I have no doubt that there are more first experiences ahead for us all during 2020-21.  As I reflect on the past six months, I am confident and excited about the year ahead.  Yes, there will be challenges and we need to continue to prioritise staff wellbeing as we work together to undertake high quality teaching and research.  There is also excitement about what we can achieve together and the difference we can make to those around us.

Reflecting on my first month in post, every day I learn more about the work that is going on across the Faculty.  I am extremely impressed by the quality of scholarship and staff focus on making a difference to society.  AHSS is in a unique position to positively impact individuals and change lives, whether through direct interventions or indirectly through organisations and public policy.  A priority for me is to further enhance the impact of our work, but fundamental in achieving this, is ensuring that we continue to undertake the highest quality of research. This is the foundation for the knowledge we share with students and the wider stakeholder community.

How we engage with our students is also critical in inspiring and nurturing the next generation of leaders in our society.  A priority must be to support students to become resilient, responsible citizens who are personally, professionally and socially ambitious.

As I have already outlined, my job is to support and empower you, in ‘conducting leading-edge education and research, focused on the needs of society’ (Queen's Vision Statement).  Alongside the Deans, I will be working closely with the five Heads of School and School Leadership Teams. In addition, I want to have an open door to engage with you.  If there is anything that you want to discuss then please email me at pvcahss@qub.ac.uk.  I have also set aside days in my diary for **drop-in sessions (virtual or [socially distanced] face-to-face), the first of which is 22 and 23 October**. These are YOUR days!  Even if it is only to say Hello and to tell me about the work that you do, I would love to meet you – no issue is too big or too small for these meetings.

I trust that you and your families will continue to keep safe and well.

Nola