

**KAREN FOLEY:** *The Arts Hub* was an online interactive event, and you're about to watch a session from that. But I wanted to explain to you how it all worked. You're about to see the video stream of the studio. But our audience participated online through chat and through interactive widgets. And those ideas were fed through into the studio from the social media desk. Of course because you're watching it on catch up, you won't be able to do those activities. But I do hope that you enjoy the discussion that follows.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello and welcome back to *The Arts Hub*. Well if you're watching this live, it's 11 o'clock on Saturday the 11th of the June. If you're not watching live, it probably isn't. But welcome to this fabulous event. This is day two of an online, interactive discussion all about the arts. And we're looking at module choice and celebrating the end of modules, and connecting with lots of arts students within the Open University community. I'm Karen Foley, and I will be your host for the day. So welcome to people who have already been before, and welcome to any new people also.

This event works best if you are in the Watch and Engage option. And from there you can see the chat. You can talk to people if you choose to. And you can also see our interactive widgets and tell us what you're doing and how you're feeling. And that really is helpful for us to connect with you out there.

So I've got a whole range of guests from the faculty of arts. And we've got a really exciting programme lined up for you today. I am joined for this opening session by Kim Woods, whose fault this all was and who's been in charge of everything. So welcome Kim. Kim also oversees the curriculum for the arts and is an art historian, and will be doing a session later.

And Rachel, who for those of you who have been watching before, has mainly been on our social media desk, and has been an Open University student for a considerable amount of time, and is now doing a post graduate. But welcome Rachel. You've done a lot of work on how students are feeling and distance learning. And so I'm really going to value your thoughts, both in terms of what's been going on here and also some other common issues that Open University students may or may not experience.

So this interface then, just a couple of little admin points that might make it easier for you. If you want to, you can look on the website, and there's a how to use the interface short video. But broadly you can change your view so that you can make the chat larger or smaller. And a really important thing to be able to do is to pin that chat. So if it's moving fast, you can pin it and read it a little bit more slowly.

You can click on the widgets and then just press Enter. And if you do that, you'll then be able to see what everyone else is doing. If you don't enter anything, you won't. So there's an incentive for you.

I'd also like to introduce HJ. How are you today?

**HJ:** All right, very good, very happy. It's different not having Rachel up here though. So be glad to have her back.

**KAREN FOLEY:** It's a lot quieter and I noticed a lot more organised.

**HJ:** Perhaps, we'll see. I think that's mostly me though. But yes, we've got a few people in the room chatting at the moment. And well, we're excited to start. We're excited for sessions on philosophy and classics in particular I think in the chat room, which will be good. But we've had lots of people sending in stuff for the social media board, and we've popped up the modules people are studying. So we want you to let us know what you're studying, where you're watching from.

We've got a few international viewers. We had Olivia from Germany and Sylvia from Canada yesterday. So it's always good to hear how you're doing and what you're studying as well. So we're looking forward to a good day on the chat again.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Lovely. Thank you very much. And if you're in the Watch and Engage option, you'll see that we've got some widgets showing there. We'd like to know how you're feeling and also whether or not you've decided which module you're going to study next, and also what factors are important when making that choice about which course or module you're going to be looking at doing.

So we've been having lots and lots of fun yesterday. What did we do? It was such a long day. We have welcoming with yourself and Richard Kim. That was really interesting, all looking at objects. And indeed our cabinet of curiosities, which has formed both the backdrop physically and also emotionally to this whole event, where we've been taking lots of objects and thinking

about what they mean from various different disciplines in the arts.

We had inside music where we have a clavichord demonstration. We looked at religious studies. We looked at managing your digital media to support your studies with the library. We've done sessions on creative writing, studying English, early modern Europe, and the Careers Advisory Service.

So we had a lot going on in the morning. And then we were replaying those. And in the afternoon break, we'll be replaying them again. We also had our fabulous quiz, is it or is not, or that would be an ecumenical matter. That's on again tonight at 6:00, so it's a really, really good fun. You can play along at home against our panel.

We looked at resilience and disappointment. We had a lucky dip session, which we're also repeating again tonight, but with different participants, and then a really interesting discussion on why is the past important.

Absolutely amazing being immersed in the arts. Kim, how has it been for you actually? It's not often that we have an event that gives you a taste of this and a taste of that, so much going on in one day. How was your experience of it?

**KIM WOODS:** Well it's been fantastic. But I have to say, it doesn't feel that unusual for me, because there's a sense in which this is my life. We don't have events like this every day, and this is a very special thing. But, in the arts faculty, we mix together. We share ideas. We work together. So in a way, it feels very normal as well, but a real celebration, which is fantastic.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Yeah, no, it has been a real sense of fun. Rachel, how has it been for you?

**RACHEL:** It's been absolutely brilliant. Especially I'm here on the couch and the cabinet of curiosity behind me. You keep finding those little things keep getting added to it. So every time we have a little break, I'm just trying to have a little sort of browse around. But the whole hub, *The Arts Hub*, is fantastic, to explore different faculties as well, to understand what the arts is made of, basically. Because you've got history, music, literature.

That one we had yesterday, the criminal justice history, I thought because I love criminology, I was looking through and I was thinking oh gosh, that's criminology as well as history. So you start to understand there's a lot more involved in the arts than just, as you'd say, art.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Is it what you expected? Because I mean, some areas have really surprised me in terms of

both how they're presenting new modules and what they're doing. But you who are doing criminology as your sort of primary and postgraduate discipline now, how you found watching some of the stuff that's going on?

**RACHEL:** I think it's brilliant. If you look at where we've had some of the textbooks and the module books that have come through, you see how the size of them-- you see that the arts is not-- with social sciences, we're pretty much just kind of reading, reading, reading. With the arts it's more exploration. And for me, that surprised me, especially when we had the clavichord in the studio yesterday. And it came in and we had a music session. So yeah, very surprised by the event.

**KAREN FOLEY:** That was good. And the quiz was great. Although, I'm not sure, some of the questions-- so we had, as you know, everybody putting questions in. And the philosophy department, they put all these questions in, and then the answer was, well everyone thinks so. And I just thought that was a bit weak, academically. Are they normally like that?

**KIM WOODS:** Yes, they're philosophers.

**KAREN FOLEY:** It was quite a categorical thing. And we did have three choices. Is it, is it not, or that would be an ecumenical matter. And I thought that would solve it. But it didn't really. It was always a lot more complicated. Oh, is it common for the philosophy department, while I'm on that subject, to have boxing matches?

**KIM WOODS:** Well, I don't think I've heard of a boxing match before. But I think the kind of contest, yes, you come across that all the time. I mean, philosophers don't agree with each other. In fact, artists and arts lecturers don't agree with each other. You didn't think they would, did you?

**KAREN FOLEY:** No, I didn't. But it's just-- I don't know, I'm just a little bit worried because they've told me that they're coming in to have a boxing match. And I just wasn't sure whether that was normal or not.

**KIM WOODS:** Well, I mean, you have to be on your toes with the philosophers. You never know quite what they're going to do. But I mean, I could say that for some of my other colleagues as well. You know, you have to be careful. You have to keep handle on it.

And actually the thing I usually do is carry one of these around with me. I find they come in quite useful. You might like to try it.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's the one. Thank you. Oh good. Well, how wrong can it go?

Well aside from that, I mean, we do have a fabulous programme of events today. After this session, we've got the fantastic library team coming in to do a session on library resources for the arts. Then we have philosophy. Then lunch time, we've got classical studies. And they're bringing in a picnic, which I think is a wonderful idea, because we like talking about food and we like eating food. And I'm sure it will be really splendid.

**KIM WOODS:** What time's that one?

**KAREN FOLEY:** 12:30.

**KIM WOODS:** Can anybody go?

**KAREN FOLEY:** I don't know. I don't know much food they've got.

**KIM WOODS:** I didn't bring any lunch.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Well yeah, you could come and join us. I bet they'll bring some really nice things, because it's Justin and Henry. They're just delightful.

Then we're going to be looking at level one to two and what's different about that, because part of this event is all about that move, isn't it, from going from level one to two. And so we've got Jeff coming to talk to us about that. Then we have you and Angeliki. And you're doing a session on art and visual culture. Then we're looking at solid foundations and this whole idea of interdisciplinary study. And then we have a session with Peter Horrocks and you, Kim, and John Butcher, who popped in earlier. And we're going to be talking about why study the arts.

So that's our programme for the day. What are you most looking forward to?

**KIM WOODS:** I'm quite looking forward to the very last session. Mind you I'm doing it with a philosopher and I'm beginning to get quite worried now. I hope they're not going to ask me to box.

**KAREN FOLEY:** I hope not, but it sounds like anything might happen.

**KIM WOODS:** Well, you've got the whistle. Will you help me out?

**KAREN FOLEY:** I will keep it, yeah. Rachel, what are you most looking forward to?

**RACHEL:** I'm really looking forward to getting back over into the chat, and especially when we go for the session from level one to level two, because I think that's the one thing students, we find that

you go from one level to the next level and you're never 100% sure. But I can't wait to see what we're going to talk about in that, because hopefully it will put a lot of people's mind at ease when they're in the chat room about that session.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Now how's everyone feeling out there, from yesterday anyway, because we had a lot of people at level one and at level two, as well as level three and postgraduate. But the majority were really around level one and two.

And of course summer's the time where everyone's finished their modules and they're off to go get their fabulous sun tans and hopefully tidy up their offices and areas where they study and things. What in your opinion, as a seasoned OU student, do you think people should be doing, whether they're between modules or within the middle of one, when it gets hot and we don't feel like doing any studying?

**RACHEL:** Oh, yeah, study is not a very good-- sunshine is never a good motivator. The one thing I would say is take your books, get the vitamin D, and head outside and enjoy the fresh air. And it doesn't need to be uncomfortable. You can find pleasure in study.

I know that if you're in between modules now, the time goes really quickly doesn't it? You think oh, I've got all this summer off and I can do X, Y, and Z, and then October is here. You don't even realise how fast that summer goes. But I would say, personally, take some time out to have some R and R. Remember that you're human.

Just be. We had that comment come through yesterday.

**KAREN FOLEY:** I know, that was lovely.

**RACHEL:** Just be, and that's what I would say, just to take a break away and then come back. Take a break. Watch *Hub*, *Arts Hub*. Watch all the catch up, and then go outside and get some sunshine.

**KAREN FOLEY:** And what do you think students should be doing?

**KIM WOODS:** I think that sounds good. And I think the idea of working outside is great. I'd recommend clothes pegs. They keep your papers from blowing away in the wind.

**KAREN FOLEY:** That's a good idea.

**RACHEL:** That's a good study tip.

**KAREN FOLEY:** That's really good, because I do have that problem and I go oh, I'll go inside. You win, the wind.

[LAUGHTER]

No, that's good. HJ, I'd like to come to you on the social media desk and see what those people who are in the Watch and Engage have said on the widgets.

**HJ:** Well, I think everyone's excited, happy. They're ready. They're caffeinated. That's always important at this time, isn't it? Some people are a bit anxious, so hopefully we can help out with that. We've got some skill sessions coming up later today, so hopefully we can help you out there. I'm sure we can.

And people are saying what factors are important to them when they're choosing that next module. We all study for different reasons. So for some people, it's just what they're generally interested in. It's the engagement. The materials are very important. So some people prefer more textbook based ones, others prefer more of the online modules.

Procrastination-- so apparently some people use modules as procrastination, which I think that's something that Ben does, doesn't he, because he enjoys TMAs apparently. And developing skills as well, which is something that always comes with the learning process with the OU, doesn't it? So yes, I think we're-- and yeah, so we'd love to know. If you haven't filled out the widgets, they're just to the left of the chat box.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Fabulous. Thank you very much. Now yesterday, we had a caption competition, which we're still doing today. We have some 10 pound Amazon vouchers, which we're going to post to people who win the caption competition on Monday. Now to enter, it's very simple. All we do is we pick a picture that we'd like captions for, and then we ask you to write some captions for that.

So I'm going to do one. And we're going to award a prize as soon as we get enough good answers. So Kim, I'm going to ask if you could choose from our--

**KIM WOODS:** Which shall I have?

**KAREN FOLEY:** This one is gone. This one was Owen Jones with, "When you confidently click on the final week's links in the materials to find a 25 page reading." This one here with the giraffe in the

snow, Ben said, "Anyone else's feed froze?" And this one we liked, "And breathe. This is what it feels like to finish a module and get through to the other side." So people obviously, good writers out there. Which one do you think we should be doing next?

**KIM WOODS:** I'm sorry, but I think it has to be this one.

**KAREN FOLEY:** OK. Excellent. So we're going to put that down and show you that image. Now you can enter this by sending us a tweet, hashtag #ArtsHub16. You can write a comment in the chat, although it's better if you could send it to us on Twitter or if you can email us, which is a studenthub@open.ac.uk. And if you send us any questions, thoughts, or even selfies-- we like seeing those-- they will come through straight into our email box. And our producer will run over to HJ's desk and put them in, very immediately. So we challenge our producers to find out exactly how quickly they can get your comments into our inbox. So please do email us and keep in touch with anything you'd like to know about selfies and also entries for the caption competition.

So we're going to start looking forward to our programme. Next we're going to have a session with the library where we're going to look at library resources for the arts. Rachel, you're going to go back and chat to everybody on the social media desk. And Kim, you're preparing for your session a little bit later with Angeliki on visual arts. So that will be great. But thank you both for coming to this session.

We're going to have a short video break now. And while we do that, you can either do that, or you can check out that video on how the interface works if you'd like to see what your options are for that. We're going to have a break and we'll be back in five minutes or so with the library. We'll see you then.

[MUSIC PLAYING]