Plant and Hope Initiative

The inspiration behind this was to provide an opportunity for PhD students to get together and discuss their wellbeing and the environment in which they work. The success of the event in the Faculty of Science and Engineering is unprecedented – it continues to bloom across the university!

In sum, the events have attracted over 2000 students requesting and collecting plants. Unlike past events, Plant and Hope has attracted students who have never been in contact with the Faculty Officer or attended any events associated with the Student Union.

Each plant on a student’s desk, in their office environment, serves as a reminder of the event, the importance of their well-being, their link to the Faculty Officer and the wider postgraduate community. This was one of the messages from the last event “Thank you for bringing life and happiness to my ordinary PhD work”

Recently the Manchester Museum has opened a new exhibition inspired by the Plant and Hope project. I will be working on public engagement events with the museum about the importance of wellbeing and nature alongside curating several display cases.

How Aleksandra has made a difference

The plants have provided a talking point among and between students who have never spoken to each other before and have increased the likelihood of them responding and communicating with the Faculty Officer. Students have even started working together on other research projects from meeting at the event. The Plant and Hope initiative has proved to be a novel way of creating a sense of belonging for a diverse group of students who are often engrossed in their study.

Hope to look after the plant successfully, hope to improve your working space and hope to have a great year!