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.

Tasks – Look at the Staff directory. See what research/activities are being conducted in the department. Find out what your supervisor is working on- we will discuss this in our progress meeting.

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

You can click on individual members of staffs and browse their recent publications.

1. List one publication that you have found

[Insert reference]

1. Read the study.
2. Summarise what the work shows in two sentences

[insert]

1. 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]