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September 2023

Dear students.

We're delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year.

We hope you have had a great summer, with time to rest, enjoy a break and get prepared for the year ahead. For many of you this may be the first time you have lived in a shared house with friends, for others it will be a return to sharing, and for you all this is an exciting experience and an opportunity to develop your friendships and new skills.

Royal Holloway has been an integral part of the local community since 1886 and the relationship we have with our wider community is of great importance to us. As well as our campus Egham town and Englefield Green village are now home to many of our students, staff, and alumni and we value the links we have with residents, community groups, charities, schools, and businesses working together to maintain a strong sense of community.

You have an important role to play in helping us maintain these positive links, by demonstrating your value to the local area and being a good ambassador for the University. We encourage you to join the many others who contribute by volunteering, becoming involved in local politics, keeping the area tidy, joining community events, shopping locally and more. It is especially important to us that you recognise how to be a good neighbour to others, take this role seriously, and respect others living and working here. We also expect people to welcome you as residents of the town and village.

Our Community Wellbeing team are on hand to provide you with support and guidance to you on a range of issues related to living off campus. You can find lots of helpful guidance in our [Be a Good Neighbour](#) guide which is available digitally to all students via the student intranet. The guide includes important advice to help ensure you play your part as a responsible citizen in the community. It is also important for us, as a supportive University, to look out for ourselves and our friends so please do contact our Wellbeing teams if you are worried about your wellbeing or that of another student.

We know many of you are good neighbours and thank you to those of you who live peacefully and considerately in the community. For the small number of you who do not follow our guidelines and are seen to negatively impact the lives or wellbeing of others we do work closely with our community partners from Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey Police to resolve concerns promptly and effectively. We hope that with your co-operation these incidents will be very rare.

We wish you a very happy and enjoyable year.

Handwritten signature of Professor Tracy Bhamra in black ink.

Professor Tracy Bhamra
Provost & Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global)

Handwritten signature of Helen Groenendaal in orange ink.

Helen Groenendaal
Directorate of Student Life