

Ms Rebecca Bland
Chief Executive
Stand Alone
34B York Way
London
N1 9AB

22 July 2020

Dear Ms Bland,

Newman University is proud to commit to the Stand Alone Pledge. Newman has demonstrated longstanding successes in providing access to university education to students from a diverse range of backgrounds and is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community.

At Newman we are committed to supporting all of our students, including those who are studying without the support or approval of a family network. We appreciate that estranged students may face a range of challenges and have additional needs in relation to financial and pastoral support.

Through the Stand Alone Pledge we aim to raise awareness of our existing support for estranged students and commit to identifying ways to develop the support we offer.

Our current provision includes:

- A dedicated contact for estranged students within Student Support Services, offering advice and guidance pre entry through to graduation;
- A dedicated webpage which details our full offer to estranged students;
<https://www.newman.ac.uk/knowledge-base/support-for-students-who-are-estranged-from-their-family/>
- Guaranteed acceptance onto our HEADstart programme, a preparatory course for new single, joint and combined honours students;
- Access to university accommodation for 365 days a year;
- Supporting estranged students to access all funding available to them, including student finance, welfare benefits, hardship funds and charitable grants;
- Access to a range of wellbeing services including support for mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. We offer counselling, mental health, disability and welfare services, details of which are shared with estranged students and promoted regularly;
- Communication of the support on offer to estranged students to local schools and colleges.

Over the next two years we commit to:

- Develop processes to identify estranged students and monitor their progress;
- Improve awareness of the support available to estranged students across the institution;
- Provide information and support for marketing and recruitment colleagues who visit local schools and colleges;
- Waive university owned accommodation deposit fees for estranged students;
- Take the cap off counselling sessions for estranged students where required.

Our commitment to the pledge will be overseen by Tammy Oyekanmi, Student Welfare Adviser. Tammy is our dedicated contact for estranged students and can be contacted by email at t.oyekanmi@newman.ac.uk.

Newman University is fully committed to supporting estranged students and we look forward to working with Stand Alone to develop our provision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Dunne".

Professor Jackie Dunne