

New speed limits

New speed limits are now in force on Whiteknights campus. The reduced limit, of 20mph, has been introduced to improve

8888, email safety@reading.ac.uk

New speed limit signs and road markings have been installed around the campus. A new 'roving' **'Speed Indicator Device'** [flashing sign to you and me] has also been introduced and will be deployed at varying locations to alert drivers to excessive speed.

We all share the campus together, whether or not we walk, cycle or drive. We have had very few serious road traffic accidents on campus over the last few years, and we want that to continue. The most effective actions that we can take as individuals to make the campus safer for everyone are to obey the road safety signs and to:

- Car drivers - reduce your speed;
- Pedestrians – use the pavements and crossings provided, don't take dangerous shortcuts.
- Cyclists – look out for pedestrians on shared routes.

Construction sites

It is very important that extra care is taken in the vicinity of construction sites. While the investment in new facilities is very welcome, it does lead to increased road traffic, temporary road and footpath layouts, and limited sight lines around site fencing. Facilities Management Directorate work hard to make the temporary arrangements as safe as possible, and to reduce traffic on site during normal working hours. However if staff identify potential 'hot-spots' please let Health and

Safety Services know so that we can work with the Projects team to try to make the area safer.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) in action for the first time

Asbestos awareness

In previous issues of 'Safety Matters' we have highlighted the potential risk to staff of disturbing asbestos in buildings, and how to check that any minor 'building' work that you intend to do is safe. We are following this up with mandatory training for department staff.

It is essential that all staff, whose work might disturb the fabric of a building, and any asbestos therein, receive asbestos awareness training. This is a legal requirement. This also applies to staff working with department equipment which contains asbestos. Therefore a special seminar has been organised for Wednesday 14 November for key departmental staff. The seminar will cover a brief introduction to asbestos; its properties; why it is harmful to

health; where it might be found in buildings; and the University procedures for controlling work that might disturb asbestos containing materials. It should last 1 ½ hours. Details are as follows:

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are the most common form of ill-health disorders at work in Great Britain. In support of European Week for Health and Safety we are running a series of short workshops throughout Thursday 25th October 2007, in Palmer Building, on the topic of preventing back injuries.