University~=School 3

The purpose of this briefing is to make sure that you aware, or remind you (shout out to the foundation students), that although we are the School of Psychology, your experience with us is might be very different from what you may have experienced at School – and not just in an abstract way which I am sure you are all bored or hearing about.

Why are we wasting your time with this? Well, we know, from having taught many students over the years that there are several ways in which University and School differ, in which students are often unaware. Sometimes, we’ve had students realise these things in their final year. We want to try and accelerate that learning.

Here is one aspect we will focus on today:

[Unique flavour of university]

1. The life of academics. Your lectures are experts in their field and, in addition to teaching, spend a lot of their time conducting world-leading research. The tasks this week will ask you to explore and engage with your tutor as an academic and also try and look at the research across the whole School.

Task – Look at the Staff directory. See what research/activities are being conducted in the department.

Look at other members of staff on: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/psychology/academics>

TASK: Find a study that was conducted by a member of staff. Below please provide the citation for it and summarise the abstract in three or four sentences:

e.g.,

Fallon, S. J. (2021). No evidence that LSD microdosing affects recall or the balance between distracter resistance and updating. *bioRxiv*, 2021-12.

This study investigated the effects of low doses of LSD (≤20 μg) on working memory without altered states of consciousness. In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled design, participants took one of three LSD microdoses (5 μg, 10 μg, or 20 μg) or a placebo and completed a dopamine-sensitive working memory task. The task involved ignoring or updating novel items during the delay period. Results showed no significant impact of LSD microdoses on working memory accuracy or efficiency, but the authors noted that larger studies are needed to confirm these findings.

[insert]

Further exploration:

Could you think of any further questions you had when reading the study? Please think about sending an email to the member of staff with this idea.

Here is a template

Dear Dr/Prof XXXX

I really enjoyed reading your latest paper [Insert either the reference or a brief description of the study]. I did have one question, though, …..

Best wishes,

[Insert your name]