excellent value to their recruitment campaign,” explained Employer Liaison Manager Louise Donaghy.

“"The large number of top employers from such a wide variety of sectors that attended is a real testament to how sought-after and employable Loughborough students and graduates really are. This is a wonderful achievement of which the University can be really proud.” For further details and for a list of companies exhibiting contact Louise on ldonaghy@lboro.ac.uk

12 inaugurals for 2012

A series of 12 inaugural lectures has been confirmed for 2012, starting with Prof Graham Matthews from the Department of Information Science on 18 January. The lectures run throughout the year and are an opportunity for new professors to showcase their research and expertise. Staff, students and the local community are welcome to attend. For the full programme see www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

LU gets its Green Gown

Loughborough’s sustainability efforts have been recognised at this year’s Green Gown Awards. The University’s It’s Better OFF campaign beat seven other shortlisted universities to the Promoting Positive Behaviour award, which recognises staff engagement activities promoting positive behaviour change.

The Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives at higher education institutions across the UK. Sustainability Manager Jo Hasbury has praised staff for their ongoing support of It’s Better OFF.

It’s Better OFF.
Happy Birthday to The Link

Loughborough-based Olympic hurdler Will Sharman has helped the University’s The Link Hotel celebrate its first birthday.

The anniversary was marked in a week-long celebration that included a family fun day, the launch of a Sunday carvery in the hotel restaurant, and a canapés and champagne evening where Will was star guest and speaker.

“The first anniversary of the hotel is a big occasion for the team, especially for those who worked here before image took over,” said Keith Barber, Manager of The Link. “Since the refurbishment and relaunch last September, we’ve had fantastic feedback from staff, guests and residents – even Will who’d been here years ago, couldn’t believe it was the same place.

“The celebrations have been a great opportunity to look back at what we’ve achieved and Will was the perfect speaker to remind us how proud we should be of Loughborough University and what we have to offer here.”

Earlier in the year, The Link achieved a three star status from VisitBritain, demonstrating how far the hotel has come since being acquired by imago in 2010.

Two new trucks for FM fleet

Two new electric trucks have been added to the University fleet. The utility vehicles, which have been jointly purchased by Facilities Management and imago Services, can travel up to 50 miles on a single battery charge, and use around 4p per mile in electricity; a saving of up to 80% compared to a diesel van.

The trucks are regularly used by the grounds and gardens team, and by imago to transport goods and equipment for conferences and events, and collect waste and recycling.

Silver for environmental progress

Loughborough has received a silver award for implementing its Environmental Management System (EMS). The award, from EMS provider EcoSystem, recognises progress made establishing an environmental policy and setting objectives for improvements in areas such as waste and recycling, energy and water, emissions and discharge, travel and transport, and building and refurbishment.

Two new electric trucks have been added to the University fleet.

Short films promote student support

Four new short films covering a range of student support topics are now available on the University’s YouTube channel.

The informative programmes cover careers, health and welfare, accommodation, and academic support, and are presented by students from the English and Drama Department.

The films provide a valuable insight for current and potential students and have been posted online so they are available for anyone who may wish to use them. Access Loughborough’s YouTube site from the University home page or at:

www.youtube.com/lborouniversity

Liftshare week sparks car share increase

The sustainability team saw a 10% boost to the University’s Car Share membership thanks to a series of events during National Liftshare Week in October.

23 new members and three new BUDi teams signed up to reduce their carbon emissions and save money. The new teams will save 4.6 tonnes of carbon, or £2,994.

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The sustainability team saw a 10% boost to the University’s Car Share Scheme membership thanks to a series of events during National Liftshare Week in October.

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25 years’ service

Thirty two members of staff have received their Long Service Awards which are presented upon completion of 25 years’ employment at the University. Staff reaching the landmark this year come from 18 different academic and service departments, with Facilities Management and the Wolfson School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering each having five members of staff make the milestone.

Recipients were presented with a certificate by the Vice Chancellor and were invited to choose a commemorative gift up to the value of £150. Congratulations to:

Academic Registry: Dr Brigitte Vale; Aeronautical & Automotive Engineering: Dr Jon Carrotte; Chemical Engineering: Mr Graham Moody, Prof Richard Holdich; Computer Science: Richard Mee, Patrick Holligan; Design School: John Richardon, Dr Val Mitchell; Electronic & Electrical Engineering: David Waymenn; Enterprise Office: Jon Walker; Facilities Management: Graham Harper, Margaret Newton, Browen Horton, Sheila Spencer, Jethendra Fatamia; Finance: Jacqueline North; Human Resources: Sue Bruce; Imago Services: Bev Squires; IT Services: David Watson; Materials: Geoffrey Wilcox, David Insley; Physics: Bharat Chavda, John Samson; Politics History and International Relations: David Berry, Pauline Dainty; School of the Arts: Jim Gladwin; School of Business & Economics: Dr Andrew Higson; Wolfson School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering: Dr David Kerr, Prof Colin Garner, David Brittton, Paul King, Sean Mitchell.

Ten years of distance learning

The University’s Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology (CREST) – based in the School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering – has been celebrating the tenth anniversary of its distance learning course.

The Renewable Energy Systems Technology MSc, which is also available as a one-year full-time course, attracts students from across the world. It offers people a unique way to study for a Masters, with the opportunity to learn on campus in block taught modules and off campus with videoed lectures, live online tutorials, virtual group project work and active internet discussion boards.

The course is internationally recognised for its focus on wind, solar, bioenergy, hydro, tidal and wave technologies, as well as the integration of renewable energy into existing energy networks. It is accredited by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) and the Energy Institute as further learning towards Chartered Engineer status.

Course coordinator Dr Richard Blanchard said: “We are incredibly proud of how the distance learning course has developed over the last ten years, creating a global community of students from more than 20 countries.”

Art links with sport for Radar series

Art and sport science have been brought together as part of a research-based series of projects from the University’s contemporary arts and sports programme Radar. Artist Revital Cohen has worked with sports psychologist David Fletcher and a Loughborough gymnast to create a series of photographs exploring mental preparation.

Photos will be on display in the Design School from 16 December to 30 January. This commission is the latest part of the Human Condition/ing series.

See www.arts.lboro.ac.uk/radar for details.

LAU is atttwitter

Follow the University on its official twitter pages @lborouniversity and keep an eye out for its official Facebook pages due to be launched in the new year.

@lborouniversity

Business boost for Art and Design graduates

A new initiative from the Enterprise Office is helping the University’s art and design graduates take their first steps in business.

The Studio, which was launched in October, has been set up to help graduates from the School of the Arts and the Design School develop their ideas into commercially viable products, services or social enterprises.

Residents of The Studio have access to the University’s academic resources and facilities, as well as its mentoring, business support and marketing expertise.

The Studio currently houses ten recent graduate companies that hope to launch a number of innovative product designs and businesses, including Avo – a self-maintaining fish tank, and ASAP – a battery-powered rescue craft for life savers.

For more information on The Studio and its tenants, visit www.lboro.ac.uk/thestudio

New Centre for Professional Work and Careers

The School of Business and Economics has launched its Centre for Professional Work and Careers to explore changes in traditional working environments.

Led by Prof Laurie Cohen, areas of research include the offshore outsourcing of professional work, mobility and remote working arrangements amongst knowledge workers, and career meaning making, as well as professional work and careers in entrepreneurial organisations and the health sector.

To find out more visit www.lboro.ac.uk/cpwc

Awards & honours

Dean of the School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering Professor Yiannis Vardaxoglou has been named a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Maths student Ricardo Briandega has received Loughborough’s premier student award, the Sir Robert Martin University Prize.

Computer Science Graduate Andre Samuel was named one of Britain’s 100 most outstanding new black graduates by Future Leaders magazine.

Loughborough-led joint Engineering YES (Young Entrepreneurs Scheme) was highly commended in the Enterprise Champions category of the 2011 National Enterprise Educator Awards (NEEA).

School of the Arts sculptor John Atkin has been made an Honorary Fellow of the Chinese Sculpture Academy for his role in developing cultural initiatives between the UK and China.

Two Design School PhD students have won awards at international conferences. Yasmin Ousehara won the best student oral presentation at the International Conference on Environmental Ergonomics in Greece and Damien Fontenot was awarded the young investigator award at the Conference of the European College of Sports Science in Liverpool.

Holywell Park has been awarded the VenueVerdict Gold Standard Accreditation a second time for its consistent delivery of excellent customer service.

Product Design Engineering Student Matt Oakley has received JMS Student of the Year award for being the most outstanding industrial placement student in its Health Care business this year.

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Fresh look for campus

It was a busy summer for the Facilities Management team who oversaw the completion of a wide range of development, refurbishment and landscaping projects across the campus.

RUTLAND BUILDING

Refurbishment of the Rutland Building was completed on schedule ready for more than 150 staff from the Teaching Centre, Staff Development, Academic Registry, Enterprise Office and Research Office to move in by early November.

As well as new office space and a smart new reception for Academic Registry enquiries, the building boasts a suite of new training rooms for Staff Development and the Teaching Centre, providing a hub for professional development activities on campus. Architects have ensured many of the heritage elements of the 1930s building have been retained.

NEW TEACHING SPACES

Students returned this autumn to three new lecture theatres catering for a total of 670 students.

The Design School’s stylish new lecture theatre has been created to cater for group working as well as traditional lectures, with L-shaped seating providing a multi-purpose teaching and learning space.

The former Quorn Lecture Theatre in the EHB has reached new heights after it was extended into the floor above. The tiered seating caters for up to 400 students.

Poor quality storage and office space in James France has been converted to provide a 120 seat tiered lecture theatre in an area of very high demand.

James France Walk has also had a makeover. Walkways between the buildings have been resurfaced to improve disabled access, cycle parking has been increased and the James France Building has been re-clad in insulated aluminium panels. Additional seating and new landscaping has been introduced along the walkway and students, staff and visitors will soon be able to pick up outdoor Wi-Fi in the surrounding areas.

HAZLERIGG LAWN

The Hazlerigg lawn has been transformed to provide a focal point near the main entrance and in front of two of the University’s most photographed buildings. A new lawn has been laid with pathways providing clear routes from Central Park through to the Students’ Union and from the Student Village across to East Park.

A planting scheme will provide colour and interest throughout the year, and benches have been fitted around the perimeter for passers-by to sit and enjoy the new surroundings.

DESIGN SCHOOL BUILD COMPLETE

Work has been completed on the University’s striking new £21 million Loughborough Design School.

The 7,760m² building includes innovative teaching and lecture space, workshops, offices, research laboratories, design studios, computer and prototyping suites and areas for display and interaction. It brings together staff from the Department of Design and Technology, the Ergonomics Safety Research Institute (ESRI) and the Department of Ergonomics, who are now all part of the School.

Professor Tony Hodgson, Dean of the Loughborough Design School, said: “The new building provides the perfect home for the School. It will become a significant centre for the design of ‘real world’ products, services and systems and further enhance the University’s position as a world leader in the field of design.”

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

VILLAGE COURT

The original Elvin Richards blocks built in the mid 70s are being refurbished to phases to complete the self-catered Village Court. 109 of the 386 bedrooms have been completed with the rest to follow in February 2012.

HASLEGRAVE

Refurbishment of the Haslegrave Building’s upper floors remains on track for completion by June 2012. The top three floors have been redesigned and refurbished to provide central accommodation for Computer Science. IT Services have largely completed their move to Holywell Park.

SHOWCASE PITCH

First class facilities for the 1st XI football team and changing rooms catering for the Holywell pitches will be complete by spring 2012. The stadium will provide space for 3,000 spectators including covered seats and social facilities for up to 300 people.
Get involved

There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities available to staff throughout the year via the various projects and initiatives based on and around campus. Here are just a few ways you can get involved in 2012.

Fruit Routes needs you

The new Fruit Routes project kicked off this autumn with around 150 people attending the foraging walks, cider and wine making workshop and artists talk.

A steady trickle of students, staff and locals dropped into the shed during launch week for a cup of fruit tea or campus apple juice, or to take part in pressing of the large number of foraged apples and pears.

The project identified that many people are interested in foraging and harvesting and are keen to volunteer as Friends of the Fruit Route. A lot of people are unsure what to do with the fruit they harvest and a future aim is to provide recipes to help people learn how to preserve and use the local crop.

Fruit Routes is a public participation project so its potential is in the hands of the students, staff and local residents who want to get involved. Here are some ways you can take part:

- Become a Fruit Route tree friend
- Plant new trees
- Be part of an active Fruit Routes group in partnership with sister project Landscaping Our Society
- Enlist as a Fruit Routes Group – Foraging, Harvesting, Planting, Sharing

Fruit Routes Group – Foraging, Harvesting, Planting, Sharing

Be part of an active Fruit Routes group in partnership with sister project Landscaping Our Society. Group activities include foraging or free food walks across campus at different times of the year, harvesting trips to harvest existing fruit and nut trees on and around campus, cooking with found produce from campus and the surrounding area, and seasonal feasts and creative events linking local food, sustainability and landscape.

A number of productive fruit trees and foraging opportunities already exist on campus and these are integrated into the new Fruit Routes project. The Shed is available as a hub for these activities. The Fruit Route can also be used as an outdoor venue for arts and creative projects.

To sign up to any of these initiatives contact artist and project deviser Anne-Marie Culhane on mail@amculhane.co.uk

Fruit Routes is being funded and developed alongside the University’s Landscape Master Plan, a Facilities Management project that encompasses the whole campus. It is intended that Fruit Routes provide corridors and pathways that link sites and people in a dynamic way with their environment and offer possibilities for fruit harvesting and foraging, outdoor learning and cultural events as well as enhancing local biodiversity.

Follow Fruit Routes at fruitroutesloughborough.wordpress.com

Plant new trees

A group of volunteers is needed to help plant around 300 new fruit and nut trees in February 2012. A planting weekend has been organised for 18-19 February (from 12.30-4pm each day) and will be led by Fruit Routes artist Anne-Marie Culhane and the University’s Grounds and Gardens team. Soup and refreshments will be provided for all volunteers and no previous experience of tree planting is required. An outdoor midwinter celebration is also planned once all the trees are in place.

Become a Fruit Route tree friend

People are needed to keep an eye on the trees once they are planted. Fruit trees require minimal care; occasional watering for new trees if the summers are very hot and some intermittent pruning in the formative years. Volunteers can care for a cluster of trees on the Fruit Route or even just one tree. Again, no prior knowledge of tree care is required.

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ConseRvation evenTs

A series of conservation events take place each year to help maintain the University’s woodland areas. In addition to the Fruit Routes tree planting, the next event is:

Holywell Woods Conservation, 15 February 2012/12.30-4pm

Led by Loughborough’s senior arborist Mark Hillman and his colleagues, the event will provide an introduction to coppicing, sycamore pulling and the creation of habitat piles.

Email environment@lboro.ac.uk to sign up.

Become a 2012 Medal Maker

The volunteering programme set up to support Loughborough’s Olympic activities is now looking for students, staff, and members of the local community to formally apply.

“Medal Makers” - developed by the University and Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport, will recruit volunteers to provide assistance to the preparation camps for Team GB and Japan, who will be based on campus in the build up to the London 2012 Games.

Over 600 people have already registered an expression of interest for the scheme. However with the formal application process now live, there is still an opportunity to apply for these unique volunteering roles.

Information about how to apply can be found on the website at: www.lboro.ac.uk/london2012/getting-involved/medal-makers/
In 2011 the University Library celebrated its 30th year in the Pilkington building.

The library in numbers

- **13,985 downloads** of the sports illustrated e-journal were made in 2010, making it the most popular of the year.
- **3,813 quotes** were annotated by the library's Enquiry Desk in 2010/11. The average was 364 requests per day.
- **71,120 people** visited the Library in 2010/11 - an average of 1,948 per day.

Three ways Pilkington celebrated 30 years

1. **1981 exhibition**
   
   A display of objects from the 1948 Olympic archives was created as part of the University's 30th year.

2. **Artist in Residence**
   
   Pilkington's first ever official artist, Jenny Clark, was appointed in 2011.

3. **Ad-lib**
   
   Ad-lib is the Library's blog, which is used to share newsworthy events and developments.

The library in numbers

- **£6,810** was the most expensive individual e-journal subscription paid for by the Library in 2011.
- **7,777 books** were issued in 2009/10 - an average of 866 books every day it was open.
- **265,759 downloads** of the Library's e-journals were made in 2010/11.
- **11.1%** of the people who borrowed from the Social Sciences department in 2010/11 were alumni.

Academic Services

- **This 12 strong team** includes the academic librarians who provide support to academic departments and deliver information, literacy and study skills sessions for students. Led by Ruth Stubbings, this team is also responsible for copyright.

Administration

- **Under the leadership of Service Development Manager Graham Walton**, the administrators manage the building, human resources, finance, health and safety and quality standards.

Archives

- **Archivist Jenny Clark** manages the University Archives, which hold written, photographic and other material relating to the University and its predecessor colleges, as well as papers of former staff and students. Find out more about Jenny’s life at Loughborough across the page.

Customer Services

- **Matt Cunningham** oversees the borrowing of books and the library enquiry service.

Support Services

- **Jeff Brown** heads up this team which is responsible for the purchase and organisation of all library materials and resources.

Ad-lib

- **Get the latest information on the Library’s collections, resources, services and events** from ad-lib, the Library’s blog, which is available to view at www.blog.lboro.ac.uk

Borrowing

- **University staff can access the University Library for free using their staff card and are able to borrow up to 30 items at a time.**

Alumni

- **Alumni are eligible to join the Library free of charge for the first five years, after which they can choose to pay an annual charge of £15 per year.**

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The Library has recently undertaken a rebranding exercise with help from Marketing and Communications and the Department of Information Science, so look out for its new look literature and website due out soon.

A work of fiction

- **Staff librarians are regularly asked by students and their parents if the Pilkington building is sinking after the Students’ Union magazine Pilkington was the most expensive individual e-journal subscription paid for by the Library in 2011. It was for Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical.**

Service excellence

- **The Library prides itself on its attention to customer service and staff satisfaction. This year it achieved the government-backed Customer Service Excellence Standard.**

Student feedback

- **The Library ordered an April Fools’ joke for another student, but then remembered that the library is responsible for the weight of its books.**

Jenny Clark, Archivist

Jenny had worked at the University Library for just six months when it moved to the Pilkington building. She was responsible for establishing the University’s first formal archives and has flourished under her care.

Jenny reflects on some of the changes she’s seen since the cafe opened.

“Technology has been the main driving force behind many of the changes at the Library over the last 30 years. When I first arrived there were still issuing books using paper tickets and stamps, but these days the books are scanned which speeds up the process and the administration behind it.

“I remember the arrival of the cafe as a big moment for the library. For years people had complained about the lack of a suitable facility to eat and drink – there was previously only a dingy back room – so to see the cafe come to fruition was actually quite a large achievement. It’s had many highlights over the years and we have met some fascinating people through working with the Library. I find it really interesting to see what our ex-students have achieved as well as the official documents.

“My favourite pieces are the 1948 Olympic torch and the collection of documents and photos relating to Commander Collins who organised the 1948 Olympic torch relay. I’m really interested in sport history and find the 1948 Olympic archives great. They are particularly relevant right now because of the London 2012 Olympic Games.”
By the end of the 2011-12 academic year, VFM will have delivered recurrent savings in excess of £1.5 million per year.

Many of the initial nine projects have already been implemented or are underway with more projects planned for the future in consultation with the Academic Leadership Team and Services Working Together group.

Not only will these projects achieve University-wide efficiencies, but they will also help departments deliver the 1% pay and 1.5% non-pay savings required in the forward five-year forecast.

1. PROCUREMENT

The University has reviewed much of its procurement processes to find ways of tightening its belt without sacrificing service or quality. Major savings have already been made by renegotiating insurance and reviewing the suppliers of temporary staff.

2. SIMPLIFICATION OF FINANCIAL PROCESSES

The purchasing card approval system CardCal has been replaced with a new programme that posts directly into Agresso (the University’s management system) which means transactions can be processed up to four weeks earlier than before and financial managers receive more accurate and relevant information.

3. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The new Schools structure came into effect on 1 August and is targeted to save £645,000 per year from 2011/12 onwards.

4. ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CARBON REDUCTION

The It’s Better OFF campaign has seen significant savings on gas and electricity. Not only does this achieve the VFM agenda, but also the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) targets which set the University the challenge of reducing its carbon footprint by 43% by 2020. Capital improvements such as the new Central Heating Plant are also key to attaining these goals.

5. SIMPLIFYING STUDENT ADMIN

Loughborough has launched a new facility for students to take control of their University registration and administration. In September, returning students were able to re-register with the University online, while freshers could access their email accounts and retrieve their IT credentials before arriving on campus so they were up and running as soon as they got here. Students can also now maintain certain personal details online throughout the year.

6. SIMPLIFICATION OF HR

An improved HR database i-brief went live in the summer and is being developed to enable employees to control their personal details, receive electronic payslips, and record Personal Development Reviews (PDRs) online. The system also allows improved sickness and holiday recording. In addition to this, a number of HR policies such as overtime and sickness have been updated.

7. CENTRAL TIMETABLING

Central timetabling was introduced this academic year to create better timetables for staff and students and improve the learning experience and use of teaching space. Previously the University’s 22 departments independently coordinated schedules for more than 50,000 teaching hours.

8. INTERNAL RECHARGING

Beneath the surface, significant reductions in administrative and support staff have been made. However, VFM has also maintained a number of services and telephone line rental, budgets for which have been passed to Facilities Management (FM) and IT Services.

9. i2012 PROJECTS

The 2012 infrastructure project represents a major investment in the University through 2016 and beyond. A robust new network and telephone platform is providing a foundation for a host of new services, such as security and building management, in addition to supporting research and teaching data needs.

The upgrade of the JANET connection to 10GB maintains Loughborough’s position in the very top echelon of research universities and a ‘mini-pod’ data centre has avoided millions of pounds in building costs and will make a significant carbon savings contribution.

The innovative ‘hybrid cloud’ approach mitigates risks associated with cloud IT services, and is attracting wide attention in the HE sector and beyond, and the new Windows 7 desktop service is providing a stable, flexible platform for academics and support staff, on or off campus.

Other VFM activities

- The VAT grouping for imago Services and Imago Limited has been revised to reduce costs of transactions between the University and its subsidiaries by 20%.

- Major reviews of the Sports Development Centre (SDC), Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) and Ergonomic and Safety Research Institute (ESRI) have led to substantial efficiency savings.
After ten hugely successful years the University’s Innovative Manufacturing and Construction Research Centre (IMCRC) has completed its research programme, leaving behind a legacy of ground-breaking academic work.

Launching in 2001, the purpose of the IMCRC was to provide a focal point for research excellence, collaborate actively with UK businesses and facilitate knowledge transfer and exploitation of research results. Since its inception it has delivered economic and social benefits, making a vital contribution to the UK economy.

Celebrating the lasting legacy of

IMCRC

Constructing a greener future

Tomorrow’s buildings will need to be much better at conserving energy. As well as the need to reduce CO2 emissions, clients are demanding lower running costs from heating, cooling and other systems.

Although designs some of the building work with excellent strategies for cutting energy use, buildings often disappoint once occupied compared with predicted performance. Professor Drut Bouchlaghem and his team have been finding out why. Their research could transform the industry – leading to better designs that work as they are supposed to in real life.

By reviewing data collected on the energy efficiency of different buildings and conducting user surveys, the team was able to prepare detailed energy performance reports on a number of case study school buildings for contractors and facilities managers to help them improve the energy consumption of their buildings and the comfort of the occupants.

Concrete creations

Architects are creating stunning buildings with intricate geometric forms, but may never progress beyond the designer’s screen because their complexity makes them too costly to construct.

New a revolutionary technique being developed at Loughborough could free architects from the restraints of current construction methods. A team led by Dr Richard Burnell has made dramatic progress using additive manufacturing—inspired technologies, where models created on-screen can be formed layer-by-layer into three-dimensional concrete objects.

The Freeform Construction project has shown how very complex buildings could be created at a much lower cost. Components could be created with ready-made internal voids and ducts for services, and with shapes that make the most of their insulating properties. Because each piece would be tailor-made, there would be virtually no waste.

The team’s work has generated interest worldwide.

Getting a grip on the ultimate sports equipment

Robots are widely used in the sports equipment industry to test clubs, rackets and bats, but they are often limited by a basic grip that does not represent that of the human hand.

Dr Jon Roberts and his team are on the brink of developing a robot golfer that can copy the nuances of an elite player’s technique, opening up exciting new possibilities.

By developing ways of measuring the three-dimensional motion of a golfer and using the data to programme a robot, they hope to build a new generation machine that can exactly emulate a player’s unique swing.

Robots could have equipment designed specifically for them, while amateurs could select clubs according to their swing type. The technology could巨大 benefit manufacturers, enabling them to improve design and increase levels of customisation. Golf equipment manufacturer Ping has already shown interest in taking the work forward.

Wearing someone else’s skin

How does it feel to be an older construction worker, suffering work-related illnesses that damage the quality of your everyday life?

Thanks to the work of Research Fellow Sharon Cook and colleagues, including John Richardson, Professor Akhtar Gaba and occupational therapist Karen Walmsey, anyone can find out. They have developed a range of devices called SKInS (Sensory and Kinaesthetic Interactive Simulations) that provide users with insights into what specific medical conditions feel like.

These techniques, known as empathic modeling, offers major benefits to the building industry and its employees. Using a toolkit of wearable sensors and accelerometers, participants can experience the major work-related health conditions suffered by older construction workers, including dermatitis, lower back pain and hearing loss.

The National Construction College is currently in discussions with the project team regarding the potential application of the research findings.

Research grants and contracts

Among the University projects to have recently received funding are:

Mapping Shakespeare’s London
Dr Gabriel Egan from the Department of English and Drama has received £333,710 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to showcase the London theatres of Shakespeare’s time, in partnership with the Victoria & Albert Museum, the project will use mediums including maps and a software application for smartphones to enable tourists to tour sites in modern London and see visual representations of what they looked like 400 years ago.

Assessing adults’ impact on teenage aspirations
The British Academy has awarded Dr Helena Pirkst-Wilson and Prof Sarah Holgreen from the Department of Geography £315,612 to research the effects adults’ decisions have on young people. The study aims to provide a better insight into the lives of teenagers and the factors that influence their future and aspirations, including how teenagers from different socioeconomic backgrounds feel about parental employment, and how parental employment practices influence young peoples’ career aspirations.

Putting transport users at the centre of design
Coughlough Design School has been awarded an extra £50K by the Technology Strategy Board to build on the research conducted under the existing Ideas in Transit project. Co-funded by the TSB, EPSRC and the Department for Transport, the project investigates the role of user-centred designs in the phenomenon of ‘bottom-up’ innovation for sustainable transport. This would involve users generating technology-supported solutions rather than relying on those coming from government or businesses.

Understanding use of construction software
Dr Steve Demain and Steven Wombourne from the Department of Civil and Building Engineering have been granted £122,528 by the EPSRC and Autodesk Solutions Ltd to map professionals’ use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) software. BIM is used in building design and construction to understand building behaviour, address design issues and save time and money. It can be used throughout the life of a building. This project will collect data from construction professionals and software users to map the information flows over the life of a constructed facility to understand user requirements and improve the software.
The Sir David Wallace Sports Hall was turned into an elaborate BBC studio for back-to-back televised events in November.

The BBC East Midlands Sports Awards returned to Loughborough after a successful event in 2009. Host John Inverdale welcomed guests including new Leicester City manager Nigel Pearson and University Sport Hall of Fame member Robbie Bright and his wife Ann. Prizes were awarded to the region’s sporting heroes.

Sandwiched between these two celebrations, the University hosted a special event to mark its involvement in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. John Inverdale returned to question some of Loughborough’s 2012 hopefuls and key players in the University’s sports including wheelchair basketball, the pommel horse and a sporting heroes.

The University also provides talented athletes with funding via the Sports Scholarship schemes, and offers the most extensive University performance lifestyle education programme in the UK.

A new service providing holistic and complementary therapies has been introduced by the Sports Development Centre and Loughborough Students’ Union. A team of qualified professionals are on hand to provide a wide range of treatments including deep tissue massage, Thai sports massage, Thai foot massage, Indian head massage, reflexology, reiki and aromatherapy. Additional services such as hypnotherapy, osteopathy and hypnotherapy are also available to cater for the needs of the student athlete.

The following evening the Students’ Union hosted BBC Children in Need’s regional event in the same venue. Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate, raise money and enjoy the games and activities on offer. Combined with funds raised during Rag Week, the event raised over £726,000 for Children in Need.

The University also provides talented athletes with funding via the Sports Scholarship schemes, and offers the most extensive University performance lifestyle education programme in the UK.

University Swimming Programme awarded by Governing Body

Loughborough has once again reached the gold standard for sport, after British Swimming recognised the University for its achievements in the Swimmer Friendly University Programme.

Double World Champion and Loughborough graduate Liam Tancock presented the award to Vice Chancellor Prof Shirley Pearce at a British Swimming event at SportPark.

Loughborough is renowned for its world class facilities for a range of sports, including swimming. But the British Swimming award specifically recognises the role that the University plays in providing valuable support to talented swimmers that come to study at Loughborough.

This support includes the University’s stretch degree policy, which allows students to extend their study period, exam flexibility and temporary leaves of absence in order for athletes to attend elite sporting competition, intensive training periods and preparation camps.

The University also provides talented athletes with funding via the Sports Scholarship schemes, and offers the most extensive University performance lifestyle education programme in the UK.

A pilot project starts in January to measure activity levels of Loughborough staff. Added to this, 87% of staff said they would attend the event. The recent staff travel survey showed only 28% of staff reported meeting national physical activity guidelines. "Loughborough is renowned for its world class facilities, they will also be very much a part of the world class community of Academy players to Loughborough. Not only will the players benefit from our fantastic training facilities, they will also be very much a part of the world class community of student athletes that we have on our campus.”

Meet 2012 hopefuls online

A selection of Loughborough’s 2012 hopefuls have been profiled on the University’s 2012 website. Meet them online at www.boro.ac.uk/london2012/athletes/focus-on

Relax... at the Therapy Zone

A new service providing holistic and complementary therapies has been introduced by the Sports Development Centre and Loughborough Students’ Union. A team of qualified professionals are on hand to provide a wide range of treatments including deep tissue massage, Thai sports massage, Thai foot massage, Indian head massage, reflexology, reiki and aromatherapy. Additional services such as hypnotherapy, osteopathy and hypnotherapy are also planned for the near future.

Loughborough Lightning secure place in Netball Super League

Loughborough Lightning has been selected to continue its participation in the Netball Super League. 93.8% of staff said they would attend the match by each of the umpires, and the ratings were used as the basis for making the awards.

Meet 2012 hopefuls online

A selection of Loughborough’s 2012 hopefuls have been profiled on the University’s 2012 website. Meet them online at www.boro.ac.uk/london2012/athletes/focus-on

Encouraging an active campus

Will Relf, the Head Groundsman for cricket at Loughborough University, has been formally recognised for the excellent standard of pitches he produced last season.

The England and Wales Cricket Board awarded Will as the winner for the best pitches at MCC Universities at the 2011 Groundman of the Year Awards, beating the likes of Cambridge, Durham and Oxford universities.

Every cricket pitch is rated at the end of each season, and the ratings are used as the basis for making the awards.

Meet 2012 hopefuls online

A selection of Loughborough’s 2012 hopefuls have been profiled on the University’s 2012 website. Meet them online at www.boro.ac.uk/london2012/athletes/focus-on

Loughborough Lightning has been selected to continue its participation in the Netball Super League. The decision by England Netball will see the sport’s premier competition continue to be played at Loughborough University for the next four seasons.

Loughborough Lightning is a franchise owned by the University, in partnership with East Midlands Netball. The team is based at the University and is made up of current students, Loughborough graduates and regional players.

The new season gets underway on the weekend of 21 January 2012. Further information about Loughborough Lightning can be found on their website www.loughboroughlightning.co.uk
Family meals help fussy eaters

LUCRED’s Faye Powell has found that eating together as a family may encourage children to be more open to trying new types of food. The results showed that friendly interaction instead of coercive strategies, like pressure and physical prompting, could mean young children try a varied diet.

News-Medical.Net, sciencedaily.com

Warning over multi-screen viewing

A study has found children are often ‘multi-screen viewing’, watching TV while simultaneously using smartphones, laptops or hand-held gaming devices. Alongside researchers from Bristol University, Prof Stuart Biddle from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, has been looking at how such habits are linked to obesity, poorer mental well-being and health problems in later life.

BBC Online, The Daily Telegraph, Daily Express, Press Association Newswire, sciencedaily.com, Metro, countrywide regional media

How can the Euro be saved?

Professor David Llewellyn from the School of Business and Economics has urged that a holistic approach to solving the interconnected crises threatening the survival of the Euro must be undertaken by member states in order to prevent catastrophic failure.

Sky News, BBC Radio 4, Fresh Business Thinking

Measuring marine construction’s underwater acoustics

Dr Paul Leper and colleagues in the School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering is working with environmental engineering consultancy HR Wallingford to develop an underwater acoustic model to assess the impact of underwater noise on fish and seabed mammals. It can be applied in marine renewable energy, oil and gas exploration, dredging and other settings.

Various international trade press and websites

Saved by a breath

Scientists from the Department of Chemistry and experts at the National Technical University of Athens have devised sensors to detect breath and sweat which one day could locate survivors buried under buildings hit by an earthquake or a bomb blast. Led by Prof Paul Thomas, the sensors are a safer, quicker and more efficient search tool than sniffer dogs, who risk life and limb to detect trapped survivors.

BBC Online, The Independent, Press Association Newswire, countrywide regional media, various international media