



Bowland College

August 2011

Dear New Bowlander

First, let me congratulate you on your academic achievements to date and welcome you to Bowland College, the oldest and the friendliest college in Lancaster University. As Senior Advisor, my role is to oversee the Advisor System. I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity to explain how the system operates and how it will help you in your first year as an undergraduate.

The College Advisor System

All first year students are allocated, in small groups, to a College Advisor who will be responsible for helping them to settle into the University, and for supporting and advising them on welfare and academic matters in their first year. College Advisors are senior members of the College and may be lecturers, researchers, administrators or other members of the University. They are all volunteers, committed to helping students make the most of their time at the University and to ensuring that their advisees have the support to overcome any difficulties they may face.

When you arrive, you will find the name of your College Advisor displayed in your kitchen. Arrangements will be made for you to meet, and exchange contact details with your College Advisor during or soon after your arrival. In Bowland, advisees are allocated according to the kitchen they use in their College residence, so you will have the same Advisor as your neighbours. This makes it easier for students to meet their Advisor as a group to discuss common problems or just to socialise.

For many new students this will be their first time living away from home without the immediate support of family or friends. For others, it may be a return to full time education after a number of years in employment. Making that transition can often be stressful, and sometimes traumatic. Amongst other things, it involves meeting new people, establishing new friendships, dealing with new demands and having to get by on a tight budget. This is where the Advisor System comes into its own. Your College Advisor will be available to help you meet such challenges by providing information and guidance on a wide range of matters, and by acting as your supporter and advocate if you run into difficulties. Most importantly, he or she will be there as a sympathetic listener if you just want someone to talk to.

Yours truly,

Bob Blake
Senior Advisor