

CHRISTMAS VACATION NEWSLETTER 2011

Dear International Students,

The Michaelmas term is now coming to an end and we're sure you are all ready for the break over the Christmas holidays. If you are travelling overseas then we wish you a safe journey. For those of you who are staying in Lancaster over the holiday period then we have collected some information which we hope will be of interest.

University Information

The University will close at 5.00 pm on Friday 23rd December 2011 and will re-open at 9.00am Tuesday 3rd January 2012. **Security will remain available and on duty at all times during this period, if you have any problems at all. Please either call in at the main Security reception building or call extension 94541 or extension 92091.**

For information on opening hours of University facilities, events and things to do in and around Lancaster, transport information and much more, go to: <http://pocket.lusu.co.uk/>

Public holidays

The UK bank holidays this year are 26th December & 27th December (in lieu of Christmas Day and Boxing Day) and 2nd January (in lieu of New Year's Day). On these days in particular, nearly all shops and services in the UK are closed, with the exception of emergency services such as hospitals and the police. In between these days, services and shops may open for shorter periods, i.e. open later or shut early. This includes places such as banks and supermarkets and you may find it more difficult catching buses on and off campus.

Things to Do

For ideas on things to do in the local area, check out the websites below:

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/>

www.lancasterguardian.co.uk

HOST brings together international students at universities and colleges in the UK with friendly British residents who welcome students to their homes for a short visit. Hosts give students an experience of the culture and way of life in Britain. Students give hosts a personal insight into other parts of the world. It is a unique opportunity for both students and hosts to be ambassadors for their own country and to make a positive contribution to international understanding. You can get an application form and further information from the website www.hostuk.org.

Just a reminder that there are lots of London International Meet up events which international students can join during the holiday period (or at other times as well) if they are in the London area: <http://www.meetup.com/London-International/events/calendar>

There are events about 4 days a week, including social evenings, day/weekend trips, English classes, theatre, cinema, meals and walks.

There is no membership charge, just modest charges for each event to cover costs, so even a student who is just passing through London can join in.

Many of the members are non-students, so this is also an excellent way to mix with people from the wider community.

You can find further information here:

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/sbs/accommodation/christmas-vacation.html>

<http://www.gbbag.co.uk/>

The Graduate College are arranging a trip to the Trafford Centre on 28th December –you can book tickets at their webpage here and everyone is welcome:<http://lugrad.wordpress.com/day-trips/>

Also details of Graduate College Events: <http://lugrad.wordpress.com/christmas-events/>

Children's Christmas Party

Fylde Family Meeting Room (Common Room) Tuesday 20th December from 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Free - Open to children of all ages (don't forget to bring your parents!)

There will be party games and Father Christmas will also be putting in an appearance with a gift for each child! Refreshments will be provided (including some treats) and please feel free to bring along a cake or other goodies if you wish to...

Please could you email j.hulland@lancaster.ac.uk to confirm how many children you will be bringing, by Friday 9th December so we have an idea of numbers (we need to make sure Father Christmas has enough presents!)

Day trip to Greenfields Farm Village and Kendal

A wonderful family friendly day out with a Christmas gift for each child (and maybe the grown-ups too!)

Sunday 18th December - *£5 adults, £2.50 children (2-16yrs)*

Tickets will be available to buy online at www.lugrad.wordpress.com/day-trips or from the Graduate College Administrator if you prefer to pay cash j.hulland@lancaster.ac.uk

Greenlands Farm Village

Couples, friends and families can have a wonderful day out with us (whatever the Lancashire weather brings!)

On our open farm you can pat storybook farm animals, ride a horse and trap, pedal (size permitting!) a mini tractor, lark about in a straw play barn, race round the barn on the go-carts and picnic by the paddocks.

In our artisan village, you can meet talented crafts people, discover regional produce, savour home cooked fayre, and treat yourself to hand-selected gifts, plants and wines.

Kendal

In the afternoon, we will stop in Kendal. Kendal is an old market town situated in one of the most beautiful parts of the country – the English Lake District. Kendal is also within 30 minutes drive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, making it a perfect base for walkers and sightseers alike. The town's unique blend of history, culture and shopping make it a very popular destination for visitors.

There are attractions for all ages, fascinating museums, modern and historic art and a variety of leisure facilities. The shopping is diverse with many High Street names but the town is known particularly for specialist shops – quality independent traders offering a range of goods unrivalled anywhere in the Lake District.