

STUDENT VOICES

Back to normal – virtual Happy Hours here to stay?

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Our presentation builds on the Happy Hour webinar initiated when teaching the 2020/21 Year 1 LLB cohort who joined their course as online, rather than in-person students.

In order to have a regular, timetabled engagement opportunity for the whole cohort we introduced the Friday pm Contract Law Happy Hour: it gave the teacher an opportunity to look back on the week, feedback on tutorials and lecture matter, as well as setting the scene for the coming week. There was plenty of opportunity for student questions, some light relief (puzzles with naff prizes up for grabs), as well as regular guest speakers (study skills & support; alumni; “meet the author” ...).

Mia and I would like to discuss how we have taken the Happy Hour forward in respect of other in-person law modules, and how these events can be a real game-changer for online-only students who have considerably fewer direct contact opportunities compared to their in-person peers. We would also like to share advice on possible Happy Hour activities/programmes, and highlight this as a potentially student-led, or Partnership activity from a very early stage of a course.

E Jones, “Wellbeing of online distance learning students” (ALT Blog, June 2020) <http://lawteacher.ac.uk/connecting-legal-education/connecting-legal-education-wellbeing-of-online-distance-learning-students/>

A Hewitt and A Stubbs, “Supporting law students’ skills development online – a strategy to improve skills and reduce student stress?” Research in Learning Technology (2017) <https://journal.alt.ac.uk/index.php/rlt/article/view/1786/2182>

M Garcia, “How to prioritise the digital wellbeing of our staff and students as we respond to the Covid-19 situation” Advance HE (2020) <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/news-and-views/how-prioritise-digital-wellbeing-our-staff-and-students-we-respond-covid-19>