Dear @firstname@,

Following my email to you yesterday providing you with details of the steps we are taking to protect the health of our students and staff and to enable the move to remote learning so that all our students can progress and graduate this year, I would like to clarify the statement that was made about summer graduation ceremonies. This follows a number of queries raised by students and I apologise for the distress this has caused many of you at what is already a highly stressful and worrying time. I can confirm that all students will graduate as planned this year. The statement was made in the context of the Government and Public Health England’s guidance to postpone or cancel events with large numbers of people for the foreseeable future due to the transmission risk.

However, given the uncertain and rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 situation, I would like to reassure you that in fact no final decision on graduation ceremonies has been made yet. We will be reviewing the way in which we can manage graduation events this year over the coming weeks and will keep you informed. We will ensure that all our graduating students this year have the recognition and celebration they so richly deserve, it may just not be in the way we originally intended.

Please have a look at the COVID-19 Student Update blog - this provides information and guidance to you about remote learning; assessment, progression and graduation, and support. We will be keeping this up to date to ensure that its addressing all your questions as this situation develops.
I know everyone in the University has worked incredibly hard over the last two weeks to prepare for this move to remote learning and to ensure that your progression, achievement and graduation is not impacted. We will continue to do so to provide you with the support you need throughout this unprecedented and challenging time.

Please do keep up to date by checking our new COVID19 student updates blog.

I hope you and your loved ones stay safe and I have no doubt that the University of Brighton community will be both supportive and strengthened through this extra-ordinary experience.

Best regards

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