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Dear Learner,

Just a quick update this month, with some important information regarding our new automated payments system and applications for NUS TOTUM cards.

We would welcome any feedback on these newsletters, and also if there are any particular items you would wish to be included in future newsletter please do get in touch.

Bye for now.

The DistanceLearningCentre.com team

CONTROL YOUR PAYMENTS

This month, we have added some features to make it easier to manage your payments. There is a new 'Manage your Cards' option on your Learner Account in the Finance Menu, which allows you to set the card you want to use as your 'Default Card' ... the one which is used when we automatically debit fees that become due. You can also update your card details, add new cards and remove old ones. This all makes it much easier if you want to make a one-off payment on a different card to the one you normally use.

We still don't store your full card details on our own systems, these continue to be stored SagePay, our online payments provider. SagePay hold the highest possible level of card data security (PCI DSS Level 1 compliant).

As well as managing your cards, we are now providing much more detailed information by email about fee payments, when they are taken. If they fail you also get details of the reason why. We want to put you in control of your fees and payments so there's more to come soon... emails giving a week's advanced warning of when payments are due and a facility for you to change the date of the month your fees are charged.

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Default Card Edit

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Type: DELTA, **Ends:** 0000, **Expires:** 1220

NUS TOTUM CARD

You might be aware of the new TOTUM card from NUS, which for those who might have had previous cards from the NUS, is the new name for the NUS Extra card. This gives you over 200 student discounts and access to a free ISIC (International Student Identity Card) unlocking over 42,000 international discounts for one year.

If you are wishing to apply for a TOTUM card as part of your studies, you will need to contact [Student Services](#) to request a TOTUM code. This will be a specific individual code which the NUS will use as evidence of your enrollment with DistanceLearningCentre.com.

For more information on the TOTUM Card visit the [NUS website](#).



GROWTH PROJECT - GROWING FOR GOLD!



One of the main exhibits in Rochdale Township's bid for gold at the National competition finals in Belfast - The Growth Project was picked out for a special mention by the judges who said that they showed all three pillars of In Bloom; "community involvement, horticultural excellence and environment/sustainability" and that "they deserve a special mention" for the adversity they have fought and won "when the project suffered serious flooding two years ago when a shipping container was washed away and all fences and structures were destroyed."

We are very proud of our attainments where we have gone from total destruction to being part of the Rochdale Township entry in the prestigious Britain in Bloom finals which was held last week in Belfast and was part of the team to bring back a gold medal. We were also a late entry to finals having been put forward by the regional judges as being worthy to be judged at national standard. This led to twelve days of frenzied activity by all the projects volunteers and service users who moved in thirty-six tons of gravel by hand in 6 days to make the paths sparkle and weeded the gardens within an inch of their lives. The growing conditions were very hard this year with the drought but still we managed according to the judges the best example they had seen of an annual wild flower meadow and that our crops and cut flowers were amazing. All the plants on site are grown organically and the whole site is transformed from bare beds in April to a horticultural abundance in July. The week after judging the Growth Project opened its gates when as part of the National Garden Scheme's 'Garden Open for charity' we raised over £1500 for the project and the National Garden Schemes charities.

The Growth Project is a partnership between Rochdale Mind and Hourglass, a charity run by DistanceLearningCentre.com staff, supporting volunteers to help improve wellbeing, alongside collective social outlook of those engaged on the project. The project aims to promote good mental and physical well-being through outdoor activity in a green environment.

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