Open Letter to incoming Junior Fresh (1st year) Nursing and Midwifery students 22.9.2020.

Dear Junior Fresh Students,

My name is Damien Brennan and I am the Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

I am sure that you have been closely watching developments regarding the COVID-19 status of Dublin, and the related commencement of teaching and learning within the University sector. Having taken account of government guidelines, and with your health and safety a priority, as Director of the Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery programmes, I have transferred the School of Nursing and Midwifery Orientation Week activities online.

Throughout this COVID-19 emergency my priority has been to ensure our programmes continue to be first class quality, while also protecting the health of students, students’ families, school staff, front line staff, patients within the clinical settings and the general public.

You will be aware of the outstanding service and bravery demonstrated by front line staff across clinical settings over the past six months (including by our current students). The desire to have nursing and midwifery students physically present on campus next week needed to be balanced against our collective duty to actively play our part in reducing the potential burden on front line services over the coming months. As a nurse myself, the decision to move our Nursing and Midwifery Orientation Week activities online, and not require you to travel to the city centre, was ultimately a wholly necessary one; and as incoming student nurses and midwives (and future front-line workers yourselves) I know you will appreciate the logic of this decision.

As a past student of Trinity College myself, I am very aware of the importance of being physically present on campus, and I am also keenly aware of the excitement that coming to Trinity College for the first time brings. As soon as the public health context allows, it is very much my desire and intention to ensure I can welcome you in person to your college. Until then, we will use online technologies to maximise real time student engagement. I encourage you to engage fully with all aspects of your learning over the coming months. You will receive a detailed plan of Junior Fresh Orientation Week activities within the School of Nursing and Midwifery via e-mail (a copy of which is attached below).

I wish you the very best as you commence your student life at Trinity College. While these are challenging times, I have confidence that collectively we will make this coming academic year a success.

Best wishes,

Damien

Dr Damien Brennan

Associate Professor

Director of Undergraduate Teaching & Learning School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College.