



Parents' Newsletter

Autumn | 2016



Welcome to our Parents' Newsletter!

We recognise that going to University is a big event, not just for students, but also for their parents. Hopefully by now you've at least had a few dutiful phone calls and/or emails from your son or daughter telling you about how they are getting on. This newsletter aims to fill in any gaps in the information that you might be missing out on. It will be produced on a termly basis to keep you updated on what is happening throughout the year.

Swaps and Transfers

We hope that your son or daughter has settled well into their University accommodation and is making the most of student life. However, we recognise that not everyone is happy in their allocated room for a number of possible reasons. If it's not something the Warden or residence staff can resolve, the student may apply to swap rooms with another student or transfer to a vacant room. More information on this procedure is available on our website [here](#)

Dates for your diary

Friday 9 December 2016	Teaching ends
Saturday 10 December to Sunday 8 January 2016	Christmas vacation
Friday 23 December to Monday 2 January 2017	University closed
Monday 9 January to Friday 20 January 2017	Exams
Monday 23 January 2017	Teaching starts

Useful Contacts

For a full list of our residence contact details, please see our contact page.

Accommodation Services

T: +44 (0)113 343 7777
E: accom@leeds.ac.uk
W: accommodation.leeds.ac.uk

Disability Team

T: +44 (0)113 343 3927
Minicom: +44 (0)113 343 2616
E: disability@leeds.ac.uk
W: www.equality.leeds.ac.uk
Calls from RNID Typetalk are welcome

Leeds Student Medical Practice (LSMP)

T: 0113 295 4488
W: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/lsmpp/>

Student Counselling Centre

T: +44 (0)113 343 4107
E: stucouns@adm.leeds.ac.uk
W: www.leeds.ac.uk/studentcounselling

University Security

Non-emergency: +44 (0)113 343 5494

Your Comments

Thank you to all those who emailed in comments following our previous issue. If there is anything you feel we have missed in this issue or any points of interest we've not covered, please let us know.

Email Rachel Prinn on r.prinn@leeds.ac.uk with your comments and suggestions.



@LeedsUniAccom



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Getting involved

Hall Exec

Every residence has an Executive Committee (or 'JCR' at Devonshire Hall) which is a team of residents in each hall who are elected to:

- represent your son or daughter at University and Students' Union forums
- organise events for everyone at the hall to take part in
- enter sports teams in the Social Hall Sports tournaments
- raise money for charity and run environmental campaigns.

From trips to amusement parks to formal dinners and balls, Hall Exec committees are there to make your son or daughters time living in halls the best it can be!

As a member of the Hall Exec they can also be nominated for a Hall Exec award during Leeds University Union Celebrate Week at the end of the academic year.

Getting involved looks great on a CV and it's a guaranteed way to make friends quickly! Elections have already taken place within our residences, but it's still not too late to get involved. If you think your son or daughter might be interested, they can find out more [here](#)

Societies

Student societies offer a unique opportunity to participate in group activities and sports, broaden intellectual horizons and make new friends.

With over 250 activities to choose, our students are really spoilt for choice with opportunities to get involved in anything from football to chess, baking to skydiving, or dance to 'a cappella'. They can even try their hand at Quidditch!

If your son/daughter missed out on the Clubs and Societies Fair, or was overwhelmed by Freshers' Week, they can find out more about what's out there from the Students' Union website:

www.luu.org.uk/groups

Alternatively they can view the society notice boards upstairs in the Students' Union.

700

Our Social Sports Halls programme has grown from strength to strength in the past couple of years, and its success shows through our hugely popular tournaments that have seen over 700 students getting involved, enjoying sport and making new friends.

Give it a Go!

Not every student has time to commit to joining a society. It might be that they just want to do something on a one-off basis, or try out a sport/activity for the first time, or want to go on a day trip. The Students' Union 'Give it a Go' initiative offers a fantastic full calendar of events and workshops for your son or daughter to try out, offering everything from filmmaking and folk music, to trips to Edinburgh and the Lake District.



If your son/daughter doesn't already have a copy of the Give it a Go programme, they can download one from the Students' Union Website: www.luu.org.uk/giag/about/

Fit and Healthy

All residents in our accommodation get Edge Club membership included in their rent, meaning that they have access to the state-of-the-art sports centre on campus. Boasting top of the range facilities such as Leeds' largest indoor sports hall, with a jam packed fitness schedule, a 25 metre 8 lane swimming pool and one of the largest fitness suites of any UK University, there's something for everyone (not to mention the sauna and steam room for relaxing afterwards!).



With Edge Club membership, residents get off peak use of the pool and gym, plus anytime free use of classes and sports halls, the climbing wall and sports pitches.

If your son/daughter would like to upgrade their membership to include use of all of the facilities during peak times they can do so for a small price: just £60 for Edge Extra (normally £232) and £105 for Edge Premium (normally £276). There are also deals for students wanting a 3 year Edge Premium membership. Upgrade via the website sport.leeds.ac.uk or in person at the sports centre.

Competitive Spirit

A sense of community and belonging is something that the University strives to achieve for all its students, particularly those in Halls of Residence. One way in which we encourage great friendship building is through the Social Hall Sports Programme. This runs through the duration of the academic year bringing an exciting mix of team sports and events to Halls of Residence. All Halls get the opportunity to compete against each other in order to win our Social Hall Plate and Shield awards at the end of the year, and of course fight for the honour of top sporting Hall!



Our Social Hall Sports programme has grown from strength to strength in the past couple of years, and its success shows through our hugely popular tournaments that have seen over 700 students getting involved, enjoying sport and making new friends. The programme provides a unique chance to meet and socialise with new people, as well as building up a healthy sense of competition and camaraderie with other Halls.

This programme really is a fantastic opportunity to try out something new and truly make the most out of each student's Halls experience! More information is available on the [website](#)

Feed them with a click

Refresh is an easy and convenient way to purchase food and non-alcoholic drinks across campus. Your son or daughter can also save money with discounts on a range of products and exclusive promotions throughout the year.

Family members can also set up linked accounts to make one off top ups in just a few clicks from anywhere in the world.



Auto top up can be set up for the account so whenever the credit drops below a certain threshold it will automatically top up with a nominated amount, so they will never be without credit.

For details on how to top up the Refresh card and download the app, please visit www.leeds.ac.uk/refreshcard or email refreshcard@leeds.ac.uk

Home from Home

Leaving home for the first time and starting University life is widely perceived as an exhilarating and exciting experience, and for many it is, but it can also be quite daunting.

Living with new people, navigating a bustling University campus, getting to grips with a new course of study – even the most confident and independent student can find the first few weeks of term disorientating and sometimes a problem can seem overwhelming. This is when a bit of extra support is needed.

Luckily, your son/daughter is in a good position to find it – the University provides a student support network offering a variety of advice and guidance, and we provide support mechanisms within our residences too.

Wardens and Sub-wardens

Each residence has a Warden who is usually a member of academic or student support staff at the University. They hold surgery sessions throughout term time so your son or daughter can book an appointment to see them and discuss any issues relating to their welfare. A full list of Wardens and their contact details can be found in our Warden directory. Each Warden is assisted by a team of Sub-wardens who are on call in case your son or daughter needs urgent assistance after the residence office has closed, during term time. A full list of Sub-warden contact details is available in our Sub-warden duty mobiles [directory](#). We advise that your son or daughter saves the duty mobile number for their Sub-warden in their phone before they arrive at Leeds. Each Residence also has a Facebook group which will detail events happening in the hall. Links to the groups are available on the Leeds University Union [website](#).

Wider Support

If your son/daughter would like to speak to someone from outside their residence, there are a number of services available. Visit the [support and wellbeing pages](#) for more information about all of our support services.

One of the many services available is the Student Counselling Centre; this is an excellent facility on campus offering a daily drop-in service, one to one consultations and counselling on any matters affecting students' wellbeing, from exam stress to more complex issues: www.leeds.ac.uk/studentcounselling

If they would prefer to talk to someone over the telephone, they can ring Nightline Listening (0113 380 1281), a student service run by trained volunteers. Lines are open 8pm to 8am during term time.

Looking Ahead

House Hunting

It may sound premature to talk about house hunting at this stage, but we know it won't be long before it becomes a hot topic of conversation amongst students. There are lots of myths surrounding house hunting in Leeds and many new students are led to believe that they have to rush into finding a property before the end of term, which is why we would like to address the issue here. We advise all our students to delay house hunting until after the January exams and to make sure that they consider all the options available to them, most students in Leeds will look for a shared house or a room in a private halls for their second and subsequent years.

With this in mind there are a couple of things to help make house hunting much easier. Where to start...

Get some advice! LUU is holding a Housing Fair on 23 January where students can meet and compare a variety of Unipol Code landlords, from big agencies and complexes to small landlords. Whether they are looking for a one bed flat or a twelve bed house, the Housing Fair is the place to start a search. Plus they can talk to Student Advice and get info on rent, bills, security, energy saving, and much more...

Find a good Landlord via [Rate Your Landlord](#)

This is a partnership between Leeds University Union and Unipol Student Homes where students can leave helpful reviews about properties and landlords. Students are asked to rate their experiences of: the signing and letting process, customer service, efficiency of repairs, safety and security, value for money, whether the house feels like a home, the moving out process and deposit handling. Also, if they wish, students can also leave a 140-character comment.

Ready to sign Once you've found a place, we strongly recommend getting your contract checked by Student Advice. Find out about the [contract checking service](#)

Unipol Student Homes is a charity with close links to the University. It aims to help students find the best housing they can, to drive up standards and to be a beacon of good practice for other housing suppliers. We recommend our students use Unipol's help in finding a property, and choose a Unipol registered landlord. Leeds University Union will also help, in contract checking for example – making sure that your son/daughter knows exactly what they are signing up for.

Here are Unipol's top 5 things to know about house hunting:

1. Unipol will provide students with a house hunting guide in December 2016 with all the information they will need about finding a property in Leeds. Unipol also distributes a tabloid in November with house hunting tips, and the January edition features their listed properties.
2. Leeds University Union's Student Advice Centre offer lots of guidance on house hunting.
3. Unipol's house hunting start date is 21 January 2017 (after exam period) where over 10,000 bed spaces are released on the Unipol website for students to view.

4. You can be reassured that there is a surplus of quality accommodation in Leeds all year round, and students should not feel rushed into making a decision.
5. Now is the perfect time for students to work out who they will want to live with, in which areas of Leeds and how much they can afford to pay. The majority of rental contracts in Leeds will last for 52 weeks and not include utilities such as energy charges and internet access so these extras should be budgeted for.

For more information please visit www.unipol.org.uk/leeds

Keeping our students secure

Safer Leeds

Working in partnership to keep communities safe



The Safer Leeds – Safer Homes Security Standard was launched on the 5th July 2016, and will initially cover private rented sector housing in a pilot area in North West Leeds. From its launch, 2,078 properties have so far been signed up for the Bronze level, and 37 properties have been assessed as meeting the Gold level. Landlords have received an appropriate certificate (Bronze, Silver or Gold), and these should be displayed in the properties, to help demonstrate that they meet the required standard.

The aim of this three-tiered voluntary security standard, is to bring mutual benefits to landlords, agents and tenants involved in the private rented sector in Leeds. The standard seeks to bring together both national and local good practice, based on the Secure by Design standard. Fundamentally, residents can take up tenancies in accredited properties, knowing that their home will be safer against burglary, thereby providing them with greater reassurance. Landlords and agents will also receive due recognition for their efforts in making their properties more secure, and thereby increase the marketability of accredited properties in the private rental market. In addition to advice on improving the physical security of properties, the scheme will also allow for the regular dissemination of appropriate crime prevention advice, for the benefit of landlords, agents, and tenants alike.

Further information is available at:

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/leeds/saferhomes

or via the appropriate widget at

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/leeds/inner-north-west

The Safer Leeds – Safer Homes Standard has been produced through a partnership approach, involving input from colleagues in Leeds City Council, Leeds Trinity University, private rented sector in Leeds, the University of Leeds, Unipol Student Homes, Safer Leeds, and West Yorkshire Police.

