Enhancing Student Support - Update, 3.7.12

Dear all

This is the fourth ESS Update on the progress of the Enhancing Student Support project. Further details can be found on the Enhancing Student Support wiki:
https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Home

Topics
1 New School Guidance for ESS Phase One Implementation is on the wiki
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1 New School Guidance for ESS Phase One Implementation is on the wiki

To assist Schools in preparing for the implementation of the first phase of the Enhancing Student Support (ESS) initiative a new wiki page has been created. The page contains key dates with guidance and recommended actions and also the contact email addresses for colleagues responsible for various tasks. We will continue to expand these over the coming weeks and very much welcome your input to their development to ensure they are as comprehensive and helpful as they can be. Please share this information widely with all relevant staff in your College, School and Service.
https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/School+Guidance+for+Enhancing+Student+Support+Implementation+-+Phase+1

2 Updating Documents and Information

Schools, Colleges, Services and others will need to update references in documents, course handbooks, publications, websites etc. so that they are current for 2012/13 and refer to the Personal Tutor system, relevant roles and other aspects of Enhancing Student Support. In particular, references to Directors of Studies need to be changed. A list of contacts with lead responsibility for this is being prepared as part of the ESS Communications Strategy.

3 Senior Tutors’ Network

Senior Tutors will have key roles in the development and delivery of the Enhancing Student Support project. The first meeting of the Senior Tutors network will take place from 3.00-5.30pm on Wednesday 11 July in the Raeburn Room, Old College. The meeting will cover:
• an outline of the project
• an update on the principal strands and their development so far
• discussion on the development of training and resources to support Senior Tutors and their colleagues as we implement the ESS initiative across the University
• discussion on how to develop the Senior Tutor network.
4 Enhancing School-based Support for Students: Peer and Group Activities

A workshop was held on 19 June which focused on student peer support activities and activities for tutee group meetings. Ideas for group meeting activities and suggestions and comments which arose during discussion will be added to the project wiki resources page: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Resources

5 Email to Schools on Enhancing Student Support - IT Tools Development

An email was sent to Schools on 20 June about the Enhancing Student Support project and the IT tools and resources to help staff and students manage the quality and effectiveness of their meetings. The initial tools are primarily to facilitate and support meetings between a student and their Personal Tutor, and their wider student support team. These tools represent small changes to existing systems and use familiar interfaces. For staff this will be via the EUCLID MyEd channel, and for students this will be via a MyEd channel which will allow them to see their notes in a 'stream'. For more information please see: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/SSG001/Initial+ESS+IT+Tools+Project+Summary

6 EUSA Peer Support

EUSA will shortly be employing a member of staff to develop the peer support project. There will be two key work strands:

1. to identify the core components of peer support that should be available to students across the University within Enhancing Student Support. This will involve EUSA working closely with Schools and Colleges to identify current good practice, identify gaps, and establish priorities for development, which EUSA can help facilitate, but which should be led by Schools;
2. to identify, share, and facilitate further development of local, specific examples of more targeted peer support, which may serve a number of purposes (e.g. academic, language based, transition to particular parts of particular programmes, support whilst on placement etc.). This strand will also include collaborative activity but may also lead to new initiatives led by EUSA, and the development of materials to enable local development in future.

EUSA will produce a timeline for the peer support work and will develop an action plan to address priorities. The work will be helped by a Peer Support working group, which will include representatives from EUSA, the three Colleges, and other relevant departments. The group will also seek input from those currently running successful projects.

7 School Tutoring Statements reminder

Each School will have a School Tutoring Statement (STS) which outlines how the Personal Tutor System works in their School. Schools are sending their draft STS to Nichola.Kett@ed.ac.uk and Sara.Welham@ed.ac.uk by 13 July. The drafts will be considered by SSIG at its July meeting and need to be finalised by the end of August. The wiki has a checklist which outlines the contents for the STS to help Schools write their Tutoring Statements. The checklist is based on input from Schools, via the School progress updates, with comments from Colleges and others. https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Resources

If you know of any colleagues who are not currently on the list to receive this update but may be interested in joining, please forward this message.

Regards,

The Enhancing Student Support Team