

Where to start....

Uncovered: You'll all be pleased to hear that *Uncovered* magazine is now all but finished (just some stuff from Bolton and Salford to come through still) so thanks to all who contributed. I've spent a large proportion of my time editing other people's writing, writing stuff myself and commissioning a few last minute bits and bobs.

Lee and I have worked out a pagination (order of pages) for the whole thing including all the adverts we have this year and most of the pages are designed, laid out and looking pretty. So just the proof-reading and final checks to do when I get back. With any luck we shall have a 140-page magazine, all told.

Student Direct: Since my last report I've attended an SD Board meeting (23rd July) and have since been working on the aftermath of that meeting on plans to rebrand the newspaper. As discussed at Exec, the proposal I made was to rebrand the Student Direct group (Manchester, Salford, Bolton) creating new brands for each Union under the umbrella name Student Direct. For example Student Direct in Manchester would become *Student Direct presents "The Mancunion"*. The idea behind this being that it would signal a new start for the newspaper as well as strengthening the paper's identity as a Union and campus publication. The decision made by the board was that mock-ups of how the paper would look needed to be seen before a final decision could be reached. To this end, I have worked with Materialise who have come up with an impression of what the paper will look like. This has been circulated to the SD Board members. So on this matter we'll have to wait and see...

In terms of the new paper I've commissioned a couple of articles already and have some pretty good competitions lined up too. Plus I've been collating things for a new Student Direct handbook, including style guides, proof-reading guides and writing advice.

Other than this, I've had a few bits and pieces of boring admin to do regarding contact details, SD Email accounts, the facebook group and section editors.

OTHER:

Before the Union block closure (24th July) - I attended the University Senate (Wed 22nd July) and met with my new Digital and Lifestyle Editors.

After the block closure (11th August) - Meetings with the Athletics Union chair to discuss coverage of University sport in the paper, a new TV editor/columnist and with Emma Kerry, LGBT secretary (women's place).

Filming for the Union film.

Last Saturday I took part in a Radio Five Live debate on the subject of new HMO licensing restrictions, which could have a serious impact on student housing if they're taken up. (HMOs are HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY) Out of this, I found out about an open meeting that's taking place in Withington on 15th September and I think it would be a good idea if there were a presence from the Union there, but more of that another time...