

Student Experience Forum (Infrastructure & H&S)

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First - thank you

- **We are a really big Department!**
 - I know we're pressed on every side and this is frustrating at times.
 - More than once in the last few months I've wished I could simply wave a magic wand, and add three more floors. But I can't...!
 - I'm grateful for the sensible, understanding and constructive approach I've had in all my conversations with colleagues in the Department – staff and students.
 - **Thank you!**
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Updates: common areas

- **Level 8 common room.**
 - You should feel welcome to use Level 8 and its counter service.
 - Level 8 is the main Department social space, and that is what it should be used for.
 - At busy times, it should not be used for studying.
- **Level 2 terrace. Not open yet!**
 - New outdoor terrace on level 2 is nearly finished, and we are now waiting for furniture.
 - We will have a soft opening as soon as possible, and a more formal opening in the spring.
 - A really transformative addition to the Department.
 - This is a great opportunity to start a staff-student Blackett gardening club, so if you like the sound of that, stay tuned.

Updates: common areas

- **Fridges.**
 - I am aware that there is a desire for fridges and even a kitchenette on level 2.
 - A kitchenette is hard, because it requires, space, quite a lot of money, building work and also identifying utility services that aren't necessarily available.
 - Fridges are potentially more doable, and I am very happy to explore this.
 - Needs planning, paperwork and organisation.
 - In particular, whenever fridges and similar services are available, **it is the users who are responsible for keeping them clean and tidy.**
 - I am confident that together we can find a way to do this, but it will require your ownership and management. More will follow on this.

- **Future thinking.**
 - Towards a multi-use wellbeing space.
 - Within Imperial, the Department's "task" is to deliver teaching and research in Physics
 - Aware of desire for a wellbeing space, and I recognise the value of this.
 - But, part of a wider piece of work looking holistically at how the Department uses the entirety of its space to deliver its mission – teaching and research in Physics.
 - Something that we are starting to look at and will continue in 2024.

Updates: space for study

- **Renovation of the teaching labs.**
 - Over the past few years we have successfully bid for funding from College to renovate more than half of the level 4 teaching labs.
 - Happy to say that we have secured the next slice of funding to start work on the year 2 labs in summer 2024.
 - This work is quite complicated, and because of increasing costs it will take a couple of summers to complete (we can only do major work during the summer).
 - Exciting plans include a hackspace. I hope to share more details with you next term.
- **Sherfield student study space.**
 - New study space being created for UG students in Sherfield on level 3.
 - This is a Go-study space like in the Chemistry building. (These spaces are managed by the library, not Chemistry by the way.)
 - Announced by the President today.

- **Health and Safety in Labs.**
 - Don't eat or drink in laboratories
 - Go outside to take a break and drink/eat
 - Store your water bottle in your bag when you're not using it
 - Demonstrators are of course expected to follow the same rules
 - We expect the same behaviour whether a research or teaching lab. Excellence requires professionalism
- **Personal safety.**
 - In dark winter evenings, please be aware of your surroundings and take care when travelling to and from the campus