

APRIL 9TH ZOOM PRIVACY/INFORMATION UPDATE

We have been busy behind the scenes and investigated our use of Zoom as the main online learning platform after recent media reports relating to privacy and information security.

We take these matters seriously and as a first step we have paused feature updates of the platform to concentrate on nothing but privacy and security for a three-month period.

Zoom has been pivotal in our shift to blended and online delivery, with fantastic results for many thousands of students. Prior to Covid-19, we've long been using Zoom for meetings, webinars and engagement.

However, in light of the current situation, we have taken extra steps to guarantee the privacy and information security of our staff and students. These include:

- Producing guidance notes for staff to ensure the secure scheduling of classes/meetings (see link below)
- Constantly monitoring Zoom announcements to ensure we make best use of any new functionality that is released to further secure the platform
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of competitor online platforms, with consideration for privacy and information security features as well as student experience.

Having reviewed alternative solutions, we are confident that Zoom still offers the best end-user experience coupled with a feature-rich interface that enhances the online delivery of classes.

We will continue monitoring the situation as a priority and inform our staff and students of any updates.

Here are some guidelines everyone should follow:

1. Adding a password to prevent unwanted visitors.
2. Using waiting rooms so the host can control who joins a class or meeting.
3. Ensuring no one can share their screen unless the host allows it by disabling participant screening.
4. Locking the meeting once everyone has arrived.
5. Ensuring the Zoom application is up to date.