Dear Sammy,

I do hope that this email finds you well. As you know we are in the first full week of remote learning at the University and you are now seeing the familiar faces of your academics in lectures, tutorials and seminars via MS Teams and, I hope, continuing to benefit from the learning materials available on studentcentral and through the online resources available through our libraries.

I also wanted to take a moment to give you an update on a couple of important things. The first is assessments which I know will be on the minds of many of you. We are developing and finalising alternative assessments for each academic module and your module/course leader will be able to confirm by Friday 3 April how each of your modules will now be assessed.

The second thing I wanted to share with you is that we are now finalising all of the details necessary to ensure that we take full account of Covid-19 through a generic mitigating circumstances procedure. This means you will not have to provide individual evidence of the impact that Covid-19 has had on your performance. **This will ensure that no student will be detrimentally impacted by this unprecedented situation.**

I do hope that both of these will offer you some reassurance about your ability to progress to your next year of study or, critically, to be...
able to gain your final academic award and graduate from the University this year.

I also want to try and provide you with some further reassurance about your graduation ceremony. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that you will have the opportunity to celebrate your achievements. We are very proud of our graduation ceremonies and 100s of staff are involved with ensuring that this is a memorable day for our students. And these are important and joyous days for us also. The logistics associated with delivering a wonderful experience for our 4000+ students and the 15,000 supporters who join us in our summer graduations are challenging at the best of times. The COVID-19 situation is providing a unique set of challenges when considering how this might work, and when this can take place this summer.

Our primary concern has to be the health and wellbeing of you, our students and your guests, so it will take a little time for us to work out what is possible. Please be assured that this remains a priority for us and we will ensure that all our graduating students this year have a celebratory experience with your family and supporters once this crisis is over.

As ever, very kind wishes,

**Professor Ruth Whittaker**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students)